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STUDY LINKS GENETICS TO CHILDHOOD EMOTIONAL, SOCIAL **AND PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS** 

n recent research, scientists have linked the emotional, social and psychiatric problems in children and adolescents with higher levels of genetic vulnerability for adult depression. The study implies that the genetics passed from parents may be linked with psychiatric problems in children and adolescents and may also leading to depression in adults. University of Queensland scientists made the finding while analysing the genetic data of more than 42,000 children and adolescents from seven cohorts across Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the UK. Professor Christel Middeldorp said that researchers have also found.....

....LIFE & TIMES

## **News** Digest

#### **Nursing Home Owner Booked**

Srinagar: Police on Saturday filed a case against a private hospital owner for misusing letter pads of a doctor in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. A police spokesman in a statement said that a complaint from a doctor Shafqat Rasool Wani was received stating that he was practicing as a consultant at Asif Memorial clinic Handwara in the year 2016 and left the clinic in the same year. "However, the Nursing Home run by Kouser Bakshi was still consulting/treating the patients by using his letter pads," the spokesman said. In this connection, a Case FIR No 124/20 under relevant sections of law has been registered in • P-02

#### 75-Year-Old Shepherd Slips To Death

Rajouri: A 75-year-old shepherd

died on Saturday after he fell into a deep gorge in Darhal area of Rajouri district in Jammu and Kashmir. Mohammad Amin (75) son of Wazir Mohd Malik of Dodaj was grazing cattle today afternoon when he slipped from the hilltop and fell down into a gorge at Darhal, Station House Officer (SHO) Barkat Qureshi told news agency GNS. The shepherd sustained serious injuries and was immediately shifted to a nearby hospital in an unconscious state, the officer said. However, doctors present there declared him brought dead, the officer sadded. Police have taken cognizance and started further investiga-tions into it.

#### Two Mortar Shells **Defused In Anantnag**

Srinagar: Police on Saturday recovered and diffused two mortar shells in Nowgam area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district. Some locals in Nowgam spotted the suspicious objects in an orchard and informed police about it, news agency GNS reported. Soon after, a police team and Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) reached the site. Confirming it, a police officer said that two live mortar shells were lying in the orchard and were later defused without causing any damage.

#### 4 Gamblers Held In **Handwara: Police**

Srinagar: Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested four gamblers from a village in Handwara Tehsil of north Kashmir's Kupwara district. On receiving an input, a police team raided Kargama village of Handwara and arrested four gamblers from the spot, a police spokesperson said today. He said that playing cards and cash was seized from the gamblers. Police identified them as Faisil Bashir, Mudasir Ahmad War and Umer Rashid Lone, all residents of Kargama and Augib Ahmad Sheikh of Chotipora village. "In this regard a case under FIR No. 125/20 U/S 04 Gambling Act stands registered in Police Station Handwara and investigations taken up," the spokesperson said.

## Covid Hike and A Hashtag: Inside Bandipora's Viral Campaign

**Auqib Javeed** 

BANDIPORA: As a strong community Covid-19 combat response, a borough known for its 3As-Alim, Adab, Aab (Knowledge, Culture, Water)-is currently spearheading an intense online campaign to press towards the health crisis on the ground.

With novel coronavirus

Bandipora took to social net- cases after Srinagar. working sites demanding ventilators. Termed as 'the main sup-

portive treatment' for patients in the critical stage of Covid-19, ventilators assist or **administration's attention** replace respiratory functions, single ventilator. pumping oxygen into the

already claiming five lives and 80 Covid-19 positive cas- attention towards the district. in Jammu and Kashmir, the es, the Bandipora district has residents of North Kashmir's recorded highest number of

According to state stats, the union territory has 208 ventilators. However, in Bandipora, with over 3.92 lakh population (according to 2011 census), there's not a God?"

With already one death urged the government to pay a man without legs >> PAGE 02

"While whole world is looking for a vaccine for Covid-19, Bandipora residents are still waiting for a ventilators and the hospital," said Meh-

ran Sofi, a young social activist

who's leading the campaign.

"Are we children of a lesser

A hospital without a ven-

With hashtag #Ventilators- tilator, said Shahri Shahid, forBandipora, the netizens another local campaigner, is



WE'RE CURRENTLY FOCUSING ON 3 THINGS: TRACING, ISOLATING and

Treating," said Dr Nabeel, nodal health officer in Hajin. "How did it spread will be investigated later."

# Cleric, 7 Others Test **Covid-19 Positive In** Kashmir; J&K Tally At 341

for the novel coronavirus on Saturday in Kashmir valley, raising the number of infected people across Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory to 341, officials said.

new cases from Jammu

**Observer News Service** 

JAMMU: Jammu and Kash-

mir High Court Saturday or-

dered that all the courts in the

Union Territories of Iammu

and Kashmir and Ladakh shall

treat cases of domestic abuse

as urgent and proceed with the

matters in accordance with the

circulars issued regard-

ing the procedure to

Taking suo moto no-

of lockdown imposed due

tice of negative impact

be followed to ensure

social distancing.

positive cases now 341 (54 Jammu id-19 cases across the Val-**SRINAGAR: A prayer leader, a fa-** and 287 Kashmir). Further details ley. A 38-year-old cleric in ther-daughter duo were among in daily media bulletin," govern**eight persons who tested positive** ment spokesperson Rohit Kansal Tweeted today. Kashmir Observer had on Friday

already reported five of the 13 cases confirmed by the government today. With five more cases, Bandipora in north Kashmir has emerged the

of Chief Justice, Justice Geeta Mittal and Justice Rajnesh Oswal

today heard the case from their

respective residences through

point that globally it has been

observed that the adverse social

and economic consequences of

the pandemic for women and

The High Court issued

notices to the Secretary,

Department of Social

Welfare, Governments of

Union Territories of Jam-

mu and Kashmir and Lada-

irls are devastating.

The Court highlighted the

video conferencing.



