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**COVID-FORCED BEHAVIOURAL CHANGES** 

**TO STAY FOR LONG: REPORT** 

■ he radical behavioural changes that Covid-19 pandemic has forced on people as well as organisations following the lockdowns are here to stay for long-term, and will impact consumption patterns for a host of goods and services, according to a report.

The most visible changes are in the media and information space that has seen massive adoption of digital format, said the report by domestic arm of the French advertising powerhouse Publicis Groupe. The findings of the report mark the "profound shifts in the wake of the Covid lockdowns and the resultant changes in the way.....

...LIFE & TIMES

### **News** Digest

#### **DSEK Okays Promotion** Of 90 Teachers

Srinagar: Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) on Friday accorded sanction to the promotion of 90 teachers as headmasters.

**Principal Secretary School Education Department DrAsgar** Hassan Samoon had earlier directed the concerned officers to conduct DPC meetings regularly to address the pending grievances of employees of the school education department regarding their promotions, an official spokesperson said. Regarding the issue of pending salaries of RETs being converted into teacher grade II and III, he directed for immediate release of their salaries. • P-02

#### **Gutlibagh Village Declared Red Zone**

Srinagar: The district administration Ganderbal on Friday declared Gutlibagh village as a red zone and the adjoining villages as buffer zone after a positive case was detected in the area. District Magistrate Ganderbal Shafqatlqbal today declared Gutlibagh village as a red zone and the adjoining villages of Babawayil and Wayil as Buffer Zones, a day after a man tested positive for coronavirus in the village, an official spokesperson said today. Iqbal invoked prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC and Disaster Management Act, 2005, banning inward or outward movement of any person from the red zone. • P-02

#### **LG Inaugurates First Covid Call Centre**

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday inaugurated the union territory's first Covid response call centre in Srinagar, an official spokesperson said. It also launched web and

mobile applications which will help in real time integrated management of the coronavirus disease, he said.

The call centre and the web and mobile applications were e-inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor G C Murmu, the spokesperson added. Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, ShahidIqbalChaudhary said the magnitude of the CO-VID-19 crisis needed a central response. • P-02

#### Free Ration For BPL **Families In Srinagar**

Srinagar: The district administration on Friday announced to provide free ration to the below poverty line (BPL) families in view of prevailing situation and restrictions in place due to coronavirus pandemic. The distribution of foodgrains for the current month starts tomorrow and will be completed within two weeks, an official spokesperson said today. He said that under this initiative around 30 thousand quintals of foodgrains will be distributed free of cost amongst over 1.4 lac BPL families in the district. "The initiative will benefit just under 6 lac persons who will be provided 5 kilograms of rice per person per month," the • P-02

## The Kashmiri Supermom Who Fought Her Children's Covid-19 Battle

WasimNabi

SRINAGAR: Departed tears that recently jetted out of sleep-deprived eyes signified her immense gratitude for the bravehearts holding the fort dur- her two daughters, aged 4

Some of those Covid-19 warriors formed a human wall on April 13, to give a hero's farewell to the young mother at Srinagar's JawaharLal Nehru Memorial (JLNM) hospital.

Much of that respect came from Masrat's awe-inspiring motherhood display.

creating a new tribe of 'untouchables' in the society, this young mother from Srinagar's Natipora became a shield of her infected daughters. On March 26, when a team

of tearful doctors declared ing the current catastrophe. and 8, as Covid-19 positive cases, Masrat turned numb with shock, and struggled with her sinking heart. "I remember there was so

much of panic in the hospital then," recalled DrBilquis Shah, nodal officer, JLNM hospital, Srinagar, "It was the initial stage in Covid-19 fight back With novel coronavirus and the hospital had started



Farewell Moment: Aleeza and Sehirsh receive bouquets on their discharge from JLNM hospital.

getting the viral footfall." Masrat's two daughters-Aleeza and Sehrish—were

among the 26 high-risk patients initially admitted in ILNM, declared exclusively for Covid-19 management, on March 25.

And next day, their test came out positive.

"The moment their results came, all of us were in tears," Dr. Bilquis continued. "It was very hard to tell a mother that her daughters have become the pandemic patients, when there was so much of corona scare in the air."

What followed was perhaps

the traumatic experience for both healthcare specialists and the family in the hospital.

Sensing something wrong, the kids started screaming and craving for their mother's reassuring embrace.

Even as the doctors supervised these children with utmost care, they were inconsolable, especially the little girl.

In the fight against the invisible enemy, Dr. Bilquis said, the crying children only became the face of a new human tragedy.

At that moment, their Covid-19 'negative' mother threw herself in the >> PAGE 02

## Kashmir Records Another Covid-19 Death, J&K Toll 5 **MBA Student, Couple Among 19 More Test Positive**

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: Kashmir witnessed fourth death due to coronavipeople, all from Valley tested positive to the dreaded disease. fected people across the Union Territory to 333.

The 75-year-old COVID-19 pa- ment facilities, fifteen days after he north Kashmir's Baramulla district died at a hospital here, making it ruson Friday, even as 19 more the fourth death Kashmir due to the novel coronavirus.

A 75-year-old man from Aram**taking the total number of in-** pora locality of Sopore died of coronavirus at the SKIMS Bemina, one of the exclusively Covid-19 manage-

Gita Mittal and Justice RaineshO-

swal while hearing clubbed Pub-

lic Interest Litigations through

by advocate AteebKanth who

ficient sampling".

The submissions were made

iled by the Health Department

hows that only 157 techni-

cians are available and it

stands a reason for "insuf-

As a result, he said,

despite the Government

stand that 50,000 (now around

60000) people have travelled

into J&K, only 4,000 people have

The court also sought com-

ments from "stakeholders" in-

been tested for COVID-19

video conferencing.



A GROUP OF DOCTORS WALKING THROUGH the compound of SMHS hospital

50.000 Under Lens. HC Asks Govt

tion to "urgently examine" the also pointed out that the report

said a division bench of Justice cluding the Indian **>> PAGE 02** 

WE SHALL CONSIDER THE IMPACT

of this order on the next date of hearing after

full information has been placed before us,"

Why Only 4000 Tests If Over

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and

Kashmir High Court has direct-

ed Chief Secretary and Secre-

tary Health and Medical Educa-

issue of "insufficient

sampling" amid sub-

missions that only

around 4000 people

have been tested for

COVID-19 even as the

government states that

over 50000 people have been

"Let this issue be urgently ex-

amined by the Chief Secretary,

UT of J&K as well as Secretary,

Health and Medical Education,"

put under observation in J&K.

tient from ArmporaSopore in was admitted at the hospital, reports said. The elderly man had tested Covid-19 positive earlier this month.

"The man was 70 plus. He was hypertensive and also was suffering from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD Asthma)," Medical SuperintendentDrShafa A Deva said.

She said the body of the deceased would be handed over to his family for last riteswith due compliance to the Ministry of Health guidelines.

With the elderly man's death, the toll due to Covid-19 has risen to four in Kashmir and five across Jammu and Kashmir UT.

Meanwhile, 19 fresh cases were reported in I&K, all in Kashmir Valley-nine of them are from Bandipora, eightfrom Shopian and 2 from Kupwara, news agency GNS reported.

A couple and a youth are among three new cases reported from worst hit Gund Jahangir village of Bandipora. They all are said to be contacts of previous patients. → PAGE 02

**Business Tycoon** 

Chaya Booked for

'Escaping' Red Zone

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: J&K Police has filed

an FIR against the noted Kashmiri

businessman Mushtaq Ahmad

Chaya for "escaping" a Red Zone

his Zakoora home in Srinagar de-

Nagar, Jammu vide his signal dated

17-4-2020 that today one person

namely Mushtaq Ahmad Chaya

R/O Zakoora Srinagar who was

staying at Farooq Abdullah Enclave,

Bhatindi Jammu has deliberately

left for Srinagar along with other

persons from Red Zone Bhatindi,"

a Police missive sent to >> PAGE 02

"As intimated by SHO PS Trikuta

spite lockdown.

in Jammu and

undertaking a

travel towards

Police said Mr

Chaya left for

Srinagar along

with few others

and has reached

Srinagar.

## A GROUP OF MASKED BOYS PLAYING CRICKET on a rainy day in Srinagar outskirts on Friday. KO-Photo Abid Bhat **Govt Puts 'Formal' Darbar**

**Opening In Srinagar On Hold Observer Monitoring Desk** 

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and cers on 'as is where is' basis i.e. those Kashmir government on Friday who have already been or likely to "formal" reopening of Darbar move offices in Srinagar till mid-June, citing the hamper-

ing of Covid-19 combat efforts. Modifying its April 10 order, the government ordered that the formal opening of the Darbar at Srinagar will take place on June 15.

"All officers' assigned specific COVID-19 control tasks shall continue to function from their present location till further orders, so as to ensure that COVID-19 control efforts are not hampered on account of physical dislocation of officers/ offices," reads the fresh order. As per an order issued here, it would be further reviewed on June 15.

Curbs In Srinagar To Continue Till May 3

The Civil Secretariat at Srinagar

SRINAGAR: The district authorities on Friday renewed prohibitory orders, banning public movement and operation of business and other establishments in district Srinagar till May 3 in view of the coronavirus pandemic. District Magistrate Srinagar, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary ● P-02

shall start partial functioning on 04.05.2020 with the staff and offiget relocated before that date

**Govt Orders Resumption Of** Offices From April 20 SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Fri-

day ordered resumption of all offices across the Union Territory from April 20, while the education institutions and training institutes have been closed • P-02

"All Administrative Secretaries shall furnish list of officers/staff who shall work from Srinagar and Jammu respectively to the General Administration **→ PAGE 02** 

#### 1200 J&K Workers In Punjab Go On **Hunger Strike**

PATHANKOT: Nearly 1,200 workers from Jammu and Kashmir, who have completed their quarantine period of fourteen days in different camps in Punjab's Pathankot district, are on a hunger strike for the last • P-02

#### Post-Prayer Clashes In Sumbal, 6 Cops Injured

**SRINAGAR:** At least six policemen on Friday were injured in clashes that erupted in Sumbal area of Bandipora district after a group of people offered congregational defying the prohibitory orders in place. • P-02

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#### Pharmacist Suspended For Refusing To Serve **Covid-19 Patients**

SRINAGAR: The district administration in Kupwara on Friday suspended a pharmacist after he refused to serve meals to the covid-19 patients being treated at a hospital in the frontier district. • P-02

#### **Govt Eases Construction** Norms, SOPs Issued

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has relaxed restrictions on the construction activities in the Union Territory on the condition that the executing agencies will follow the norms of social • P-02

#### **Anjuman To Suspend Religious Activities** In Ramzan

SRINAGAR: Jammu Kashmir Anjumane-Sharie Shiyaan on Friday announced to suspend all religious activities during the holy month of Ramzan, amid the threat of Covid-19 spread. • P-02

#### **KO Reporter Detained For Being Out In Lockdown**

**Observer News Service** 

**SRINAGAR:** A prominent journalist from Ganderbal district was arrested by Sumbal police while discharging his professional duty. He was slapped with various charges and lodged in police station Sumbal.

MushtaqGanaie, who works for Kashmir Observer, was arrested on Saturday afternoon when he was traveling home near Sumbal. "My car was intercepted by a police party at a naka and I was asked to give reasons for my being out in the lockdown. I showed my identity papers and explained the reason even windshield" Mushtaq said.

He said while I was showing my papers, the SHO of Police Station Sumbal arrived there and ordered that I should be taken to the police station. "When I argued with him he abused me and refused to listen to my pleas that I was on job like him", Mushtaq said. The journalist was later booked on charges of 'creating hurdles in police officer's duty' and detained for two days in the lock-up.

An FIR bearing number: 60 of 2020 was registered against him. "I was not able to contact any one as my phone was confiscated", he alleged.

Journalist was released two days later after his family members apas a press tag was pasted on my car proached court and got bail orders. Kashmir Observer made → PAGE 02

## Two Unknown Militants Killed In Shopian Encounter CRPF Trooper Injured In Pulwama Shootout

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: Two unidentified militants were killed in a gunfight with government forces in south Kashmir's Shopian district, while a CRPF trooper was injured in a militant ambush in Pulwama district, officials said Friday.

Acting on specific inputs about the presence of militants, a joint team of special operations group (SOG) of police and army laid a cordon around Dairoo village of Keegam in Shopian this morning, a police official said. When the joint team started advances, the mili-

tants hiding in a residential house opened fire at them in a bid to escape from their dragnet.

'The fire was retaliated leading to an encounter. In the exchange of fire, two militants were killed," the official said.