HC Directs J&K, Ladakh Courts To

**Treat Domestic Abuse Cases As Urgent** 

to COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls, a Coram consisting to submit a report \*\*PAGE 02\*

THE COURT DIRECTED THAT

a report of the measures in place, steps

underway and those contemplated be

placed before it before the next date.

the worst affected Gund Jehangir village of the district is among those infected by the dreaded disease. Four others, including a 64-year-old man are from Garoora, Gund Dacchan and Peth-

koot villages. All of them

Coronavirus have contracted infection from previous Covid-19 patients, reports said. Two other cases are from Shangus Nowgam area of the Anantnag and include 60-year-old and

35-year-old daughter-in-law. The last case is from Beerwah Budgam, a 55-year-old man who is the uncle of a policeman who tested positive for the pathogen earlier this week. >> PAGE 02

**Ensure Analysis Of** 

**Covid-19 Patients** 

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kash-

mir administration on Saturday

asked the health department to en-

sure proper analysis of patients who

have tested positive for coronavirus.

Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole, today

directed Chief Medical Officers to

ensure proper analysis of every

Injured In Mob Attack

BANDIPORA: A team of Rapid Re-

sponse Force (medical staff) was

attacked by a huge mob on Satur-

day late evening when they went

to take away some suspected cases

of the novel coronavirus in Gund-

Dechina village of north Kashmir's

Bandipora district, an area worst-

affected by the deadly virus.

A huge mob pelted ● P-02

positive Covid-19 • P-02

**Health Worker** 

The Divisional Commissioner,

**CMOs Told To** 

#### Mushtaq Chaya, Family **Put Under Ouarantine SRINAGAR:** A day after he was

booked for violating lockdown norms, Kashmir's business tycoon and prominent hotelier Mushtaq Chaya and his family on Saturday were placed under home quarantine by the officials here.

A Medical team was • P-02

#### 17 Lockdown Violators Held In City: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested 17 people from city for violating prohibitory orders imposed by the administration to contain spread of coronavirus pandemic.

All the 17 were arrested ● P-02 .......

#### NC Demands STF To Reach Out To Stranded J&K Residents

JAMMU: The National Conference on Saturday appealed to the administration to evolve a mechanism by forming a special task force • P-02 .....

#### 3 Jammu BJP Leaders **Booked For Violation**

**JAMMU-** Three BJP leaders including Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Deputy Mayor Purnima Sharma and a former MLA were booked on Saturday for allegedly violating ● P-02



**SRINAGAR: Three CRPF troop-** Sopore for treatment. **ers were killed and two others** However, the doctors declared suffered injuries on Saturday in two of the troopers dead on arriva surprise militant attack in So- al. Another succumbed to injuries

pore town of Baramulla district. Unknown militants opened indiscriminate fire upon a joint patrolling team of CRPF and police near a crossing in Noorbagh area of the Sopore town around 5:25 this evening, police sources said.

Five troopers, including an officer were injured in the militant ambush that caught the patrolling party off guard, they said. All the injured security men were re-

moved to the sub-district hospital

before the doctors could operate

him, sources said The slain security men have been identified as Head Constables Chander B Bakhre and Rajeev Sharma and Constable Parmar Satpal of CRPF 179 Batallion.

Two other injured troopers identified as Head Constable Biswajeet Ghosh and Constable Javid Ahmad were later airlifted to army's 92 Base hospital in Srinagar. Director General → PAGE 02

#### **OWEVER, THE DOCTORS DECLARED** two of the troopers dead on arrival. Another succumbed to injuries before the doctors could operate him, sources said

#### Soldier Slips To Death In Uri

**SRINAGAR:** An army man died on Saturday after slipping from a mountain the border town of Uri in Baramulla district, reports said.

The soldier slipped near a forward post in Lachipora area of Boniyar in Uri amid inclement weather, • P-02

#### India, Pak Troops Trade Fire In Poonch

JAMMU: India and Pakistan troops Saturday exchanged heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistani troops shelled forward posts and villages along the LoC in Poonch, a defence spokesperson • P-02

## **Parents of Iran Evacuated Students Detained At City Centre**



Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Police on Saturday took several parents into 'preventive custody' in Srinagar after they tried

army installation turned quarantine centre since a month.

"We are extremely worried for the wellbeing of our kids who have been kept far away from their to start journey towards Rajasthan homes unnecessarily. They are surwhere their kids have been stuck in viving in scorching heat >> PAGE 02

## No Decision On Starting Domestic, Int'l Flights Yet: Govt **Press Trust Of India**

**NEW DELHI:** Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday said airlines are advised to open bookings only after the government takes a decision on starting domestic and international commercial passenger flight services.

"The Ministry of Civil Aviation clarifies that so far no decision has been taken to open domestic or international operations," he wrote on Twitter.

"Airlines are advised to open in this regard has been taken by the government," Puri added.



Earlier in the day, Air India said it lockdown imposed in the country has opened bookings on select dolect international flights from June 1.

in view of the coronavirus outbreak mestic flights from May 4 and on se- was from March 25 to April 14. The second phase started on April 15 and A few days ago, IndiGo had anwill end on May 3. All domestic and their bookings only after a decision nounced that it would start flight international commercial passenger operations in a phased manner flight operations have been suspendfrom May 4. The first phase of the ed during the lockdown period.

## Fake Application Form: Police Seeks Google Help To Identify Miscreants

**Observer Monitoring Desk** 

SRINAGAR: A fake online application form seeking personal details from stranded Kashmiris has prompted the cyber wing of Jammu and Kashmir police to file a criminal case and seek help from Google India to identify the miscreants.

The fake application form went viral after purportedly put up online by a government representative, reports said. The form sought personal details of all the people stranded in various parts of the country. Sensing mischief, the in-

that the form had not been uploaded by the government.

"An FIR in this fake online application form was registered yesterday and we have approached Google India to find out the details of those behind such a mischief which has added to the worries and concerns of the public which is already battling the pandemic", wire agency IANS quoted

a senior police officer as saying Superintendent of police (SP) cyber crime, T-shirt Ashraf has said the matter was serious since the Google forms which is an online service available for research and formation department issued a educational purposes has been mishandout in its twitter handle saying used for circulating a fake **>> PAGE 02** 





# 26 Navy Personnel In Western Naval Command Test Positive For Coronavirus

bells for the military, 26 Indian Navy," the Indian Navy said in a to containing the spread of the ing optimally. The Navy remains continues to be carried out to Navy personnel have tested statement. positive for coronavirus at the in the first case of a major outthe armed forces.

staying at a bachelors' residential block at the INS Angre, a shorebased logistics and support establishment, just few hundred metres away from the main Naval dockyard housing a range of frontline warships and submarines of the force.

positive for COVID-19 at Mumbai, belong to INS Angre, a shore establishment. There has so far not been a single case of COV-ID-19 onboard any ship, subma- Mumbai.