The bodies of the militants were recovered from the debris of the house that was blasted by the state forces. The identity of the slain and their group affiliation are being ascer-

tained, officials said. Meanwhile, a CRPF trooper was injured this evening when militants opened fire upon a mobile checkpoint established by >> PAGE 02

#### SPO's killers Shot Dead In Gunfight: Police

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir police on Friday claimed to have killed two alleged militants responsible for assassination of a policeman and injuries to another in Kishtwar area of Doda district.

On Monday, special police officers (SPOs) Pashid Iqbal and Vishal Singh were patrolling Tander, Dachan area of Kishtwar when they were • P-02

#### **Army Chief Reviews Situation Along LoC In Kashmir**

**Press Trust Of India** 

**SRINAGAR-** Army chief General M M Naravane reviewed the security situation along the Line of Control in the Kashmir Valley on Friday, a defence spokesperson said here.

On the second day of his two-day visit to the valley, Naravane reviewed the security situation along the LOC, including counter-infiltration measures, said Colonel Rajesh Kalia.

He said the Army chief, accompanied by the Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Y K Joshi and Chinar Corps Commander Lt Gen B S Raju,

visited the formations and units. The local Commanders briefed Naravane on the existing secu-



rity situation and the measures in place to foil infiltration bids by terrorists, Kalia said.

The Chief of Army Staff was briefed on the cease fire violations, retaliations, counter infiltration operations and operational preparedness, he said.

During an interaction → PAGE 02



## Afghan Forces Arrest Kashmiri Man Alleged To Be Militant Trainer

**Press Trust Of India** 

**NEW DELHI:** Afghan forces have arrested a Kashmiri man who

cials said here.

Aijaz Ahmad Ahangar alias believed to have joined JeM mili- resident of central Kashmir's tant group, prompting security Budgam, was captured by Afagencies to review their strat- ghanistan's National Directorate last month. egy in Jammu and Kashmir as of Security (NDS) in Kandahar

ince" (ISKP) Aslam Farooqui.

ISKP finds a mention in an FIR fled in early 1990s and was since "Abu Usman Al Kashmiri", a registered by the National Investigation Agency to probe the shootout at a gurdawara in Kabul

responsibility for the attack on a CRPF party in south Kashmir's Anantnag which left a trooper

dead and another injured. The arrest of the Ahangar, who had fled Kashmir in early 1990s The 55-year-old is said to be to Pakistan via Bangladesh, folintelligence inputs suggest that province in an operation earlier chief recruiter of the Islamic lowed another successful opera-

a Pakistani militant affiliated with

The security agencies are look-Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) outfit. ing at the arrest of Ahangar as angar's son Abdullah Umais was The questioning of the militant a setback to the Islamic State to fighting in Afghanistan's Nanrevealed the plan of Pakistan's set up a foothold in Jammu and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) Kashmir. A few militants, who which is fully backing the JeM switched sides to be part of to train the outfit cadre with the global militant group, were in the same province on July 18, Taliban for operations against killed by the state forces in vari- 2019.

militants for the valley are being this month along with the chief trained at Taliban camps, offi- of Islamic State "Khorasan Prov- group which recently claimed at Taliban camps, offi-

According to the sources, Ahgarhar a few years ago, while his son-in-law Huzafa-Al-Bakistani was killed in a US drone strike

## US sale of missiles to India disturbing, would destablise region: Pak

said the sale of anti-ship missiles rooqui said the sale of the missiles pandemic. She said Pakistan had by the US to India was disturbing by the US to India was disturbing. articulated its concerns regarding and would "destabilise" the region. The sale of such missile systems, The US State Department this week along with technical assistance and notified Congress of its determina- logistic support at the time when tion to sell Harpoon air-launched anti-ship missiles and Mark 54 lightweight torpedoes worth USD 155 million to India to enhance its volatile situation in South Asia, she deterrent capabilities against "re- said. Farooqui again contended that gional threats" and to bolster its there was a high possibility of India homeland defence. Addressing a conducting a "false flag operation" media briefing here, Pakistan For- while global efforts are directed to-

there is a global effort to fight the pandemic is particularly disturbing This will destabilise the already

the sale of sophisticated weapons to India which would further destabilise the region. Replying to a question about the restoration of diplomatic relations up to High Commissioners level between Pakistan and India, Faroogi said Pakistan always wanted good relations with all neighbouring countries. India needs to create an enabling environment for a meaningful en-

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday eign Office spokesperson Aisha Fa- wards combating the coronavirus gagement that could lead to resolution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions, she said. The relations between the two nations strained following the Balakot strike when the Indian Air Force jets bombed a Jaish-e-Mohammed training camp in Pakistan on February 26 last year to avenge the killing of 40 Central Reserve Police Force personnel in the Pulwama attack on February 14.

#### MHA asks states, UTs to screen Rohingyas for COVID-19 as many of them attended Nizamuddin meet

**NEW DELHI:** The Home Ministry has asked all states and UTs to screen Rohingya Muslims living under their jurisdiction for COVID-19 as many of them had attended the Tablighi Jamaat congregation in Delhi's Nizamuddin, officials said on Friday.

In a communication to Chief Secretaries and DGPs, the ministry said there have been reports that several Rohingya Muslims have attended 'Ijtemas' and other religious congregations of Tablighi Jamaat and there is a possibility of their contracting COVID-19.

The ministry said the Rohing- about the presence of Rohingya yas residing in camps in Hyderabad had attended Tablighi Jamaat 'Ijtema' at Haryana's Mewat, and had also attended the meet at the national capital's Nizamuddin.

Delhi's Shram Vihar and Shaheen Bagh localities who had gone for Tablighi Jamaat activities, have not returned to their camps, it said.

Similarly, Rohingyas living in

area of Jammu and Kashmir Hyderabad.

"Therefore, Rohingya Muslims and their contacts may need to be screened for COVID-19. Accordingly, necessary measures may be taken in this regard on priority," the communication said.

Muslims, who have come there

after working for Tablighi Ja-

maat, the ministry said.

According to the home ministry, there are around 40,000 Rohingya refugees living in There are also reports from different parts of the country, Derabassi, Punjab, and Jammu including in Delhi, Jammu and

#### The Kashmiri...

imminent peril for her daughters' sake and calmed them down.

"To ensure her safety, the mother was given PPE gear and a separate room to stay with her daughters," the leading lady doctor said.

The siblings had come in contact with their grandfather who had arrived from Saudi Arabia after performing Umrah and tested positive for Covid-19.

The elderly man had shared the same flight as that of the Kashmir's first Covid-19 patient - a 67-year-old woman from Srinagar's Khanyar

Meanwhile, inside the separate ward, the two asymptomatic girls were unable to make sense of their sudden hospital stay and their mother's new appearance. "My younger daughter would repeatedly ask

me, 'Mamma, why've you put those clothes [PPE gear] on? We can't see you in them. Why can't we touch you? At least, hug or kiss us, please!' Battling emotions, the mother would dodge

her queries, saying, 'I've an infection. If you touch me, you would also get infected.' And this way, the young mother not only owned her innocent daughters' ailment, but also stood behind them like a rock — consoling

and comforting them whenever the hospital

confinement made them jittery. But in the process, she was badly hit.

Apart from suffering those long-tormenting nights of anxiety inside that haunting ward where she couldn't even touch her young ones, the young mother badly bruised her nose and hands with her tight mask and gloves routine.

"Since it was a fight for my daughters' wellbeing," the mother said, "I was ready to go to any length to see them healthy again."

Eventually, with the third test done on April 11, Masrat finally won her children's Covid-19

"But before that test cleared decks for our homecoming, I saw doctors repeatedly breaking down in our ward over my daughters' condition,"

"While praying for their well-being, those doctors would tell me, 'You're a very courageous person.' But I would tell them, 'I'm a mother. Even if I get this Covid-19, I don't care. All I want is to make sure that my daughters emerge winners from this health crisis.'

On April 13, the same doctors lined up as cheerleaders and beamed with pride, as the mother indeed lived up to her promise.

And with that, the 18-day anxious quarantine period ended and Masrat finally hugged and kissed her daughters back, as if they had just woken up from a bad dream.

#### MBA Student...

Other six cases from the district include 42-year-old from Naidkhai, two residents of Gund Kaiser—17-year-old youth, a 60-yearold man-besides three residents from GundDacchan-15-year-old boy, and two brothers, one of the 64-years-old and other 58-years-old who are contacts of the previous

A 27-year-old MBA student, another youth aged 28 and a 45-year-old woman, all residents of Heerpora and contacts of previous COVID-19 patients were among eight people who tested positive for coronavirus in Shopian, reports said.

Regarding Kupwara cases, they said; include the 12-year-old brother of a previous patient and their cousin 23-year-old from Muqam-e-

There are now 333 cases in J&K. Of these cases at least 270 were added this month alone. From the time the first COVID-19 case was announced in J&K on March 09, it took about three weeks for the cases to reach 50-mark. It took the next five days to cross 100-mark, subsequent five days to cross 200-mark and few days to reach 300-

From 52 reported cases by the end of last month, the J&K reached a cumulative tally of 106

Till date, the officially confirmed tally stands at 328-54 in Jammu and 274 in Kashmir. Five people have died due to the deadly infection in the J&K while 42-9 in Jammu and 33 in Kashmir divisions have recovered and discharged, leaving the active cases in Kashmir to 241 and 44 in

Meanwhile, the media bulletin issued by the government said today that 59205 travellers and persons in contact with suspected cases have been put under surveillance, including 7631 persons in-home quarantine, 281 in hospital isolation, 260 in hospital quarantine and 27366 under home surveillance.

"Besides, 23662 persons have completed their surveillance period.Moreover four more Covid-19 patients have recovered and were discharged on Friday from CD hospital Jammu," the bulletin said.

It said that out of 6438 test results available, 6110 samples have tested as negative till April 17.

## Why Only 4000 ... Medical Association through its National Presi-

dent (New Delhi), Junior Resident Doctors through its Secretary, Government Medical College Jammu and Doctors Association of Kashmir through its President Dr. Nisar-ul-Hassan (Medicine Department SMHS Hospital) on a proposed legislation— Healthcare Service Personnel and Clinical Establishments (Prohibition of Violence and Damage to Property) Bill 2019. The court, as per Global News Service, also directed that the view taken by Ministry of Home Affairs be also placed before it.

They have been asked to send their views and comments via email to the Registrar Judicial(s).

Earlier, amicus curie Monika Kohli filed the report stating that the stand taken by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India in these proceedings was most unfortunate and insensitive. She pointed that despite the available framework and the serious pandemic issues which are being addressed by healthcare professional, these personnel are being subjected to extreme violence in a spate of incidents all over the country. She also pointed out that valuable public property (as ambulances, police vehicles) involved in COVID-19 issues, are being stoned and damaged for which there is no compensation.

The amicus curie said that she comes across reports from Jammu and Kashmir wherein doctors in Budgam were held hostage by the public and also of instances where doctors have been asked to vacate the hotel accommodation which they were occupying as they were engaged in undertaking COVID-19 containment and treatment measures. She submits that the issue of safety, care, health and violence against these healthcare professionals need to be addressed on priority in J&K as well as Ladakh.

Regarding Darbar Move, the court was informed that there was an expenditure of Rs 1636.04 lakhs in addition to Rs.1213.44 lakhs on Darbar Move.

"We shall consider the impact of this order on the next date of hearing after full information has been placed before us," the court added.

In another direction, the court directed V. K. Singh, Director General of Police (Prisons) J&K to submit within ten days a report with regard to prisoners in Jammu and Kashmir who are lodged in the J&K and in other parts of India.

## Business Tycoon ... DC Srinagar reads, according to the sources.

These sources told Kashmir Observer that a case has been filed against the businessman under FIR No 109/20 U/S 188 IPC in Police Station Trikuta Nagar.

The letter forwarded to DC Srinagar urges him to depute a medical team to Chaya residence for immediate medical screening and required quarantine as the case may be.

Mushtaq Chaya is a prominent Kashmiri businessman and heads PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Kashmir.

## Govt Puts 'Formal'

Department by 21.04.2020," reads the order.

The concerned Administrative Secretaries. Head of Departments have been asked to assign work to Officers, staff stationed at Srinagar, and Jammu accordingly for obtaining maximum efficiency and minimum disruption.

"All Administrative Secretaries will put in place a robust online/electronic/ video conferencing/ other communication mode at Jammu/Srinagar to ensure a virtual office at both the places," the ordered added.