As the outbreak triggered seristrategically-located Western ous concerns, the Navy launched Naval Command in Mumbai, a large-scale contact tracing operation to track people who may break of the deadly infection in have come in touch with the sailors. Coronavirus tests were con-All the infected sailors were ducted on all the people of the residential building inside INS Angre, the sources said.

Swab samples of 130 people living in the residential block were sent for testing out of which results of only 60 have come. The positive cases were out of the 60 samples, the sources said adding "The 26 sailors who were the number of positive cases may placed in isolation after testing go up once results of remaining

> The infected sailors are cur- of the Indian Ocean. rently undergoing treatment at

infection to the maximum extent possible and remains operationally prepared as always, to meet any challenges in the maritime domain," the Navy said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and top military brass were briefed about the outbreak and they are keeping a close eye on the situation, the sources said, adding a review is being carried out on ways to insulate the 15 lakh-strong armed forces from the infection.

The Western Naval Command is considered a strategic establishment as it takes care of In- under the care of the best medidia's maritime interests in the cal professionals. Since the sailor the Arabian Sea as well as parts

INHS Ashwini, a naval hospital in be mission-deployed in three dimensions, with all the net- buffer areas have been desig-

combat-ready, mission-capable and is in full readiness to partake in the national mission to fight the pandemic as well as to provide support to our friendly neighbours in the Indian Ocean Region," the Navy said.

It said the detection of coronavirus cases was result of its "meticulous" contact tracing and "aggressive" screening as well as testing of people after one sailor tested positive on April 7.

"All these sailors continue to remain asymptomatic and are being monitored at INHS Asvini, was tested positive for COVID-19, the entire premises of the unit "Our naval assets continue to have been sealed off," it said.

It said containment zones and

contain spread by breaking the chain of transmission.

"All other areas within naval premises have been under strict lockdown and stringent quarantine and safety protocols have been enforced for personnel and their families, with door to door screening being undertaken for identification of cases, if any," it

The outbreak of the infection comes at a time when a number of navies globally are grappling with the pandemic.

Over 660 sailors onboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt, an aircraft carrier of the US Navy, reported coronavirus infection. A third of the nearly 2,000 sailors onboard French Navy's aircraft carrier Charles-de-Gaulle and its support ships also infected the virus.

## **COVID-19: ICMR launches** study on side effects of hydroxychloroquine

**NEW DELHI:** Some health care workers in India who themselves self-medicated with anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroquine have shown has revealed that 22 per cent side effects like abdominal of these health care workpain, nausea and hypoglyce- ers who consumed HCQ had mia among others, the Indian existing co-morbidities like Council of Medical Research diabetes or blood pressure (ICMR) said on Saturday.

Head of Epidemiology and Communicable diseases at ICMR Raman R Gangakhedkar said the ICMR has launched a study on side effects of HCQ using data of some health care workers who had started taking it.

The average age of such health workers...is 35 years. The most visible side effect which was reported in ten per cent of all those who connausea-like symptoms were the drug for both prevention reported in 6 per cent.

"A fewer proportion -- around 1.3 per cent -- had hypoglycae-mia," Gangakhedkar said.

He said that the study so far problems or vascular-related ailments or respiratory illnesses and they started taking the drug out of fear of contracting the disease. "What has come to fore is that despite they being health care workers, 14 per cent of them did not even got their ECG checked before having it," Gangakhedkar said. He further informed that was that of abdominal pain AIIMS is conducting studies on assessing both prophylactic and therapeutic impact of HCQ sumed the medication while on COVID-19, i.e. the ability of

#### Covid Hike and A... - "particularly at this point of time when there is

The campaign has also recreated the demand

for the hospital, which remains elusive till date. Notably, the construction of new district hospital at Nusoo area of Bandipora is going on from last 14 years. The authorities have missed over a dozen deadlines to complete the project. The district has two health blocks - one

at Hajin and another at main Bandipora headquarter.

More than 50 positive cases for Covid-19 have been reported from Hajin block alone.

The first case in the district was detected on March 24 when a 22-year-old local returned from Andra Pradesh. He developed Covid-19 symptoms and was admitted in GMC Baramulla.

Around 12 villages have already been declared as Red Zones in district Bandipora, including Parrey Mohalla, Gund Jehageer, Naidkhai, Chandergair, SK Bala, Batagund, Madwan and Hakbara in Hajin Tehsil, and Gund-Dachina, Gundqaiser, Kunan and Pethkoot in Bandipora

The authorities have so far failed to trace out how did the virus spread in the Hajin- the worst hit belt in Bandipora.

"We're currently focusing on 3 things: Tracing, Isolating and Treating," said Dr Nabeel, nodal health officer in Hajin. "How did it spread will be investigated later.'

A total 778 samples have been collected for Covid-19 testing in the district so far.

Of which 80 have tested positive, 650 negative and results of remaining 48 are still awaited, while 11 patients have recovered, official figures

people have been put under administrative quarantine, while 3272 persons are under home quarantine.

Some 21 locals linked to "Delhi Hotspot" were tracked by the surveillance team, the officials said. "Three of them came positive."

However, amid the ongoing online campaign, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, told Kashmir Observer that the administration has sent the requisition for five ventilators.

However, an official from the health department told Kashmir Observer that they don't have space for ventilators as the new hospital is still under construction.

In response to a tweet regarding the start of new district hospital, the magistrate said, "The hospital building would've been ready by now, had it not been for present pandemic.

The officials further said the district doesn't have a single isolation centre for Covid-19 patients. They are presently being shifted to either Baramulla or Srinagar for isolation.

However, the district-level Covid-19 management mess doesn't end there. Earlier, Kashmir Observer on March 25

reported how the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Bandipora ordered his deputy to ferry a Covid-19 patient from GMC Baramulla to Dak bungalow

Complying with the orders, Block Medical Officer (BMO), Dr Asif went to the hospital and transported the patient in his official vehicle, in violation of Standard Operating Procedure.

"I was returning from home when the CMO asked me to pick up a patient from Baramulla hospital," Dr Asif told Kashmir Observer. "I followed the orders of my senior."

The BMO had to put himself along with over dozen of health employee in self-isolation for over 10 days.

On April 7, the BMO during a routine checkup in a local quarantine centre had to face angry attendants, who alleged that their patients are not getting good medical care.

The people under administrative quarantine complain of poor medial facilities.

"We are 5 persons in room, with one washroom," said a 25-year old youth, who is currently under quarantine in Chaternar centre. "We've been put here with no proper medical facilities."

While accepting lapses in handling the viral situation, Dr Tajamul Husain, Chief Medical officer Bandipora, said that his team is trying its best "to break the chain".

After nine more persons were tested positive for Covid-19 in the district. Dr Taiamul said. rigorous contact tracing is going on in the areas from where these new cases have been reported.

He said that rapid response teams were on job from last three days after new cases were reported and all the preventive measures were being taken to further prevent spread of the

"We have started sample collection in Red and Buffer zones rigorously," Dr. -Tajamul said. "Also, the administration is going to start a low-risk isolation centre with 60 beds in the district. Once it will be functional, only those patients will be shifted to Srinagar or Baramulla

who need the ventilator support.' Clearly, this official acceptance has vindicated the online campaign for ventilators in Bandipora

# Cleric, 7 Others... From the time the first COVID-19 case was an-

nounced 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-mark.

Till date, the officially confirmed tally stands at 341-54 in Jammu and 287 in Kashmir. Five people have died due to the deadly infection in the J&K while 51-13 in Jammu and 38 in Kashmir divisions have recovered and discharged, leaving the active cases in Kashmir to 245 and 40 in Jammu.

Meanwhile, the media bulletin released by the J&K government said that 60419 travellers and persons in contact with suspected cases have been put under surveillance, including 6071 persons in home quarantine, 285 in hospital isolation, 252 in hospital quarantine and 25692 under home surveillance.

Besides, 28114 persons have completed their surveillance period. Moreover, 09 more Covid-19 patients have recovered and were discharged today from Chest Disease and SKIMS

Soura here," the bulletin said. It said that out of 6937 test results available, 6596 samples have tested as negative till April 18, 2020.

In the advisory issued today, the government asked people to maintain a distance of 2 metre from others when going out for essential grocery

"If possible, sanitise the handles of shopping trolleys or baskets before shopping. Once home, wash your hands thoroughly and also after handling and storing your purchased products"

Stressing on the need to avoid selfmedication, the advisory urged people not to consume Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) medicine without medical advice as it may have adverse effects on health. HCQ is a prescription medicine and its sale is totally prohibited without a valid prescription by a doctor.

# HC Directs J&K,... with regard to the steps taken regarding domes-

tic or any other kind of violence being faced by women on account of the implementation of the COVID-19 lockdown.

The Court directed concerned officials to examine several remedial measures taken by various countries in this regard and a view be taken with regard to the requirements and steps to be taken to mitigate the sufferings of the victims of domestic violence in the twin Union Territories.

The Court directed that a report of the measures in place, steps underway and those contemplated be placed before it before the next

Furthermore, Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority have been directed to call for list of all cases involving cases of domestic violence which are pending as complaints with the police stations in the Union Territories or in the courts and ascertain the safety and wellbeing of the complainants. The Secretaries of the Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authorities may seek the assistance of police and para legal volunteers in this regard, the court observed.

## CMOs Told To ...

patient and trace everything about such patient while contact tracing, an official spokesperson

Pole said that analysis should include details about patients' family, neighbors, relatives, daily routine, if having co-morbidity like diabetes, cardiac condition or is on dialysis or has any other health condition and other related information.

The Divisional Commissioner was supervising the online contact tracing, sampling and other guidelines for Covid-19 patients.

As per official spokesperson, Pole also directed concerned to wear protective gears while performing their duty in red zone areas and segregate high risk and low risk contacts.

"He also directed the concerned to record all information of positive as well as suspected cases accurately, in a prescribed format and submit it to the district level control rooms for further action," the official spokesperson said. "The Divisional Commissioner stressed medical officials to maintain inter departmental coordination while performing duties on ground

during the current pandemic," he added. Officer on Special Duty (OSD), Owais Ahmad, CMO Srinagar, officers from Health & Medical Education and other concerned official were present in the meeting, while CMOs of other districts of the valley, along -with their teams participated in the meeting via video

## Health Worker...

stones on medical team and police which had gone to take along some persons possibly infected with COVID with them, news agency KNO

"When the team boarded ambulance with patients, suddenly crowd emerged and started pelting stones leaving one health worker injured identified as Mohammad Saifudin Dar, a member of Rapid response forces," officials said.

team brought at least 13 people from village with tem who were late put under quarantine. Station house officer (SHO) Aragam, Javid Ahamad said that they rescued the medical

However, despite the heavy stone pelting, the

team from the area and the security in the area has been tightened after the attack. He further said that a case FIR no. 16 under section 353, 307, 148, 188, 269 IPC has been also registered against the suspected persons and

further investigation initiated Pertinently authorities has already declared the entire village red zone following the detection of Covid-19 cases. According to officials as many as all families have been placed under home quarantine in the village.

This is not the first incident where in health workers have been targeted. Earlier last week, a health team had a heated argument with locals followed by stone pelting in Guroora village of the district during the screening of people

## Mushtaq Chaya...

deputed to Chava's house in Zakura Tocality of Srinagar and after check-up, he and his eleven family members were asked to stay under home quarantine, news agency KNT reported. Besides, the medical team also asked Chaya's 3 drivers to go for home quarantine.

On Friday, J&K Police filed an FIR against the noted Kashmiri businessman for "escaping" a Red Zone in Jammu and undertaking a travel towards Srinagar.

Police had said Chaya left for Srinagar along with few others and has reached his Zakoora home in Srinagar despite lockdown.

"As intimated by SHO PS Trikuta 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 DC Srinagar on Friday reads.

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

Police had also filed a case against the businessman under FIR No 109/20 U/S 188 IPC in Police Station Trikuta Nagar.