"The above arrangement shall be further reviewed on 15.06.2020, or earlier, when a clear picture on the extent and spread of COVID-19 emerges," it added.

## **Govt Orders ...**

"All the offices dealing with essential supplies/services shall be fully functional...., reads the order issued by the government, news agency GNS reported.

"All the Educational Institutions/Training Institutes shall remain closed till 3rd May 2020." In all other offices, officers of the level of Under Secretary and above have been asked to regularly attend offices from April 20, "33% of Non-Gazetted staff shall attend office as per roster to be devised by the respective Head of

offices," it added. The staff, workers of Forest Department operating and maintaining zoo, nurseries, wildlife, fire-fighting in forests, watering plantations and patrolling have been asked to 'work as usual."

"The Head of offices shall take necessary steps for implementation of instructions with regard to social distancing, face masks and sanitizing the workplaces in their respective Offices, as per guidelines," it said, adding, "Arrangements for issuance of passes shall be made by the General Administration Department for Civil Secretariat Employees and by the Deputy Commissioners in respect of officers/officials working in their respective jurisdictions."

## Post-Prayer ... The locals in Ganastan village of Sumbal assem-

bled at the Mosque and offered congregational Friday prayers in violation of orders imposed under Section 144CrPC to halt coronavirus spread, news agency KNT reported. A police team quickly reached the area when the news of prayers reached them.

Quoting witnesses, the report says that many people fled from the mosque after seeing police and government officials approaching them. Some people resorted to stone-pelting which left over 6 policemen injured, the report adds.

SDPO Sumbal, Saqib Ghani said that a large number of people defied lockdown orders and pelted stones on police when they were asked

"Six policemen suffered injuries in stone pelting. We are trying to identify these miscreants and they will be booked," he said. Meanwhile, a police statement issued over

the incident claimed that around 200 people had assembled at Jamia Masjid Ganastan to offer Friday Prayers, the report said.

It added that over 16 violators were arrested from the area, as police used mild force to disperse the crowd.

#### Pharmacist ...

The pharmacist identified as Shabir Ahmed Lone and posted at Isolation Hospital in Kupwara was suspended on the orders of the District Magistrate Kupwara Dr Anshul Garg, news agency KNT reported. The action was taken on the recommendation of Chief Medical Officer, who reported the unruly behavior of the pharmacist posted and his refusal to serve food to Covid-19 patients at the newly established quarantine centre at Kupwara hospital.

"The pharmacist has been suspended for his unruly behavior. During the period of his suspension and till the completion of enquiry into this incident, he will remain attached with the officer of Sub-Divisional Magistrate Karnah," District Development Commissioner Kupwara,

## Govt Eases ...

According to an order issued by Chief Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir, it has been impressed upon the departments to carry out certain construction activities during the lockdown period under set guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOP), news agency KNO reported.

As per the order, the concerned executive engineers shall have to identify the works to be resumed during the lockdown period and a list of such projects/works shall be shared with the concerned district magistrates.

They have also been directed to prepare the list of the required machinery and equipment to be deployed at the identified construction sites/works and same shall be submitted to the concerned district magistrates for permission.

"In construction projects falling within municipal limits, the/construction workers shall have to stay at the construction site.

The concerned contractor in coordination with the executive engineer shall me sufficient arrangement for their stay, besides providing masks and sanitation items and keep social distancing norms place," reads the order.

The order also read that in construction projects in rural areas, the labour has to stay in the areas adjoining the construction site.

#### Anjuman To ...

The decision to suspend religious activities was taken during a virtual meet of the Anjuman convened by the President Aga Syed Hasan Almosvi Alsafvi, who is under house arrest since August 5, 2019, reports said. During the meeting, it was also decided that no invitation will be extended to any international delegates of 'Qaris or Naat Khawns' as has been the practice.

"The congregational Quran Khwani and recitation training will also not take place in the coming holy month due to the prevailing

situation" the senior religious leader said. He urged people to pray individually at their homes and explore spirituality with Allah (SWT).

"Performing social responsibility is of utmost importance so voluntarily donate alms and charity, share your surplus and make supplication for well-being of every person of the world," he said, adding that Anjuman's Quick Reaction Team (QRT) is already in place to extend any possible help and establish links of

### Curbs In Srinagar

today ordered extension of restrictions under Section 144 CrPc in the district till May 3, an official handout said. According to the order, there shall be complete restrictions on public movement and operation of business and other establishments in the district all through this extended period.

The order states that it is imperative that the ongoing restrictions remain enforced in view of the situation as various areas in the district have been notified as containment or red zones.

"It states that the order is in line with the revised lockdown guidelines in the MHA Government of India order issued on April 15 which excludes areas notified as Covid-19 containment zones from exemptions that it allows after April 20," the handout said

It further says that the order was also as per instructions of the J&K State Executive Committee (SEC) which has issued a detailed SOP to follow in the Covid-19 red zones. The order allows movement of essential

services with movement passes based as per requirement. It also instructs heads of departments to ensure no misuse of passes issued to their staff for the purpose of delivering services, the official statement said. The order says that the healthcare officers

and frontline workers associated with Covid-19 containment efforts will be allowed to move on production of valid IDs along with duty slips issued to them by their concerned HODs. It adds that all movement passes issued from the office of the District Magistrate from March 20 will continue to remain valid till May 3.

"Violations of instructions as given in this order will attract strict proceedings and action under Section 188 of IPC and Section 51 of NDMA," the handout adds.

#### 1200 J&K Workers three days seeking they be sent to their towns in the Union Territory.

They were stranded in Pathankot after the government imposed a lockdown to prevent the

spread of the novel coronavirus. The workers had then been put in quarantine in seven different camps, mostly resorts and marriage banquets.

After their quarantine period ended, they refused to take meals, seeking evacuation to their home towns, officials said here. Though the Jammu and Kashmir government

has taken the decision for their return, but we have yet to receive any communique till date,' Pathankot additional deputy commissioner AbhijeetKaplish, who is monitoring the arrangements, said.

He said senior officials from Jammu and Kashmir had also met these people a few days back and if they are taken back to their hometowns, this would be a welcome move. The workers had arrived in Pathankot from

mainly Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi, but were stopped at Punjab's border with Jammu and Kashmir due to the lockdown in the country.

## KO Reporter ...

repeated attempts to contact district police chief for the police version but there was no response. We will update the story as and when police version is available.

Meanwhile media fraternity has taken a strong note of unwarranted arrest of the media person who was risking his life by being in the field to discharge his professional obligations.

#### **TwoMilitantsKilled**

security forces at the Newa area in Pulwama. The injured trooper identified as Vishnu Kumar from Rajasthan was removed to hospital for treatment.

Soon after the attack, government forces cordoned off the area and started searches to

## SPO's killers Shot

attacked with axe by two alleged Hizb militants Basharat Hussain and Ashiq Hussain. While Pashid died in the attack, Singh suffered serious injuries and was removed to hospital.

After the attack, government forces launched massive combing operation to nab the attackers, who had fled to the upper reaches. DIG Doda and senior officers of police and army supervised the operation, a police spokesman said in a statement issued today.

"After meticulous search and painstaking efforts for three continuous days, the search party zeroed in the duo in a nallah," he said. He said the hiding militants opened fire after

observing the movement of forces near the nallah. "In the retaliatory action, both the militants were eliminated. One AK-74 and one INSAS rifle

were recovered from the killed militants," the spokesperson said. "With this timely and sustained effort, an attempt by the Hizbul Mujahideen to revive militant activities in the Dachan and Marwah

areas of Kishtwar has been nipped," he added.

## Army Chief ...

with the soldiers on snow clad heights, the Army chief was appreciative of their sharp vigil and alertness, Kalia added.

Naravane also impressed upon the commanders to remain prepared to give a befitting reply to any misadventure from across

**DSEK Okays** ... Samoon, the spokesperson said also emphasised for speeding up the process of filling up of the vacant posts as per the seniority of principles/ ZEOs/headmasters on priority for the smooth functioning of the department.

#### **Gutlibagh Village**

The Deputy Commissioner warned stern action against the violators as per provisions relevant act

So far, 34 people from Gutlibagh and Mammar

have been quarantined after coming into who have come in contact with the infected person. Meanwhile, The District Magistrate, SSP Ganderbal, Khalil Poswal and ADM Ganderbal Farooq Ahmad Baba today visited the area to monitor the situation. The officials said that it has become imperative to take stringent precautionary measures of complete lockdown by declaring village as Red zone and surrounding

villages as a buffer zone to break transmission of

## LG Inaugurates...

the disease in the area.

"Our colleagues were working on a unique system. The Lt Governor has dedicated to Srinagar the first Covid response Call Centre," he said.

The applications will help in quarantine management system, COVID-19 symptom tracking, Geo-fencing, tracking of quarantined persons and health survey, Chaudhary added.

#### Free Ration For BPL

official spokesperson added.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar DrShahidIqbal Choudhary who is also the Chairman District Disaster Management Authority Srinagar said the initiative is a recognition of the need for support to and an attempt to reach out to impoverished residents of the district, the official spokesperson said.

## **Advisor Baseer Khan Directs Speedy Completion Of Power Augmentation Projects**

#### 'Ensure round the clock electricity to quarantine centres, during Ramadhan'

JAMMU: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor Baseer Ahmad Khan today directed speedy implementation of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) meant for augmentation of power infrastructure including increasing transmission capacity so that uninterrupted power supply is provided to people at the earliest.

The Advisor was speaking at a review meeting convened to discuss power scenario and implementation of various centrally sponsored schemes in Kashmir under KPDCL projects.

The schemes currently being executed include Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPPS), Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DUGJY), Prime Ministers Development Plan (PMDP) and several other

While reviewing the progress and



targets of the schemes, the Advisor regular meetings to remove the bottle- escalation. directed speeding up their execution necks, if any, so that these schemes 
The Advisor while discussing the

maintained that officers should hold timeframe without incurring any cost ture asked the engineers to identify all through video conferencing.

worn-out poles, transformers and conductors in the region so that sufficient funds are made available for replacement in a mission mode for creating a much more reliable distribution infrastructure.

The Advisor directed that round the clock power supply must be maintained in the newly established quarantine centers for COVID-19 positive patients.

He also directed maintaining uninterrupted power supply during Sehri and Iftar time in the coming holy month of Ramadan.

For the convenience of the public, the Advisor directed PDD officers to maintain a register in every district regarding damage of transformers and their repair.

The meeting was attended by Secretary PDD, M Raju and other senior of-

MD, PDCL, Chief Engineer PDD for the greater good of the society. He are completed within the stipulated condition of distribution infrastruc- Kashmir attended the review meeting

#### **COVID FIRST PREFERENCE:**

#### **Blocked drain inundates** Srinagar locality with filthy water

**Agencies** 

SRINAGAR: Due to blockade of drainage system in Bhagwanpora area of Noor Bagh Srinagar, stench and garbage spilling all over the road and into the premises of houses have created health problems for people while concerned department is doing nothing to give a respite to the people.

Locals told news agency that filth and dirty water are all over on the link road and in the premises of the houses. "This is because of the faulty drainage system that the area has. The water from the drain has spilled all over the road and it has now become impossible to even walk on it," said locals.

"The reason we are reporting this to your news agency is that, our endless pleas to the municipality has always been treated with a deaf ear, and so almost everyone has stopped bothering and have adjusted to the scenario," they said adding that Covid-19 threat has kept the administration busy and no other matters are being considered important now.

The locals said that it has become difficult for them to spend time even inside the houses. "The foul smell emanating from the drain has made our lives hell. Even children are not able to concentrate on their studies," they said and once again urged concerned department to repair the drainage system.