#### 17 Lockdown ...

in the areas falling under the jurisdiction of Police Station Sadder for defying the government restriction orders over Covid-19, a police spokesperson said.

He said that cases under relevant sections of law have been registered and further investigations have been taken up.

#### NC Demands STF.. to reach out to the people from Jammu and

Kashmir who are stranded in various parts of the country due to the lockdown. The National Panthers Party and CPI(M) also

raised the issue of the stranded people and sought their immediate return to their homes. "Even as the lockdown has become the only viable option to fight the pandemic, its fallout on different segments of the society is also required

NC Provincial President Devender Singh Rana said in a statement here. He referred to the pitiable condition of Jammu and Kashmir residents, especially students, patients and their attendants, professionals and

to be taken into account for earnest redressal,"

labourers who have got stuck up in various parts of the country due to abrupt announcement of the lockdown and called for their evacuation on a war-footing

"A Special Task Force should be created to reach out to the stranded people of Jammu and Kashmir," the NC leader said. He also expressed hope that a strategy will

be adopted for safe passage of over 1,500 local residents stranded in Pathankot to Jammu and Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party

(JKNPP) chairman and former minister Harsh Dev Singh also called for an exit plan for safe evacuation of the local residents stranded outside the Union Territory.

"The Centre as well as state governments needed to appreciate their peculiar concerns and devise a suitable strategy for their safe return. It was an undisputed fact that not all stranded labourers were getting enough food, medicine and other essential items of daily use with a vast majority having become cash starved and even shelter less," he said.

With patience of such stranded labourers and work force fast running out, the situation could take an ugly turn if not handled appropriately, the NPP leader warned.

CPI (M) leader M Y Tarigami said the decision of the Uttar Pradesh government to send 250 buses to pick up about 9,000 stranded students and drop them to their native districts from Kota in Rajasthan must be replicated by Jammu and Kashmir administration to bring back the stranded people across the country, especially

"We have been demanding the evacuation of stranded I&K students, labourers, traders, patients and others on similar patterns for the last two weeks. What stops the J & K administration to follow the same pattern to bring back its stranded people?" he asked.

He said it is "unfortunate" that even Kashmiris stranded in Jammu are not being brought back by the administration.

"Special transport arrangements must be made for them and after their return, due COVID-19 protocols must be followed," he said.

Jammu BJP...
prohibitory orders issued as part of the lockdown enforcement in view of the coronavirus pandemic, officials said.

The FIR was registered against Sharma, former MLA Rajesh Gupta and JMC Corporator Sandhya Gupta under sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in the city police station, the officials said.

The action against the BJP leaders was taken after they visited Hari Theatre near Raghunath Bazar to distribute relief materials among several hundred people staying there, they said.

The officials said the leaders did not follow the guidelines on social distancing while carrying out the relief work, causing hardships to the policemen to maintain order. When contacted, the deputy mayor

expressed surprise over the registration of the First Information Report (FIR) and said she was outside the venue and had no idea what

#### 3CRPF Personnel.. of Police (DGP) J&K, Dilbagh Singh has con-

firmed the fatalities.

The DGP said that militants attacked a CRPF vehicle in Sopore town.

There has been an upsurge in militancy after August 5 when BJP ruled New Delhi split Kashmir into two parts and downgraded state

into a union territory. Sopore militant attack is second in less than last 24 hours in the valley. On Friday militants attacked a CRPF and Police Joint camp in Newa area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district. One

CRPF constable was injured. On April 5, five army soldiers were killed while fighting militants in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. Five militants were also killed in the operations lasting two days.

# Soldier Slips To... news agency GNS said quoting sources.

After strenuous searches, the body of 35-yearold soldier-NK Uttam Singh of army's 11 MAHAR was recovered, the report adds.

SSP Baramulla Abdul Qayoom said that the accident took place around 3:30 hours leaving a

## India, Pak Troops..

any casualty in the shelling.

"At about 8.30 pm, Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and intense shelling with mortars along the LoC in Degwar sector," the spokesperson said.

and healing.

He said the Indian Army retaliated befittingly and the cross-border shelling between the two sides was going on when last reports were

## Fake Application... information that affects scores of families whose members are in different parts of the country.

The report quoted officials as saying that Google India executives have sought some time to respond to the queries sought by the J&K police saying that its staff is presently working

from home and not attending their offices. Officials also argue that since personal details of each such individual, who is outside the J&K, were sought through circulation of the application form on a widely trusted service like the Google forms, the matter cannot be dismissed as a prank of any ordinary rumour

Meanwhile, officials here said the government is in touch through its nodal offices and other representatives with locals outside J&K and also advised such people and their families to contact the designated offices in case of any emergency.

### Parents of Iran ...

with 44 degree day temperature and having no facilities like pure water, electricity, food etc", news agency KNS quoted a parent as saying.

He expressed anguish over the apathetic behaviour of Central and State Governments and said our kids were dragged unnecessarily to Rajasthan for quarantine purpose who have completed one month there.

He said parents are extremely concerned for the wellbeing of their kids who after reaching from Iran to New Delhi, were bundled to army installation turned quarantine centre in border

He also said that World Health Organization (WHO) had already issued guidelines that those evacuated from Iran and other parts of the world should be quarantined simultaneously for a limited period but our kids are there from last one month. We don't know why government is playing dilly dallying tactics in their evacuation and what purpose it will serve for Central and

State Governments. He added parents approached Union Foreign Ministry, Lieutenant Governor GC Murmu, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Dr Shahid Iqbal Chowdhary, JKAP President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, MP Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi in this regard but our exercises proved futile and we couldn't fetch justice from there.

He said due to indifferent attitude of authorities, parents had decided to start a journey voluntarily towards Rajasthan to see the miserable condition of their wards as they have started hunger strike as a mark of protest against uncaring attitude of authorities who are still unmoved.

"Over 100 parents had decided to start journey to Rajasthan voluntarily from Press Enclave Srinagar but as handful of parents reached here, police intervened and detained 5 parents and lodged them in Kothibagh police station", he

Parents said the role of J&K Government is highly regrettable as they failed to evacuate our wards from outside parts. "If UP Government can manage 150 special busses for its 750 students and evacuated them from several parts of country, why J&K Government is shying away

from their responsibilities?, they questioned. Meanwhile parents were later driven to Div Com office where they met Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Pandurang Pole and discussed the evacuation of students in wake of lockdown situation.