Meanwhile, locals from New Colony Shamabad area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district told KNT that from past week they are unable to get clean drinking water. "Last week, a 100 feet pipe line was damaged and since then 25 households are without drinking water. Water is flowing from the pipe but the concerned department, despite being categorized as essential one, is not bothering to repair the pipe,' they said and appealed DC Budgam to look into the matter. (KNT)

## Strict adherence to SOP's in Red zones of district Pulwama

#### Intensive surveillance measures in place: DM

**PULWAMA:** The District Magistrate, Pulwama, Dr Raghav Langer, today said that District Administration is strictly adhering to guidelines (SOP's) in the areas declared COVID-19 Red zones in the district .He said that the 4th door to door screening cum surveillance work in red zones is under completion and all the contacts have been traced. The purpose is to to contain the spread of community transmission by enforcing restrictions already imposed under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

He said restrictions in personnel. the red zone areas inwani, Abhama of Tehsil Rajpora and

movement across the red sential supplies (medical, pleted in next few days. grocery, vegetables), medition, sanitation, and of pal Committee, officials of obeying the Government 01933-240354.



enforcement and survey

tion has put in place a sci- areas. Gudoora, entific and comprehensive Chandgam, Pinglena and mechanism in all these Parigam of Tehsil Pulwa- areas to ensure all require- for violating the governma have been intensified ments and needs of resi- ment orders in Red zones, till final screening and dents are covered as long where surveillance of all persons as these areas remain un- unlawfully or negligently belonging to these areas is der restrictions. He added doing something which is He said no outward or been deputed in these ar- of any dangerous disease to ing from the Red zone vilinward movement is al- eas for the convenience of life) section 270 IPC (malowed in these areas and people, whereas screening lignant act likely to spread contact

various departments and volunteers in helping the It is pertinent to men- administration in containcluding Khaigam, Sanger- tion that the administra- ing the COVID-19 in these Earlier, District Authori-

booked 8 persons ties section 269 IPC( hundreds of officials have likely to spread infection and surveillance is under infection of dangerous diszone boundaries is for es- process which will be com- ease to life), section 271 Control room in case of any IPC (knowingly disobeying grievance regarding the es-DM hailed the role of any quarantine rule) and cal emergencies, fumiga- health officials, Munici- section 188 IPC (for dis- lated issues on Landline No

orders) have been invoked. To ensure coordination Ioint control rooms, with dedicated nodal officers have been established and people from Red zone areas have been asked to contact 24\*7 COVID Control Room (01933240412. 01933240912) for VID-19 queries and emer-

Moreover People haillages have been asked to round the clock (24\*7) District Emergency sential services & other re-

## SMC installs decontamination tunnel at J&K High Court

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) installed and made operational a decontamination tunnel at Jammu and Kashmir, High Court, here

Commissioner SMC, Gazanfar Ali, Secretary SMC, Sofi Mohammad Akbar and other concerned were present on the oc-

The tunnel was installed at the entry point of the High Court building to ensure persons visiting the court get sanitized instantly while entering or leaving the premises.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner said that SMC has already installed decontamina-



tion tunnels in all the major hospitals of Srinagar.

"We are installing such tunnels at other places of public importance also," he added.

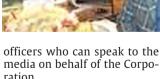
## **SMC designates Official Spokesmen**

#### Joint Commissioner (administration), Secretary, Health Officer to issue press statements: Commissioner SMC

**SRINAGAR:** Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Gazanfar Ali, chaired a meeting of officers to discuss various issues regarding the functioning of the corporation, here today.

Threadbare discussion was held in the meeting which was attended by the senior officers of the corporation. The issue of fake news being circulated in some section of officers who can speak to the and Secretary, Sofi Mohammedia which is being attrib- media on behalf of the Corpouted to the SMC officials was ration. also discussed.

missioner designated three ministration, Syed Abul Qasim on health and hygiene.



Commissioner desig-

On the occasion, the Com- nated Joint Commissioner, Ad-

mad Akbar as spokespersons for the SMC functioning while Health officer, Dr Qazi Javiad was asked to spoke to media

#### Dy Mayor oversees sanitization works at Lal Bazar

**SRINAGAR:** Continuing sanitiza- ish Shafi, visited the areas and took tion work, a team of workers of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) equipped with protective gear and specialized machines today sanitized various areas of Lal Bazar.

The sanitization works were carried at Botsha Mohalla, Mughal also visited ATMs in the area and Mohalla, Sheikh Hamzah Colony, directed the concerned to ensure Satbooni and other adjacent of Lal

Under the directions of Srinagar Mayor, Junaid Azim Mattu, the Depuwith the concerned Corporator, Dan- COVID 19.

first hand assessment of the sanitization works being carried by the SMC.

On the occasion, sanitization chemical mixture was sprayed in various lanes and bye lanes of these areas. Besides, the Deputy Mayor ATMs are being sanitized on regular basis. Deputy Mayor informed that extensive sanitization drive is being carried in Srinagar with an aim to ty Mayor, Parvaiz Ahmad Qadri along break the chain of transmission of

## Chamber urges GoI to restore 4G internet in J&K

SRINAGAR: PHD Chamber man PHD Chamber Kashmir and universities where the on Friday urged Government of India to restore 4G internet services in Jammu and Kashmir and said restricting highspeed internet, it becomes harder to access information online required to combat Co-

vid-19 pandemic. According to statement issued to Kashmir News Service (KNS), PHD Chamber apwake of Covid-19 pandemic. demic. PHD Chamber Mentor Mushtaq Ahmad Chaya and Chair-

Baldev Singh Raina said as the risk of spreading the dis-COVID-19 has spread within ease is high. The Universithe Country and across the ties, schools are all closing globe pushed many active on for varying amounts of time,

severe for schools, colleges of PHD Chamber said.

halt due to clampdown of the some moving classes excluservices in J&K since August sively online through apps 2019. They said in current and software like Zoom and situation the virus can engulf Google Classroom until they school, college and univer- reopen and have shift to onsity going children who are line lesson plans, they're unable to access high speed running into the limitations pealed Government to restore internet service so that on- of our threadbare internet high speed internet services line information could have networks, which leave most across Jammu and Kashmir in availed to defeat the pan- of the students unable to connect to their new online "The issue is particularly classrooms", office bearers

#### **DIAL-EMMA**

TRAFFIC POLICE: 9419993745, 01998-266686 PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883

PDD: 0194-2450213 FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES: 2479488,2452222,2452155

CAPD: 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

#### **AIRPORTS**

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311



SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259 ANANTNAG: 01932-228243 BARAMULLA: 0194-102029 • BIJBHERA: 01932-228243 PAMPORE: 01933-294132

• PATTAN: 01954-293507 · QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

#### **HIGHWAY STATUS**

Sgr-Jammu highway - ( Open )

Mughal Road - (Closed) Srinagar-Leh- (Closed)

#### This Day in History

- 310 St Eusebius begins his reign as Catholic Pope
- 387 Bishop Ambrosius of Milan baptizes Augustinus 1025 - Bolesław Chrobry is crowned in Gniezno, becoming the
- 1506 The cornerstone of the current St. Peter's Basilica is
- laid in the Vatican
- 1518 Bona Sforza is crowned queen consort of Poland
- 1521 Diet of Worms: Cardinal Alexander questions Martin
- 1552 Mauritius of Saksen occupies Linz 1663 - Osman declares war on Austria 1666 - Peace of Kleef: Netherlands & bishop Von Galen of
- 1676 Sudbury, Massachussetts, attacked by Indians 1688 - "Germantown Quaker Petition Against Slavery": Francis Daniel Pastorius authors 1st formal written protest
- against African-American slavery in English colonies in Germantown, Pennsylvania 1738 - Real Academia de la Historia ("Royal Academy of
- History") founded in Madrid 1775 - Paul Revere and William Dawes ride from Charlestown
- to Lexington warning the "regulars are coming!" 1783 - Fighting ceases in the American Revolution, eight years to the day when it began
- 1797 France & Austria sign ceasefire
- 1809 First run of 2,000 guineas horse race at Newmarket,
- 1848 American victory at the battle of Cerro Gordo opens the way for invasion of Mexico. 1861 - Battle of Harpers Ferry, Virginia, part of the Maryland
- Campaign (US Civil War) 1869 - 1st international cricket match, held in SF, wins by
- 1902 Denmark is first country to adopt fingerprinting to
- identify criminals 1906 - San Francisco earthquake and fire kills nearly 4,000
- while destroying 75% of the city 1912 - Tripolitan War: in continuing hostilities, Turkey closes the Dardanelles Straits after an Italian naval bombardment
- 1915 French pilot Roland Garros is shot down and glides to a landing on the German side of the lines during World War I.
- 1916 US Secretary of State Warns Germany that the USA may break diplomatic relations unless torpedo attacks on
- 1922 Netherlands soccer team defeats Denmark 2-0
- 1924 1st crossword puzzle book published (Simon &
- 1925 World's Fair opens in Chicago
- 1927 Chiang Kai-shek forms anti-government in China 1945 - Diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Bolivia are established.
- 1946 League of Nations dissolves (3 months after UN starts) 1946 - US recognizes Tito's Yugoslavia government
- 1948 International Court of Justice opens at Hague
- 1951 France, West Germany & Benelux form European Steel & Coal Community 1954 - Colonel Gamal Abdal Nasser seizes power & becomes
- Prime Minister of Egypt 1956 - Egypt & Israel agree to a cease fire 1958 - Government troops reconquer Padang, Middle-
- 1961 CONCP is founded in Casablanca as a united front of
- African movements opposing Portuguese colonial rule. 1979 - Major Haddad declares South-Lebanon independent 1980 - Zimbabwe (formerly Southern Rhodesia) declares
- independence from UK 2013 - 27 people are killed and 65 are injured in a cafe
- bombing in Baghdad, Iraq 2013 - Two earth-like planets are discovered orbiting the sta

#### From KO Archives

#### 'Onus both on India, Pak for safe bus travel'

**Observer News Service** 

**SRINAGAR:** Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today said that it is the joint responsibility of India and Pakistan as also the local authorities on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC) to ensure full security cover to passengers of the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service.

"Notwithstanding the recent dastardly attempt to disturb the bus service between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad by terrorists, the people of Jammu and Kashmir came out on the streets as one to welcome this gesture of reconciliation." he said addressing the Chief Ministers' Conference on Internal Security here.

"I hope the terrorists and extremists in the region have grasped the mood of the people and will not try to disturb this bus service again." he said.

Singh said it was the joint responsibility of the governments of India and Pakistan and the local authorities on both sides of the LoC to work together in providing full security to passengers.

(Kashmir Observer, 18 April, 2005)



1441

**PRAYERS** 

**FAJR** 

4: 29

**ZUHR** 

12: 32

**ASR** 

5:12

**MAGRIB** 

7:07

**ISHA** 

8:33

## OBSERVER 1

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#### NO HOLDS BARRED

#### **ONLINE CLASSES**

**KASHMIR** 



**OUTSIDE KASHMIF** 



India is proud of Demographic Dividend. It means that India has 62.5 % of its population in the age group of 15-59 years. It shows that we are living in an age where the potentials of youth can be channelised into constructive ways. Nevertheless, it is looking a distant dream, given the present situation in India.

# Covid-19: Impacting Our Minds And Our Wallets!

FAIZAN SHAH MALIK

India finds itself in a rather precarious position with the Stock market which was soaring just a few months back, hit all time high and was making new highs every week, has now dropped almost over 35% of its value from its recent highs and is now back at 2016 levels.

e are officially in Lockdown.

Call it a curfew or a lockdown or address it by any other name, the bottom line is that we are going to be staying home for the next 20 days or so, at least for now.

So as each day passes by, we are beginning to realize that this might be getting a lot worse than what we originally thought and it is this scary reality that we have to live with every day now and no one knows for how long.

However, we hope and pray that with all this social distancing (some mandatory, some not) that is happening almost across the globe, we will be able to flatten the curve sooner than later and we will be able to lower the spread of this virus and bring it down to a manageable level where we can get back to our normal day to day routine.

Hence, with the passage of time it will surely bring with it a host of issues and problems to our doorsteps and to our homes and into our minds, and one of them is the psychological and emotional toll that it will have on almost an entire population, which in my opinion is currently being underestimated or overlooked.

Having lived through it, in a somewhat similar situation very recently in Kashmir since and over the years, I can say this with a degree of certainty that it will be widespread, it will be substantial and a lot of people will need a lot of help for varied degrees of mental, emotional & psychological trauma that they will go through, for a variety of reasons and one of the most prominent reason among those will be purely economical.

Lot of people will lose their livelihood. Some people will lose their jobs, others will lose their businesses, bankruptcies and insolvencies will increase and when people won't be able to pay their bills, the emotional trauma of that will be enormous in itself.

It looks like the worst case scenario is unimaginable and we really cannot or do not want to even fathom it, just because it seems so improbable and implausible right now, we tend to ignore what that reality might look like.

But with each passing day the subconscious mind

is beginning to transform and give some verisimilitude to what very recently just looked like a figment of our imagination. So the governments across the globe will need to

prepare for this inevitable, this catastrophe that seems to befall upon us in the not so distant future.

And India is no different, in fact India is a lot more

vulnerable given its population size and density especially in the metros.

As Governments across the world are announcing

As Governments across the world are announcing all sorts of financial packages to help them weather this storm and keep their economies afloat, India is yet to announce anything substantial.

The US senate passed a big economic stimulus of around 2 trillion dollars a few days back, which includes sending checks to individuals and bail out packages for big industries as well as for small businesses. While some governments are debating on the packages, some have already announced, people across the globe are getting jittery and scared. Will I lose my job? How will I pay my rent? How will I make my payments? Will the government assistance be enough? There are



Having lived through it, in a somewhat similar situation in Kashmir over the years, I can say this with a degree of certainty that impact of lockdown will be widespread and people will need a lot of help for varied degrees of mental, emotional & psychological trauma.

numerous other questions that are cropping up in people's minds, and they are looking up to the government for answers and solutions.

So the government needs to step up and assure people and come up with a package that keeps us all afloat till we get back on track once the dust settles.

Luckily, India has so far had a lot less confirmed cases of the Covid-19. Is that because of lack of testing or are we behind the curve by a few weeks to the other countries, all this remains to be seen and we will know soon enough.

As we brace ourselves for the economic impact of this, the government needs to address this sooner than later.

India finds itself in a rather precarious position with the Stock market which was soaring just a few months back, hit all time high and was making new highs every week, has now dropped almost over 35% of its value from its recent highs and is now back at 2016 levels.

However, the stock market does not always reflect the true state of the economy in a country. As we have seen in India, GDP growth rate has been falling in the past 1-2 years with growth falling from upwards of 7% to around 4.5% now. The slowest it has grown since Q1 of 2013.

Besides other factors, demonetization hurt the economy badly as it dealt a crushing blow to the unorganized sector which is primarily cash based and accounts for over 90% of the India's economy

ganized sector which is primarily cash based and accounts for over 90% of the India's economy.

With India announcing lockdown for 21 days, economic impact of this shutdown will be enormous. As we brace ourselves for the rough road ahead, we need the government to come up with solutions and announce

some major relief measures in form of economic pack-

ages or waivers that takes care of the poor as well as the middle class of this country as they will bear the brunt of this catastrophe that seems inevitable now.

Because we might be in this for long haul and we probably need more help from the government in the later months as well, when this thing hits its peak, which hopefully will be sooner than later, we don't want them to have dealt all their cards now and have nothing left in tank for later. So anything they come up needs to address the current situation and have in mind the worst hasn't come yet.

We need both relaxation on monetary policy front and strong fiscal measures to help the economy move forward because the headwinds that we are going to face will be strong and we will need all the help we can get.

They can just borrow (at the low interest rates now) and shore up the economy and come up with a package much bigger than anyone is thinking about. They can surely afford a larger fiscal deficit now but they can't afford an economy that is totally destroyed and then cannot be fixed quickly.

Once we see the government comes up with something on the economic front, the mental aspect of this needs to be addressed as well, and that it should not be taken lightly. We hope to hear from the government on both fronts very soon.

Faizan Shah Malik is MA in Economics & MBA from University of Texas, Arlington. He is currently working as a Freelance Investment Advisor, Futures & Commodities trader.



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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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outh is a stage of life that falls between the childhood and the adulthood. This stage of life is a hub of creativity, energy, agility, etc. However, it also is the stage of emotional instability. For a nation to achieve the greatest things of a civilisation, it is youth that can play a vibrant role in this endeavour.

India is proud of Demographic Dividend. It means that India has 62.5 % of its population in the age group of 15-59 years. It shows that we are living in an age where the potentials of youth can be channelised into constructive ways. Nevertheless, it is looking a distant dream , given the present situation in India.

At the present moment, the whole world is engulfed by the COVID-19. The avenues for youth are narrowing with each passing day. Socially, economically, politically, morally, etc., the youth of today find themselves isolated and marginalised more than ever. Same is the situation here. The youth of Kashmir are full of unique characteristics but have limited or no means to show their potential. They are pass-

#### 1100

**Wasted Youth** 

ing through so difficult times an outsider can hardly imagine. Like their past they stare at a gloomy future.

When we talk of the youth of Kashmir in the present situation, the picture is already blurred. They had just emerged from a seven month long lockdown when they found themselves locked in again. What

our youth are going through can be any ones guess. Adding to the misery the government refuses to unlock the most vital source of communication, the internet fully, even after this new phase of isolation was necessitated due to COVID 19 outbreak. We can't meet each other. We can't talk to each other. We can't go into someone's house. We can't have social gatherings. Friend circles are gone in the real world and the virtual world of the friend circles are inaccessible.

In this backdrop youth of Kashmir feel choked.

These are the testing times of any society but here one can not even communicate with the loved ones staying outside the four walls of your home.

These times test the efficiency of a society but here, it is not a thought at all. I myself being in my youth, am busy in counting the cases of corona virus. I feel helpless. My constructive powers are wasted. A youth goes through the darkest stages of life, to see a light at the end of the tunnel. But in this part of the land, the tunnel has no end and the possibility of a light is an utopian concept. Our lives are meaningless. We live for the sake of living. I like others have a habit of time passing. Not knowing how to utilise this precious time in making a change that we cherish in our bruised hearts. My eyes well up with tears when I meet my friends. They say that



in this big world we are alone.

Syed Mustafa Ahmad Syedmustafaahmad9@gmail.com Hajibagh, Zainakote

## Longer It Goes, Harder It Is

## The Psychology Of Lockdown

Dougal Sutherland

At a very basic level, human behaviour is governed by reward principles. If what we do is followed by a perceived reward, we're more likely to keep doing it. Not getting sick is a reward, but it may not be perceived as such for much longer as most of us weren't sick in the first place. This lack of reward reinforcement could be intensified by an optimism bias – "It won't happen to me" which may become stronger than our anxiety as time passes and the perceived threat reduces.

he Covid-19 pandemic has forced millions of people to live under strict lockdown conditions, but the psychology of human behaviour predicts they will find it harder to stick to the rules the longer the situation continues.

New Zealand has now reached a midway point of a comprehensive four-week lockdown and there have already been some rule breakers. Most prominent among them was the country's health minister, David Clark, who almost lost his job this week for flouting lockdown rules by going mountain biking and driving his family 20 km to a beach.

He won't be the last to break the rules. During a pandemic, fear is one of the central emotional responses and up to this point, most people have complied with lockdown conditions out of fear of becoming infected. But as time passes, people's resolution may begin to fray.

#### Psychology of a pandemic

A group of more than 40 psychologists are currently reviewing research relevant to people's behaviour during a pandemic to advance the fight against Covid-19.

The psychological factors that motivate us to stay in our bubble are a mix of individual, group and societal considerations.

At a very basic level, human behaviour is governed by reward principles. If what we do is followed by a perceived reward, we're more likely to keep doing it. Not getting sick is a reward, but it may not be perceived as such for much longer as most of us weren't sick in the first place. This lack of reward reinforcement could be intensified by an optimism bias – "It won't happen to me" – which may become stronger than our anxiety as time passes and the perceived threat reduces.

Outside of our individual psychology, broader social factors come into play. In times of uncertainty we look to others to guide our own behaviour as they set our social norms.

Often, there is a degree of confusion about guidelines on what people are allowed to do, for example when exercising during lockdown. Seeing others out surfing, mountain biking and picnicking in a park can lead to a mindset of "if they're doing it, why can't I?"

To counter this, governments must appeal to people's sense of shared identity and highlight examples of punishment for rule breakers. But an over-emphasis on punishment risks people sticking to rules merely for social approval, which means they may conform in public but not in private. Being punished can also build resentment and may lead people to seeking out loopholes in the rules.



A schoolteacher dresses up as a clown for his two-year-old daughter in San Fiorano, Italy, while in lockdown. | Marzio Toniolo/via Reuters

#### Group behaviou

In order to last the distance at the highest level of lockdown, people need to cooperate as a group. If everyone complies, we'll all be okay.

The reverse was evident in the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic with the panic-induced buying of toilet paper, face masks and other "essentials". Here, we saw decision making based on emotion and the government attempting to counter it with fact-based information.

There is evidence that in times of major crises, groups may prioritise their local interests, such as keeping your family, neighbourhood or wider community safe. But this has the potential to spill over into vigilantism if local protection interests combine with fear. It can prioritise the interests of a few over the greater good.

#### **Cultural factors**

Cultural and political psychology also has an impact on our behaviour during lockdown. Broadly speaking, different cultures can be categorised as "tight" or "loose".

Tight cultures, such as China or Singapore, tend to be more rule bound and less open but are also associated with more order and self-regulation. In contrast, looser cultures, like the United Kingdom and the United States, place more emphasis on individual freedoms and rights, and are correspond-

ingly slow to self-regulate in the face of government requirements. Australia appears to fall towards the looser end of the spectrum while New Zealanders sits somewhere in the middle.

The challenge is how we respond as societies continue to "tighten" with strict rules while boredom and annoyance sets in.

Political polarisation, which has increased markedly in recent years, may be exacerbated by being physically distant from others. There is a danger that as we stay in our bubbles, both physical and virtual, we fall into "echo chambers" wherein we only hear similar voices and opinions to our own.

If this chamber becomes filled with resentment at ongoing restraints on our freedom, it can break down our motivation to stay home. But polarisation can be overcome by helping people identify with a bigger cause – and this was often invoked during times of war.

Even after populations emerge from the lock-downs, it will be hard to know what to expect. People will need clear guidelines at each stage and help to adjust to a new normal.

Dougal Sutherland, Clinical Psychologist, Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington.

#### BOOKS

## How A Book Club Helped Britons Deal With World War II (And What We Can Learn From It)

NICOLA WILSON

hese are unprecedented times – but, even so, comparisons are being made to the second world war in terms of the magnitude of the crisis that coronavirus represents. Some of this rhetoric is unhelpful but, as we bunker down into our homes and the government gets on a war footing, there is little doubt that the challenge to our liberty, leisure time and sense of well-being is real.

With early reports that book sales are soaring while bookshops and warehouses close down and publishers reassess their lists, what can the reading patterns of an earlier generation tell us about getting through a crisis and staying at home?

The restrictions at the beginning of the second world war affected all aspects of day-to-day life. But it was the blackout that topped most people's list of grievances – above shortages of food and fuel, the evacuation, and lack of news and public services. Households were reprimanded and fined for showing chinks of light through windows, car lights were dimmed, and walking around, even along familiar streets, late at night became treacherous.

came treacnerous.

With the widespread limitations to free movement, the book trade was quick off the mark. Books were promoted by libraries and book clubs as the very thing to fight boredom and fill blacked-out evenings at home or in shelters with pleasure and forgetfulness. "Books may become more necessary than gas-masks," the Book Society, Britain's first celebrity book club, advised.

#### Selling tales

I've been researching the choices and recommendations of the Book Society for the past few years. The club was set up in 1929 and ran until the 1960s, shipping "carefully" selected books out to thousands of readers each month. It was modelled on the success of the



American Book-of-the-Month club, which launched in 1926, and aimed to boost book sales at a time when buying books wasn't common. It irritated some critics and booksellers who accused it of "dumbing down" and giving an unfair advantage to some books over others – but was hugely popular with readers.

The Book Society was run by a selection committee of literary celebrities – the likes of JB Priestley, Sylvia Lynd, George Gordon, Edmund Blunden and Cecil Day-Lewis – chaired by bestselling novelist Hugh Walpole. Selections were not meant to be the "best" of anything, but had to be worthwhile and deserving of people's time and hard-earned cash.

Guaranteeing tens of thousands of extra sales, the club had a huge impact on the mid-20th-century book trade, with publishers desperate to get the increased sales and global reach of what publisher Harold Raymond called "the

Book Society bun".

#### Books will go on

The Book Society guided readers through the confusion of appeasement and the run-up to the second world war with a marked increase in recommendations of political non-fiction examining contemporary geo-politics. The classic novel of appeasement was Elizabeth Bowen's The Death of the Heart – the choice in October 1938 – in which a sense of malaise and inevitability of future war haunts the characters' desperate actions.

When Britain finally declared war against Germany in September 1939, the Book Society judges were divided. Some were relieved that, as George Gordon put it, "an intolerable situation has at last acquired the awful explicitness of war". But others were devastated, especially Edmund Blunden who was still

traumatised from fighting in the first

The judges advised members that when they became weary of news, people "will turn to books as the best comfort", as had happened in the first world war with the increase in reading and library membership. Publishers and booksellers faced huge challenges during the second world war, including paper shortages, problems in distribution, a vanishing workforce, and bomb damage to offices and warehouses. But there were more readers - and from a wider social class - at the end of it. Demand consistently outstripped supply as consumer expenditure on books more than doubled between 1938 and 1945.

#### What people were reading

What people were reading

Throughout the second world war,
the Book Society varied its lists between
books that offered some insight on the

strangeness of contemporary life and works of fiction – especially historical fiction – that took readers' minds off it.