"Div Com told us to wait and watch but we put our genuine demand that our wards should be here by April 20", one of the parents told the

news agency. It is pertinent to mention that after Covid-19 outbreak across the world, thousands of students, traders, laborers, patients and their attendants got stuck in several parts of country in wake of lockdown restrictions. However, despite their repeated pleas of evacuation, no progress is seen visible in this regard.

# Nursing Home... Police Station Handwara and investigation has

been initiated, the spokesman added.

# 9 Covid-19 Patients Recovered, Discharged From Srinagar Hospitals

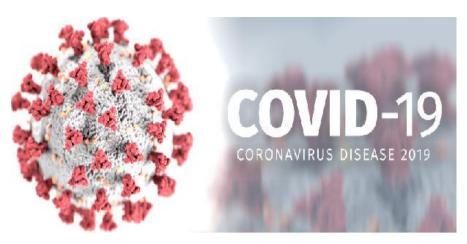
**SRINAGAR:** Nine persons, who were hospitalized, after test- ease Hospital Srinagar, Dr Naving positive for Coronavirus last eed Nazir said that five patients month, were discharged from the 2 Srinagar hospitals today, hospital. "Five more patients reafter repeatedly testing negative covered from Covid-19 and were for the infection, they had con-

at SKIMS Soura, Dr Ghulam Hasan charged from the hospital, 3 are Itoo told KNT that 4 patients were from Budgam and 2 are from Sridischarged fro m the hospital after their recovery from lethal Covid-19 infection. He added that three patients hail from Srinagar while one is residing in Central Kashmir's Budgam district.

Head of Department Chest Diswere also discharged from the discharged," he said.

Dr Naveed added that among Nodal Officer for Coronavirus the five patients who were disnagar.

The total number of positive Covid-19 cases in Jammu and Kashmir stand at 324, with 54 reported from the Jammu region while 282 are from Kashmir.



#### **CROSS BORDER SHELLING:**

## **Army Chief provides** Rs 1 lakh each to three **Kupwara victim families**

**KUPWARA:** Army provided monetary help to those families who lost their members in recent cross border shelling at Tamuna area of North Kashmir's Kupwara district.

Defence sources said that Indian Army Chief General MM Naravane who visited Kupwara yesterday distributed cash among the families of

Three civilians including a child and woman were killed while residential houses were damaged in massive cross border shelling in Kupwara area along Line of Control.

Sources added that at Zangli Army Campl, Chief Of Army Staff General M M Naravane and General Officer Commanding 28 MountainDivision Major General ADS Aujala provided financial assistance of Rs one lakh each to families of those who lost their lives at Tumina andReddi Chowkibal during cross border shelling on April

The families received cash through Commanding Officer 14 Sikhli Regiment.

works at Rainawari

SRINAGAR:

Mayor, Parvaiz Ahmad

Rainawari and its ad-

jacent area to monitor

the sanitization works

carried by Srinagar

Municipal Corporation

(SMC) to contain the

transmission of Coro-

He was accompa-

nied by Health Officer,

mad Hussaini and oth-

field functionaries of

Srinagar Municipal

Qadri, today visited

Dy Mayor monitors sanitization

SMC, Dr Qazi Javaid, ized machines sani- hib, Mum Khan, Buru-

waza, Syed Moham- in Rainawari including other adjacent areas.

Psychiatric hospital,

Corporation (SMC) in lanes and by lanes to break the chain of

equipped with protec- of Hassanabad, Saida transmission of CO-

Corporator, Kathi Dar- tized various institutes ni KathiDarwaza

er officers of SMC.On Central Jail, Police Sta-

the occasion, a team of tion, Banks and ATMs.

tive gear and special- Kadal, Makhdoom Sa-

### **HCOVID-19 PANDEMIC**

# JKCDA handover sanitizers, masks to Div Com for quarantine patients

**SRINAGAR:** A delegation of Jammu & Kashmir Chemists & Druggists Association and FMCG & Cellular Association handover 15 cases of 500ml high concentration sanitizer, one thousand 3 layer face masks, set-top sanitizer 960 units and set-top hand wash 10 cases to the Divisional Commissioner, Pandurang K Kashmir among needy quarantine tion. patients.

serious efforts of Divi- Divisional Commissioner.



Pole for free distribution istration in current situable looked into and re- Handicrafts Protection Fo-

The delegation apprised Delegation appreciated the certain issues to the

solved soon.

Representatives Jammu Kashmir Chemists Traders Association, Abrar & Druggists Association, Ahmad Khan, Co-Convener sional Commissioner for The Divisional Commis- FMCG & Cellular Associa- Jammu Kashmir Economic tackling the Corona vi- sioner Kashmir assured tion, All traders & Transrus across the valley and the representatives of the porters loint Coordina- Rehabilitation pledged their full support delegation that their griev- tion Committee (ATTJCC), Kashmir were present on to the Divisional Admin- ances and demandsnwill Genuine Kashmir Cottage the occasion.

rum (related to Pashmina & Handicrafts), Batamaloo Confederation (J&K), and Alliance

## **Doctor accuses Nursing Home** owner of 'fraud'

HANDWARA: Police registered a formal case after a doctor in North Kashmir's Handwara town filed a police complaint against the owner of a Nursing Home for allegedly using his name them on my behalf and thus money from the naïve pa- KNT. tients while he was outside

prescribing medicines to the culprit.



and prescriptions to mint was befooling them," he told claim and I won't spare peo-

the owner of the Nursing he said. Dr Shafqat said that Dr Shafqat was doing Home befooled people and he lodged a complaint at Poprivate practice at a Nurs- minted money from them. lice Station Handwara but so ing Home in Handwara till "When I came to know for no FIR has been lodged 2018 and after that he left about this shoddy practice, against the accused. for Mumbai. "The patients I returned to Valley and inwho don't know me used to teracted with those patients Handwara said that an FIR come in the Nursing Home who have been looted by the vide number 124/2020 unand ironically the owner Nursing Home owner," he of the Nursing Home was said adding that strict action been registered against the masquerading as Dr Shafqat, needs to be taken against accused after the doctor

"I have proof to prove my ple who play with the lives He said all these months of people for sake of money,'

> When contacted, der section 420, 468 have filed a complaint.