Titles in the first group include comic novels by the likes of EM Delafield and Evelyn Waugh, as well as forgotten bestsellers like Ethel Vance's Escape, an unlikely thriller set in a concentration camp, and Reaching for the Stars, American journalist Nora Waln's inside account of life in Nazi Germany.

More topical non-fiction became a priority as the devastation of the Blitz kicked in. Winged Words: Our Airmen Speak for Themselves and Into Battle: Winston Churchill's War Speeches were especially popular.

Historical fiction was consistently in demand. Half the club's choices in 1941 were long novels with historical settings. As today's readers prepare to batten down the hatches with Hilary Mantel's 900-page latest book, it is sobering to reflect on how an imaginative connection with the past has long helped readers find relief from the madness of the present.

The other fail-safes in the second world war were the classics. As books already in print became scarce, the Book Society reissued new editions of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice, and Tolstoy's War and Peace and Anna Karenina. These were books that Walpole said he believed he could sit down with even through an air raid.

Indeed, Neilsen BookScan has reported a rise in sales of classic fiction as the coronavirus crisis deepens – including War and Peace – as readers use this unfamiliar time to knuckle down to the heavyweights. You can also join a War and Peace reading group online if you want a bit of company. After the homeschooling, working from home, and everything else. Here goes.

Nicola Wilson, Associate Professor in Book and Publishing Studies, University of Reading.

> By arrangements with The Conversation.

## **Covid-Forced Behavioural Changes To Stay For Long: Report**



**Press Trust Of India** 

he radical behavioural changes that Covid-19 pandemic has forced on people as well as organisations following the lockdowns are here to stay for long-term, and will impact consumption patterns for a host of goods and services, according to a report.

The most visible changes are in the media and information space that has seen massive adoption of digital format, said the report by domestic arm of the French advertising powerhouse Publicis Groupe.

The findings of the report mark the "profound shifts in the wake of the Covid lockdowns and the resultant changes in the way consumer react and many of these behavioural changes are not transient but are

likely to stay longer," the report noted. Titled 'Reboot to a new normal', the study highlights the changes on the consumption patterns when it comes to media usage, purchase behaviour and overall marketing and brand trends following the outbreak and resultant lockdown enforced by the government between March 24 and April 15, which has since been extended up to May 3.

Morec impact of the changing consumer on businesses, consumer sentiment and their behaviour towards brands and the response of the brands to these changes.

According to Anupriya Acharya, the head of Publicis Groupe India & South Asia,

the impact of the pandemic has meant that uncertainty has become the norm for brands and businesses across sectors and geogra-

"Most certainly, only the ones who imbibe this change, and more importantly, lead it, will emerge stronger. We look forward to and promise sharing the quest for the new normal, evolving businesses and robust communities," she said.

"Online is clearly the new norm as companies embrace remote work and rapidly digitise operations to ensure business continuity," the study said, adding unfortunately many brands still struggle to operationalise work-from-home initiatives due to their cumbersome compliance require-

The study finds that consumers are single-mindedly focusing on essentials, sidestepping discretionary purchases like apparel, electronics and watches.

Underscoring the importance of the digital delivery channels, restaurants and food delivery apps have seen surge in demand and also contactless delivery options.

At the start of the outbreak, ecommerce saw huge momentum with people instinctively turning to online channels but lost momentum after the lockdown, which now is being boosted by online grocery deliveries as the crisis accelerated.The lockdown boosted online retail with demand for fresh food, personal hygiene items and food delivery growing.

Another winner in this otherwise all-

losing situation is the rising viewership of television channels, which has been on the decline over the past year.

TV ratings has seen an exponential jump because of Coronavirus related news. The trend is in line with other Asian markets such as China and Korea, the report

Between March 1 and 21, gaming has seen a 41 per cent increase in time spent, while entertainment and OTT platforms have seen 34 per cent growth, making it third winner.

Similarly, while print publications are gasping for breath, their online version has become the de facto source of information with digital editions of mainline publications, seeing huge increase in traffic.

"Between March 16 and 22, there has been a full 61 per cent rise online traffic to newspaper websites and mobile apps over the previous month," according to the re-

Regional publications have also seen huge online demand with traffic jumping by 50 per cent, which is significantly higher than that of English publications.

"Publishers may need to shift focus on to digital operations as it remains uncertain whether consumers will continue subscriptions of physical copies," the report

Publicis Groupe is a global leader in communication and is present in over 100 markets offering advertising media, data and technology services.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

#### OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, ANANTNAG

(Chairman, District Disaster Management Authority)

Establishment of dedicated helpline for medical emergencies in district Anantnag - COVID19 containment measures.

#### ORDER

This office has been receiving numerous representations for issuance of movement passes in respect of cases requiring urgent medical attention like Dialysis, Chemotherapy, Radiotherapy, etc. Such patients have been found to be undergoing treatment both in government and private facilities at different locations within or outside the District. In certain cases, the patients have also been found availing free treatment/drugs through various institutional setups which require effective and timely delivery.

For medical emergencies and other distress calls, a Control Room is already functional in the District, however considering that the lockdown on account of containment measures for COVID19 pandemic has been extended up to 3rd of May, 2020, it has been felt expedient to put in place a separate institutional mechanism for offering requisite assistance and transportation facilities, wherever required, for such cases.

It is therefore ordered that a helpline facility for catering to the above mentioned medical emergencies shall be established for district Anantnag with the details and conditions mentioned below:-

> 9419453872 Helpline contact Nos. 7006035495

#### Conditions:-

- 1. The helpline can be approached telephonically as well as through
- 2. Requisite prescriptions for availing the facilitation shall be submitted through WhatsApp.
- 3. The transport facility, wherever required, shall only be provided on prior appointment.
- 4. The above arrangement shall not apply for purchase and home delivery of medicines otherwise prohibited under relevant provisions of the law in vogue.

No: DCA/PA/2020/39-48 Dated: 16-04-2020

Sd/- (Syed Yasir) KAS Addl District Magistrate Anantnag

DIPK-208/20

#### GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL JAMMU SHORT TERM QUOTATION

Till the below mentioned are not supplied by JKMSCL, sealed quotations are invited from the firms dealing in the line for supply of the following drug item. The quotation should reach the office within four days from the date of publication in the newspaper during working hours

Į	publica	doncation in the newspaper during working nours, -						
	S.No.	Name of the item.	Rate					
	1	Tab Hydroxychloroquine 400mg						

- The quotation must be typed only.
- The successful quotationer shall have to execute the supplies immediately, from the date of issue of formal order with them.
- The quotationer has to submit the name of the company/Manufacturer on the quotation of the item to be supplied.
- If the Supplier failed to supply at the quoted rates, then the undersigned reserves the right for debarring/blacklisting of firm for a period not less than
- The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation or a part thereof, without any reason thereof. Any dispute, if arises, shall be subject to the Jammu jurisdiction.

No: MCH/PS/ /63/5-21 Dated: 26/3/2020

DIPK-196/20

Medical Superintendent Medical College Hospital Jammu



Government of Jammu & Kashmir(UT)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) PROJECT CIRCLE DIVISION 1ST, SRINAGAR Opposite Masjid Ibrahim, Hyderpora Srinagar PIN No.190014 E-mail:- pcd.bypass@gmail.com Phone-FAX:-0194-2435218

**TENDER NOTICE** 

#### NIT No PCD-RnB-01 of 2020-21 Dated: 15/04/2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on <u>item rate</u> <u>basis</u> from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	M.H
1.	Painting of compound walling, kerb stones/ bunkers etc and cleaning of storm water drains of entire J&K High Court Complex Srinagar on the eve of Darbar move 2020	Rs.3.33 Lacs	Rs.200/-	Rs.6660/-	15 Days	"DEE"	2059 M&R
2.	Face lifting of Kerbs, Medians, Islands, & Dividers of NH-44 (National Highway Bypass Srinagar) Km 0 to Km 9.5th by way of Painting, Mulba Clearance etc.	Rs. 5.10 Lacs	Rs.300/-	Rs.10200/-	15 Days	"CEE" "DEE"	3054 M&R
3.	Face lifting of NH-44 (National Highway Bypass Srinagar) by way of clearance of Mulba, cleaning & painting of Kerbs stones of Central Verge, Footpaths, medians & Traffic Islands from Km 9.50 to 17.80.(Right & Left Tracks)	Rs.5.60 Lacs	Rs.300/-	Rs.5600/-	15 Days	"SHG"	3054 M&R
4	Temporary Centre Verge cut for traffic Management by Traffic Police at Bemina intersection of NH-44 (Srinagar Bypass)	Rs.1.05 Lacs	Rs.200/-	Rs.2100/-	10 Days	"DEE"	3054 M&R

Position of AAA/TS: Submitted Position of funds: Available
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set

of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website .jktenders. gov .in as per schedule of date given below: 1. Date of Issue of Tender Notice 15-04-2020 Period of downloading of bidding documents From 15-04-2020 01.00 PM 3. Bid submission Start Date 16-04-2020 from 10.00 AM 27-04-2020 upto 4.00 P.M Bid Submission End Date 28-04-2020 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the 5. Date & time of opening of Bids Executive Engineer R&B Project Circle Division 1st

M.H.0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Project Circle Division 1st showing clearly the name of work along with NIT No. & S.No. failing which the tender will be rejected out rightly.

No: PCD-1st/NIT/07-17

DIPK-174/20

Sd/-**Executive Engineer** R&B Project Circle Division 1st, Srinagar

#### OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT DISTT. HOSPITAL KULGAM

Subject :-Procurement of Fully Body Personal Protection Equipment (PPE Kits), N95 Masks and Triple layer masks for District Hospital Kulgam.

TENDER NOTICE NO 07 OF 2020 DATED 17/04/2020

For and on behalf of Liuetanant Governor of J&K, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible registered suppliers/manufacturers/authorized dealers/partnership firms registered in India under relevant Act of well repute for below mentioned supplies to District Hospital Kulgam on emergency basis.

The NIT containing the all details/Terms and conditions can be downloaded from the J&K Govt official web site

(www.jkte	nders.gov.in). The interested bidder may submit their bids online upto the date and time mentioned below.				
S.No. Name of item It		Item Description/Specification			
01	Personal Protection Equipment Kits (PPE Kits)	SMS Fabric laminated with PE film (180 GSM)+ Triple layer mask+Face shield+Surgical Gloves+ Gaggle (Minimum 3mm)+Shoe cover			
02	N95 Mask	NIOSH approved N95 Mask Respirators, Filter >95% non oil based particles, Flat Fold "C" style, Superior technology Micro Fine filter media, protects from respirable suspended particles matter, Composite of multi layers: pre-filter, fine filter & Skin comfort Layer, Dotted pattern edges for soft gel, Embedded Nose clip (No metal exposure), Unique fit adjusters (protection, comfort & fit) stapled outside Filter media, Leak proof & avoids puncture in Filter area, Latex free knitted Textile Elastic with long life, skin friendly, does not deform in high Temperature.			
03	Tripple Layer Mask	Disposable triple layer face mask made of spun bond nonwoven consisting of three layers. Upper & lower layer made of PP spun bond 20 GSM, 20GSM & paper filter in between, Ultrasonically sealed with PVC coated nose clip, String Tie/Loop Tie, recommended to be used in High risk Areas viz Operation Theatre, use of this face mask is recommended in high risk areas like operation theatres as BFE (Bacteria Filtration Efficiency) of this mask is >95%, Breathable: Yes, Fluid Repellent, Yes Fluid Impervious: No, Recommended use high risk area, Bacteria Filtration efficiency greater than 95 micron.			

Important Dates and Cost of EMD & Tender fee:

mpo	important bates and cost of EMD & Tender fee.				
S.No.	Event	Date			
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	17/04/2020			
2	Date of publication of NIT online	17/04/2020			
3	Date for downloading the NIT online	17/04/2020			
4	Date for submission of Bid online	17/04/2020			
5	Last date for submission of Bids online	24/04/2020 (up to 4.00 pm)			
6	Date for opening of bids online	25/04/2020			
7	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 30000/- (Rs. Thirty Thousand only)			
8	Cost of tender documents	Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred only)			

Bids must be accompanied with the scanned copy of cost of Tender document in the shape of Bank deposit receipt in the J&K Bank, Main Branch Kulgam (A/C No. 0010040500020305) in favour of Medical Superintendent DH Kulgam J&K and Earnest Money/Bid Security in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to the Medical Superintendent DH Kulgam. The Bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same website in the office Medical Superintendent DH Kulgam (Tender receiving authority) on the above mentioned date.