#### PIL in High Court about lack of facilities in Kupwara to fight COVID-19

**Agencies** 

HANDWARA: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has sought status report from the government of Jammu and Kashmir after a PIL was filed about the lack of facilities including non-availibilty of life saving drugs, ventilators and other facilities in Kupwara district to fight Covid-19 pandemic.

Division Bench of High Court comprising of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Rajnesh Oswal, while hearing an intervention application regarding COVID-19 control measures in district Kupwara sought status report from the government.

# Director Animal Husbandry launchs Tele-medicine facilities for livestock

Besides, mixture of being carried in Srichemicals was sprayed nagar with an aim

tal, today launched the Tele-mediamong all agricultural sectors. cine facilities for livestock farmers COVID-19 pandemic.

bandry Department, Purnima Mit- is the single largest contributor the ongoing pandemic. She urged

Deputy Mayor in-

formed that extensive

sanitization drive is

and animal owners of the valley farming is the industry that so that animal health and produc- works 24 hours a day and 365 tivity doesn't suffer as a result of days a year and hence it becomes VID-19 from livestock has been lockdown and social distancing imperative that in these extra-reported from any place in the measures in place because of the ordinary times of public-health world. & economic exigency our precious Speaking on the occasion, she livestock wealth is preserved and conducting sale and marketing of reiterated that while agriculture is cared for. She expressed confithe backbone of the rural economy dence that livestock sector would ry their operation while following of J&K, livestock sector contributes emerge more strongly as and- social distancing norms.

the people to continue consump-She said that the livestock tion of highly nutritive livestock products and assured that no incidence of transmission of CO-

> She also implored upon people livestock goods to ensure they car-

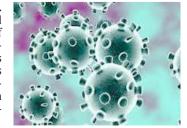
#### COVID-19

## Multi-pronged strategy to Contain COVID-19 in Kupwara People across District hail efforts of Administration

**KUPWARA:** District Administra- measures and social distancing. tion, Kupwara headed by Deputy The awareness was generated Commissioner, Anshul Garg, has through different mediums of adopted multi-pronged strategy communication including anto contain spread of COVID-19 in nouncement on loud speakers the district. The lockdown which in rural as well as urban areas was imposed on March 22, 2020, of the district by concerned deis strictly being implemented partments in coordination with across the district and till date InformationDepartment, Kup-85 FIRs have been lodged against wara. those who violated prohibitory

Besides, various shops were for violating the prohibitory orders. The people wer e made

On the other hand, District Administration made all possible efforts to facilitate the peoalso sealed in different areas, ple in general and the needy in particular.



ceries, LPG and medicines have been completed in the district, till date.

As many as 1571 migrant PDS Ration has been distrib- labourers from other states aware about theadvisories is- uted in advance to all house- stranded in the district are being affair and is being sued by Government from time holds for April and May. Besides, facilitated at 31 locations with to time regarding precautionary 90,000 home deliveries of gro- dry ration and other essential

commodities through the des- inhabitants in these red zones. ignated Nodal Officer. Besides, 75000 reusable cotton masks have been produced locally

through Self Help Groups and Skill Development Centres and distributed among the people.

The population of 38870 souls, living in 7 Red Zones of the district are being provided ration and groceries, twice a week, on

Sunday while LPG on every Wednesday and Mobile ATM facility every day. The fumigation and sanitization is a continuous

carries on daily basis while masks have been provided to all

To facilitate the frontline warriors including doctors and nurses, District Administration has provided proper accommodation to medical staff for which 7 Guest Houses and 2 Hotels have been put at the disposal of Chief Medical Officer.

Social activist and Sarpanch. Haril Langate, Rayees Ahmad Mir, has appreciated the Deputy Commissioner for his gesture toward the frontline warriors and the residents of Mawer Block have also laudedthe District Administration for ensuring essential supplies in the area, during

#### **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** 



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)

# 1441

**PRAYERS** 

**FAJR** 

4: 27

**ZUHR** 

12: 32

**ASR** 

5:12

**MAGRIB** 

7:08

**ISHA** 

8:34

## This Day in History

- 607 Comet 1P/607 H1 (Halley) approaches within 0.0898
- 1012 Martyrdom of Alphege in Greenwich, London. 1451 - Alam Shah of Delhi resigns throne
- 1524 Pope Clemens VII fires Neth inquisitor-general French Van de Holly
- 1539 Charles, protestant German monarch, signs Treaty of
- 1529 2nd Parliament of Spiers bans Lutheranism
- 1591 Chartres surrenders to king Henry IV in France 1713 - Emperor Karel VI ends Pragmatic Sanctions
- 1770 Amsterdam buys Van Aerssens family 1/3 part of 1770 - British explorer Captain James Cook first sights
- 1775 Minutemen Capt John Parker orders not to fire unless
- 1775 American Revolution begins Lexington Common, shot "heard round the world"
- 1775 New England militiamen begin the siege of Boston hemming in the British army garrison 1775 - Paul Revere, William Dawes and Samuel Prescott are
- captured by British troops riding from Lexington to Concord Prescott escapes to warn Concord
- 1782 John Adams secures Dutch Republic's recognition of the United States as an independent government and house he purchased in The Hague, Netherlands became first
- 1810 Venezuela achieves home rule: Vicente Emparan, Governor of the Captaincy General is removed by the people of Caracas and a Junta is installed.
- 1836 Nikolai Gogol's "Revisor" premieres in St Petersburg 1837 Cheyney University forms as the Institute for Colored
- 1839 Treaty of London constitutes Belgium an independent kingdom & Luxembourg a Grand Duchy
- 1861 Lincoln orders blockade of Confederate ports (Civil
- 1863 Union troops/fleet occupy For Huger, Virginia
- 1901 In the Philippines, recently captured insurgent leader Emilio Aguinaldo issues a proclamation advising his countrymen to end their rebellion and use of peaceful means to work with the US toward independence
- 1909 A convention with Turkey recognizes Bulgarian
- 1910 Halley's comet seen by naked eye 1st time this trip (Curacao) 1911 - George Bernard Shaw's "Fanny's First Play" premieres
- 1916 Italians troops conquer Col di Lana at Merano 1923 - New Egyptian law allows suffrage for men, except
- 1936 First day of the Great Uprising in Palestine.
- 1941 Bulgarian troops invade Macedonia 1944 - Allied fleet attack Sabang Sumatra
- 1945 The diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union
- and Guatemala are established. 1947 - French ship explodes in Texas City harbor, kills about
- 1948 Chiang Kai-shek elected President of Nationalist China 1962 - NASA civilian pilot Joseph A Walker takes X-15 to
- 1971 Sierra Leone becomes a republic (National Day)
- 1971 USSR Salyut 1 launched; 1st manned lab in orbit