**Medical Superintendent** 

No. DHK/Acct/E-tender/2020/92-95 Dated 17 /04/2020

DIPK-209/20

DH Kulgam

#### **Non-essential businesses** to resume operations slowly but surely amid extended **COVID-19 lockdown**

to take a decision soon.

**Appliances** 

Press Trust Of India

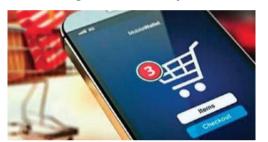
Godrej NEW DELHI: A day (Business Head & Exafter e-commerce marecutive Vice-President) ketplaces received gov- Kamal Nandi believes ernment nod to deliver the fresh guidelines items that allow e-commerce non-essential beginning April 20, platforms to operate companies have begun amidst the lockdown evaluating all possibili- will lower the overall ties of resuming opera- impact on sales. tions to make the most "Online sales

see significant tracof this lifeline. While some, who tion for the time being have been allowed to given that there is a begin production aclot of pent-up demand tivities, are unsure how and shops are shut. We they will do so and at are in discussions with what capacity given key online players to the absenteeism of la- begin rolling out our bour and logistics con- products as we foresee straints, optimists say a deeper integration of that there is adequate offline and online trade inventory to cater to the in coming times," Nandi demand during the ex- added. Super

tended lockdown. "Summer is here and CEO Avneet Singh Marwe have enough inven- wah, which exclusively tory of air-conditioners sells Thomson smart and refrigerators to TVs on Flipkart, is also meet consumer de- confident of meeting mands. As our factory demand till the end of in Jhajjar, Haryana is in May. the green zone, we are manufacturing soon to face any trouble relat-

He said that the also preparing to begin brand is also unlikely to

Plastronics



over the longer term,' said Panasonic India and South Asia CEO Manish Sharma.

Items such as mobile phone, TV, refrigerator, AC, stationery and laptop will be available on offers on Flipkart," Mare-commerce platforms wah said, adding the TV from April 20.

According to the fresh of about Rs. 2,000 crore guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, e-commerce has also in talks with state been deemed as an and district administra-'essential' service and vehicles used by these aren't any ground-level companies will be al- difficulties as was seen lowed to ply with per- by e-tailers in the first mission except the de- phase of lockdown. marcated containment zones - hotspots or all aspects of resumred zones - where the ing production and our spread of the infection manufacturing partners is high. Adhering to the are working with aunew rules, e-retailers thorities - at the centre such as Amazon, Flip- and state level - in sekart, Snapdeal and Pay- curing relevant permis-TM Mall are preparing sions keeping in mind to accept orders and de- the facets of manpower. liver all items, including component availability non-essentials. E-retail- and transport involved, ers are also awaiting a Xiaomi spokesperson state nod on the 'non- said in an email reessential' goods that sponse to The New Incan be sold and delivered post which thirdparty sellers could be- maker Wonderchef begin shipping their goods lieves e-commerce is to fulfilment centres of the only recourse for these marketplaces.

Odisha, Goa and Maha- coronavirus times. rashtra have so far permitted these firms to down to zero and efunction fully, while Ut- commerce opening up tar Pradesh, Telangana will provide some cash and Karnataka are likely flow.

sustainability ing to manufacturing activity as its plants are located in green zones - the industrial belts of Noida and Jammu. "We have adequate stock for May and we will be resuming sales with great industry has seen a loss

> so far Handset makers are tions to ensure there

> "We are evaluating dian Express.

Kitchen appliances retailers to stay afloat State-wise Rajasthan, amid the challenging

"Our sales had come

## **Govt Urges AMUL, Leading Private** Firms To Set Up Milk ATMs Across **Jammu And Kashmir**

## Dairy sector has potential to transform J&K's rural economy: Navin Choudhary

JAMMU: Asserting that Dairy sector culture Production Department. He rected their officers to work out an economy, Principal Secretary Animal and Sheep Husbandry Department, Navin K Choudhary, today emphasized for evolving a robust roadmap with its implementation on ground for achieving the desired goals.

Principal Secretary, while reviewing the measures needed towards developing the dairy sector in J&K during a meeting held at Civil Secretariat, asked all the stakeholders for working with a new vision and proactive approach to take this potential vocation to new dimensions.

Choudhary asked the officers to scale up setting up of dairies in private sector besides encouraging enhanced processing in terms of other milk products like cheese, paneer, butter, curd, milk powder etc. He emphasized upon them to put in their best to make sure that in next one year all related programmes are successfully implemented resulting in nil import of milk products in UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

While reviewing the CAPEX Plan. Principal Secretary asked the department to not to undertake any new construction work rather focus on completion of ongoing works. He asked the department to revise their CAPEX Plan to strengthen veterinary services, equipments in hospitals and veterinary centres. He was apprised that there is sufficient stock of medicines and vaccines are available for next few months.

Principal Secretary directed the officers to set up procurement process as private sector milk processors will in motion at the earliest.

Choudhary also asked for robust production of cattle feed for which distribution among the children by a coordinated action plan be implemented in consultation with Agri-

producing cattle feed and poultry feed in the Union Territory.



shops, dhabas, tea stalls, banquet halls besides absence of various social and religious functions.

In this regard, Principal Secretary had a detailed discussion with Principal Secretary SWD and the two departments have agreed to deliver milk to Anganwadi centers under 'Mid Day Meal" scheme and "Poshan Scheme". Both public sector as well the Anganwadi centres for further Anganwadi officials.

has potential to transform J&K's rural asked for establishment of more units effective mechanism within 3 days to start this process early next week.

The Principal Secretary asked both Meanwhile, Choudhary reviewed public sector organisations like AMUL the immediate situation in view of and private sector milk processors to COVID-19 pandemic and was in- set up large number of Milk Vending formed that household consumption Machines (milk ATMs) across Jammu of milk has not gone down while and Kashmir and to begin with in Srithere is shortfall of 4 to 6 lakh litre nagar and Jammu cities. He assured (approximately) in consumption due them that Eol's in this regard will be to closer of hotels, restaurants, sweet issued early next week.

All representatives of milk producers welcomed this move as it will ensure unhindered milk supply in urban areas even in difficult situations like the prevailing.

Expressing dismay over the price fixation mechanism by CAPD Department of milk and milk products which generally gets revised only after a year, Principal Secretary said that this does not take the producer's interest in terms of their rising costs. He emphasised that while consumer's interest should be taken care of producer's interest in terms of remuneration prices also needs to be ensured. He asked the officers to immediately workout a viable Price Fixation Mechanism like in other parts of the country. The arbitrary prices also result in other malpractices which could be avoided through an established mechanism envisaging periodic review of the price of inputs as well as end milk

Among others, the meeting was attended by Director Animal Husbandry Jammu Vivek Sharma, representatives of AMUL and Mission Director supply milk in half litre pouches to Dairy Development, Purnima Mittal while Director Animal Husbandry Kashmir and representatives of Khyber Dairy, Kashmir participated in the Both the Principal Secretaries di- meeting through video conferencing.

#### **Court denies interim bail to HDIL promoter Rakesh Wadhawan in PMC Bank scam**

**MUMBAI:** HDIL promoter Rakesh Wadhawan, currently lodged in jail in connection with the multi-crore rupees Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank scam case, was denied interim bail on Friday by a special court here.

Rakesh Wadhawan, who is in his 60s, had sought bail on health ground citing the coronavirus outbreak. He has been booked under the Prevention of Money-Laundering Act (PMLA). His plea was rejected by special PMLA judge PP Rajvaidya. In his application for in-

terim bail, Rakesh Wadhawan had cited his advanced age and existing illnesses, and said that he fears contracting the coronavirus infection in jail. Housing

wan and his son Sarang are rupt HDIL.



accused, besides others, in the Rs 4,355-crore PMC Bank scam which surfaced in September last year.

The case is being probe by the Enforcement Directorate, along with the Economic Offences Wing of the Mum-Development bai police. The case stems and Infrastructure Ltd (HDIL) from massive loans given by promoter Rakesh Wadha- PMC Bank to the now bank-

#### **COVID-19 LOCKDOWN:**

#### **Fuel sales slump 50 per cent** in April; 94 per cent decline in aviation fuel



**Press Trust Of India** 

**NEW DELHI:** India's fuel consumption slumped by a record 50 per cent in April except LPG saw massive demand erosion following a nationwide lockdown halted

According to provisional industry data for fuel consumption in the first half of April, petrol sales were consumption collapsed by coronavirus. 94 per cent as most airlines have stopped flying.

ernment dole of free cook- 7.3 million tonnes of diesel ing gas cylinders to poor in April 2019. As much as households fired up con- 6,45,000 tonnes of ATF was sumption by 21 per cent used in that month last year. during April 1 to 15, the data showed. Overall the decline try's petroleum product in petroleum product sales consumption fell 17.79 per was 50 per cent, it said.

made by three public sector fuel in the country, saw de-(PSU) oil marketing companies. Private firms such as cent to 5.65 million tonnes. Nayara Energy do not share mid-month sales trend in diesel consumption the and their numbers get re- country has recorded as flected only in the monthly most trucks went off-road consumption numbers re- and railways stopped plying leased by the oil ministry trains. Petrol sales dropped in the second week of every

is the biggest ever drop in to 4,84,000 tonnes. Howsales and the first data for ever, LPG sales rose 1.9 per the complete lockdown pe-cent to 2.3 million tonnes in riod. March sales numbers March.

were released last week but this included consumption in the pre-lockdown period as well.

Prime Minister Narenas all petroleum products dra Modi had announced a 21-day lockdown beginning March 25, shutting offices and factories, barring economic activity and travel. those involved in essential services. Also, flights were suspended, trains stopped plying, vehicles went off the road and cargo movement down 64 per cent, while die-stopped as most people sel slumped by 61 per cent. were asked to stay home Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) to help check the spread of

The lockdown was earlier this week extended till May The only fuel that showed 3. India had consumed 2.4 rowth was IPC as the gov- million tonnes of netrol and

In March 2020, the councent to 16.08 million tonnes. The data pertains to sales Diesel, the most consumed mand contract by 24.23 per

This is the biggest fall 16.37 per cent to 2.15 million tonnes, while ATF con-Industry officials said this sumption fell 32.4 per cent

## Bankers welcome RBI's steps to enhance liquidity amid COVID-19 pandemic

**Press Trust Of India** 

MUMBAI: The second set of measures announced by RBI for COVID-19 pandemic-stricken economy got a thumbs-up from bankers who welcomed the steps taken as per the

SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar, who also heads industry lobby grouping IBA, called the measures, which included both regulatory as well as liquidity interventions, as "rightful recognition to the evolving market conditions" by RBI. "Overall, the second set of package by RBI is an excellent reflection of combining the policy response and regulatory responses in the most optimal manner," he said in a statement. Kumar said the second set of targeted long term repo operations will help non-bank lenders and micro lenders. He also welcomed the refinancing support for SIDBI, NHB and NABARD, saying deserving sectors will get help. measures second booster shot to the sectors of the economy. economy from RBI within a month, Small businesses and retail borrow-



will improve credit delivery appetite. Padmaja Chunduru, the managing di-British lender Standard Chartered rector and chief executive of the state-Bank's country chief executive Za- run Indian Bank, said RBI's tone is full rin Daruwala called the announced of empathy and support to the needy

and added that steps like reducing ers will benefit through the 90-day the desired operational flexibility to liquidity coverage ratio requirements extension in NPA recognition for lend a helping hand to stressed acand NPA relief during moratorium stressed standard assets, while the counts".

90-day extension given for NCLT filing in cases of bad loans will save banks 20 per cent in provisions, she said. SBI chairman Kumar also said that allowing 90-day asset classification standstill for accounts covered under moratorium will "imbibe banks with

## RBI Announces Slew Of Measures To Offset COVID-19's Adverse Impact On Economy

**Press Trust Of India** 

**HYDERABAD:** The RBI announced another raft of measures to cut the Gordian knot tied up by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The central bank's Friday whopper evenly covered four aspects including liquidity, credit flow, and easing of stress among financial institutions and markets.

The highlights include a 25 bps (0.25%) cut in reverse repo rate, a Rs 50,000-crore targeted long term repo operation (TLTRO), suspension of the 90-day NPA norm for banks, a Rs 50.000-crore special finance window for NABARD, SIDBI and National Housing Board, extension of the ways and means advances to states by up to 60 per cent, exemption for banks from paying dividends and others.

The reverse repo rate has been reduced by 25 bps to 3.75 per cent. The move is expected to discourage banks from sitting on cash and instead encourage them to go out and lend. The surplus liquidity under the reverse

repo window stood at Rs 6.9 lakh crore as on April 15. However, other policy tools such as the marginal standing facility, bank rate remain unchanged at 4.65 per cent.

Governor Shaktikanta Das also announced another targeted long term repo operation of Rs 50,000 crore in tranches to ensure that even NBFCS and MFIs have access to liquidity. According to Das, the proposed Rs 50,000 crore is only a beginning and the RBI will not budge from releasing additional tranches based on the need.

The funds will be made up in bonds, commercial paper, NCDs etc with 50 per cent going to small and mid-size NBFCs as the TLTROs until now have been parked in public banks and big corporates while NBFCs were facing hardships.

He also announced a special finance facility to NABARD, SIDBI and National Housing Board totalling Rs 50,000

Importantly, RBI relaxed the 90maintain higher provision to standstill, that the relaxation is consistent with



which can be adjusted later for actual Basel guidelines.

"Cashflow of households and businesses are affected. We recognize that COVID-19 has challenged the ability of borrowers to repay. Thus the NPA count shall not include the 90-day day NPA norm, and advised banks to moratorium period," he said adding

According to Das, scheduled commercial banks and financial institutions have to make an additional 20 per cent provision. Due to the challenges of resolutions of accounts, the period of resolution will be increased by a further 90 days.

There was also an extension of the

resolution timeline for large accounts under default. An additional provisioning of 20 per cent is required for not nomic landscape has deteriorated seimplementing a resolution in 180 days and this will be provisioned in the June 7 circular. Banks need to conserve capital and absorb losses, Governor Das

As a bonus, RBI exempted banks FY2022.

from making dividend payouts from FY20 until further notice. This will help lenders conserve cash and make up for the provisions in case of rising bad loans.

There was an easing of the liquidity coverage ratio requirement for banks too to ease the liquidity flow for loans given by NBFCs to real-estate companies and relaxation of ways and means advances (WMA) up to 60 per cent until September to states so that they don't bunch their bond issuances and instead space them out. The extension of WMA should come to the states' rescue to make up for the shortfall in cash

Channeling Mahatma Gandhi, Das noted that during our darkest moment, we must focus on the light.

While he noted that the macroecoverely in some areas, Das added that India still is among a handful of countries projecting positive growth.

India though will suffer this fiscal, but is expected to rebound sharply in

#### Iran parades medical gear, not missiles, on Army Day as coronavirus deaths near 5,000

TEHRAN: Iran on Fri- social protocols, it is not day paraded disinfection possible to hold a parade vehicles, mobile hospitals and other medical now is hidden and docequipment to mark its tors and nurses are (innational Army Day as stead) at the frontlines the country's death toll of the battlefield," Presifrom the coronavirus dent Hassan Rouhani outbreak rose by 89 to said in a message to sol-

cases of infection in the chief Major General Middle East country Abdolrahim hardest hit by the pandemic rose to 79,494, of which 3,563 were in critical condition, health ministry spokesman Kianush Jahanpur said on state television.

A parliamentary report released earlier this ter Iraj Harirchi warned week said the coronavi- earlier this week that rus death toll might be almost double the figures announced by the health ministry, and the number of infections eight to 10 until an appropriate times more given a lack of widespread testing.

Friday's small "Defenders of the Homeland, Helpers of Health" army risk" business activities parade was held at a training centre before a group of commanders in normal," he said, warnface masks to underscore the military's role in battling the highly infections Covid-19 disease. It was a far cry from the typical Army Day parades, many shops, factories which normally feature and workshops - respectacles of infantry, missiles, submarines and

warplanes flying over-

20 drivers die

front door near the driver.

of soldiers ... The enemy diers, disseminated by The total number of state media. Army forces Mousavi thanked the more than 11,000 military medical staff fighting to stem the spread of the novel coronavirus in Iran, which has one of the world's highest death tolls.

Deputy Health Minisinfections could spread further in autumn.

"We have to get used to living with the virus medication or vaccina-tion is found," Harirchi said on state TV. A recent resumption of "low-"doesn't mean that conditions have returned to ing that the easing of restrictions could lead to increased infections.

So-called low-risk businesses - including sumed operations on April 11 across the counarmoured vehicles, with try, with the exception of the capital Tehran, where they will reopen

#### "Due to health and from Saturday.

**London buses step** 

silence for 20 who have already died.

up virus measures after

LONDON: London's transport authorities on Friday announced new measures to protect bus drivers from coronavirus, as colleagues held a minute's

Mayor Sadiq Khan, whose father was a bus driver, led tributes to the victims as authorities

"It breaks my heart that 20 London bus work-

said passengers would no longer be able to use the

ers have lost their lives to #Covid19. It could

easily have been my dad and his friends," Khan

wrote on Twitter. "Our transport workers are he-

roes and we must do everything we can to protect

union Unite, which has been pressing for better

protection for London's 20,000 bus drivers and

outbreak in Britain, where almost 14,000 people

have died, making it one of the worst hit coun-

tries in the world. Since a nationwide lockdown

was introduced last month, bus passengers num-

bers in London have fallen by about 85 per cent.

es and trains for key workers. Four Underground

thority, has already introduced a new cleaning re-

driver have been roped off and drivers sit behind a

and train staff have also died.

clear protective screen.

gime for buses, stations and depots.

But a reduced service is still running on the bus-

Transport for London (TfL), the city's travel au-

The seats at the front of buses closest to the

He joined a minute's silence called by the trade

London is on the front line of the coronavirus



## **Us Has Three Times More Patients Than Any Other Country**

**Press Trust Of India** 

WASHINGTON: The United States, est single-day death toll and three times more confirmed cases than

world's third-largest population, tially ill people from the staff. has four times as many deaths as China, where the pandemic began, and which has the world Building was lit in red to pay triblargest population. By Thursday ute to health workers who are on vice works. afternoon the United States had almost 770,000 confirmed cases and

more people were being admitted fight coronavirus. into hospitals with symptoms.

week to demonstrate over a lack of protective equipment for them. In most hospitals, special measures my passion to do my part in fighting protective equipment for them. In any other country.

The United States, with the have been taken to separate poten-

the front line of the response to the

most 220,000 and 16,500 deaths, as sung hero's parade" for his efforts to most 5,000.

Dr Anwar, an AKUH alumnus and The increasing numbers also a Connecticut state senator, jointly the global epicentre of the corona- alarmed the city's health workers developed a ventilator device that virus outbreak, now has the high- who took to the streets earlier this enables seven patients to be treated

> for every single person" affected by this virus, said Dr Anwar who shared Earlier this week, New York's information about the ventilator deiconic landmark, the Empire State vice on his Facebook page, including a video demonstrating how the de-

On Wednesday morning, the total US deaths were close to 26,000, In Connecticut, Pakistani physi- which rose to more than 33,000 by New York is the worst hit with al- cian Dr Saud Anwar received an "un- Thursday morning, an addition of al-

## Spain's coronavirus death toll cross 19,500; second only to Italy in Europe

**MADRID:** Spain's death toll increased to nearly 19,500, government figures showed on Friday.

The country reported 585 new fatalities in the past 24 hours, but said it had revised its counting mechanism, making the figures difficult to compare with previous tolls.

The total number of deaths in Spain now stands at 19,478, the third-highest in the world after the United States and Italy.

Overnight, the government issued revised guidelines for reporting deaths in order to homogenise data from the country's autonomous regions in an apparent move to eliminate any deaths where the patient had not been tested for COVID-19.

But such a methodology has proven controversial with Madrid and Catalonia, the two worst-hit regions, who this week insisted they had thousands more victims than the official count.

day was the highest daily figure 188,068. since Sunday when 619 people died in 24 hours.



number of people who had recov- of Madrid's regional government, ered from COVID-19, giving an told Spain's RNE radio. overall total of 72,963.

correlate with earlier figures, testing positive, but people are showing an increase of 5,252 new also dying in old people's resi-The national death toll on Fri- cases, bringing the overall total to dences and at home without having

number of dead is much higher," tragedy."

The data also revised down the Ignacio Aguado, vice-president

'We're only talking about those But the number of cases did who have died in hospital after being tested, so we will never know "It must be recognised that that the real number (of deaths) in this

#### **Afghanistan: Unknown** gunman kills six local workers at US base

KABUL: An unknown gunnorth of Afghanistan's capi- casualties. tal and wounded three oth-

The nine workers, all Af- person who attacked the

IS claimed responsibility man shot dead six local for firing five rockets from workers from the main a vehicle at Bagram air base American military base on April 9 but there were no

Shahkar said Afghan naers, an Afghan official said tional security forces began an investigation to find the



way home late Thursday ing services at the base. when a gunman riding a moair base, Parwan provincial governor's spokeswoman Wahida Shahkar said.

No insurgent groups immediately claimed responsibility for the attack but Talifighters are active in northern areas of Afghanistan.

ghan nationals, were on their workers, who provide clean-

The Afghan government torcycle opened fire on them and Taliban are in the proabout 500 meters (about a cess of exchanging prisonquarter mile) from Bagram ers as part of a peace deal signed by the US and the Taliban on February 29 in

The release of up to 5,000 Taliban prisoners and 1,000 government ban and Islamic State group ahead of intra-Afghan negotiations is a condition of the US-Taliban deal.

#### 900 US army personnel test positive for COVID-19



**NEW YORK:** As many as we continue to train." 900 US soldiers from all The announcement was functions," on March 26. made at the Pentagon during a briefing by US Chief of as efforts taken by the army Staff of the Army James Mc- to reduce the spread of the Conville.

have 900 soldiers from army personnel were tested all three components test positive for the virus. for COVID-19." he said in an AP video. He cision was reversed almost added that they currently immediately as Defense have the testing capacity of Secretary Mark Esper said up to 700 tests per day and that the armed forces will are taking all measures to find a way to both protect ensure the safety of army personnel.

McConville said the army tary's essential operations. will continue training its soldiers. While ensuring a nounced that there will be safe environment by main- a temporary hold on sendtaining social distancing, ing new recruits for training. screening and testing. "We The pause will allow comneed to make sure the army manders to ensure proper

The US army had called three components have for suspension of training tested positive coronavirus. for "non-mission essential The decision was taken

coronavirus proved to be in-"As of this morning, we sufficient. At the time, 280

But within days, th the troops from the virus while performing the mili-

On April 6, the army anis ready to go to war and so safety measures are in place.

BOTTOM LINE

## Imran Khan seeks top Pakistan agency's help to fight coronavirus

**Press Trust Of India** 

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has asked the country's lead agency in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic to take measures to cope up with the deadly disease during the upcoming holy month of Ramadan as the number of Covid-19 cases in the country crossed 7,000.

Khan was on Thursday addressing a meeting of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), which has been formed to take unanimous decision on all issues related to the coronavirus. It became operational earlier this month.

The NCOC officials were asked to take steps to fight the disease during the month of Ramadan which starts from April 23.

He ordered compilation of accurate data about Covid-19 patients and the number of deaths, according to officials.

The spike in the number of cases in the last two days has been due to the increase in the



per day testing capacity. Officials said that the testing

capacity was being gradually raised to 25,000 people per day by the end of this month.

in the country rose to 7,125 after announced to resume congre-497 new infections were reported in the last 24 hours, according to the latest official data. At least 11 people died during the pandemic.

the period, taking the number of total deaths in the country to 135. A total of 1,765 people have recovered so far from the dis-

Ministry of National Sindh 2,008, Khyber-Pakhtunkh-Baltistan 245 and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir 46.

So far 84,794 tests have been conducted, including 6,264 in the

The Sindh provincial govern- ther spread.

ment has imposed complete restrictions on the movement of people from 12-3 pm.

The government is facing difficulties in holding people back as The number of Covid-19 cases hardline clerics earlier this week gational prayers in mosques in clear defiance of the government directives to curb the spread of

The government has banned prayer congregations of more than five people as part of its measures to curb the spread of the deadly coronavirus.

Despite the government's pleas Health Services reported that to observe social distancing, a Punjab registered 3,376 cases, group of hardline clerics held a meeting in Karachi on April 14 to wa 993, Balochistan 303, Gilgit- discuss the issue of ban on such prayers and announced to re-

sume congregational prayers. Despite efforts by the government, there has no been much improvement in curbing the Meanwhile, the government spread of the disease and as the has urged has urged people to of-government allowed opening fer the Friday prayers at home to up of selected industries, it was contain the spread of the disease. feared that the disease might fur-