## From KO Archives

#### 3 LeT men Among 7 Killed In JK

**Observer News Service** 

**SRINAGAR:** Seven persons, including six militants – three of them from the Lashkar-e-Taiiba -were killed in separate incidents of violence in Jammu and Kashmir since Monday

Unidentified gunmen sprayed bullets on a released militant of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Abdul Ahad Chak at Tangmarg Bazar. 45 kms from here in Baramulla district today. Chak, a resident of Qazpora and now working as a contractor, was shifted to hospital where he was declared dead. Three militants of the LeT outfit identified as. Abu Abdullah Umar alias Delta-2, Abu Katlal alias Ronico-2 and Abu Jabran alias Juliet-1 were killed in an encounter with security forces and police at Naliyan-Shiudhara top in Poonch sector last evening. Three AK rifles, 9 magazines. 78 rounds. 3 hand grenades, a wireless set, a recovered from the slain militants. .

Another militant, yet to be identified, was shot dead by security forces in a gunfight at Hari Wala in Gool area of Duahmpur, reports said.

Two Hizb-ul-Mujahideen militants identified as Waqqas Ahmad of Pakistan and Javaid Ahmad Peer of Kandi area of Kupwara were killed in a gunbattle with security forces at village Dardpora Khas in Kupwara distric.

A defence spokesman said that Javaid Ahmad Peer was a divisional commander of the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen and was long wanted by the security forces.

Militants fired on a patrol part} of security forces at Preng-Ganderbal. 27 kms from here in Srinagar last night. The security forces returned fire but no loss of life was reported.

(Kashmir Observer, 19 April, 2005)

# OBSERVER.

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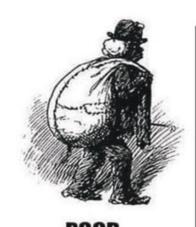
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Email editorial: editor@kashmirobserver.net

#### NO HOLDS BARRED





We know at the back of our minds that there is a solution for us. All we have to do is empty our bookshelves in one shot, donate everything to a nearby library — and then draw on it when we feel we must go over The Collected Works of Somerset Maugham or Oscar Wilde or Jane Austen at sometime in the future.

# Why continued detention shores up Mehbooba's political standing relative to Abdullahs

Riyaz Wani

**But as of now,** it is unclear if the Centre will at all release Mehbooba in the near future. More so, when she remains committed to take on New Delhi on Article 370, as the tweets of her daughter imply. So far, the leaders who have been released are understood to have signed a bond of silence with the government. Though no one has officially confirmed the existence of such a bond. the behaviour of the freed leaders has lent credence to such reports.

n April 4, J&K administration shifted the detained former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti to her official residence on Gupkar road, Srinagar's VVIP enclave. However, unlike Abdullahs, the administration stayed short of releasing her, converting instead her residence into a subsidiary jail.. And the apparent reason for it, according the daughter Iltija Mufti was the Centre's fear that "she'll articulate her views on illegal abrogation of Article 370".

But Iltija made it clear that her mother would not shy away from opposing the revocation of Article 370 as and when she was freed. She also tweeted that Mehbooba after her release would "approach all stakeholders for a joint strategy to move forward".

But as of now, it is unclear if the Centre will at all release Mehbooba in the near future. More so, when she remains committed to take on New Delhi on Article 370, as the tweets of her daughter imply. So far, the leaders who have been released are understood to have signed a bond of silence with the government. Though no one has officially confirmed the existence of such a bond, the behaviour of the freed leaders has lent credence to such reports. None of them has publicly spoken against the withdrawal of J&K autonomy including even Abdullahs, who have cited continuing detention of other senior leaders as also the Covid-19 outbreak for choosing to defer airing their opinion.

But in Kashmir the rationale for Abdullahs' silence has increasingly lost its resonance. More so, after the Centre issued a new domicile law for the union territory that has virtually thrown the region open for settlement by non-Kashmiris. The reaction from Omar is seen as mild compared to the enormity of the onslaught.

It is here that people have started looking towards Mehbooba as someone who can stand up to centre. And Iltija's tweets on her behalf that reflect the resolve to confront New Delhi have raised Mehbooba's political stock, even when she continues to be under detention. And this is such a redeeming turnaround for her considering that for several years before nullification of Article 370 on August 5, she had become arguably the most hated politician in Kashmir. The reason for this is the 2016 unrest that led to killing of around 100 youth and blinding of several hundred, most of them in South Kashmir, a stronghold of Mehbooba's party, the PDP. Subsequently, her unpopular government with the BJP further eroded her support base. So much so, when the BJP withdrew its support to her government in June 2018 forcing her to resign, Kashmir was ecstatic with joy. Across the social media, Mehbooba losing power turned out to be a venting session for the accumulated mass contempt for her. Scores of memes, that started doing the rounds captured the catharsis in the Valley.



One such meme went like this: "Mehbooba detergent: pehle Istimal karein, phir vishwas naa karein (first use and then don't even trust," a variation on a famous jingle about a detergent.

This was one of the lowest points in her career. More so, when until her alliance with the BJP, Mehbooba had incarnated a leader who could command a degree of credibility hardly enjoyed by any other establishment leader in Kashmir, including Abdullahs.

Despite being the daughter of Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, a former J&K Chief Minister and India's Home Minister, Mehbooba didn't receive power on a platter. She had to work her way from the ground up. And she did this by refusing to stay at an antiseptic distance from the people, a cardinal safety principle followed by the mainstream politicians since the outbreak of separatist insurgency in 1989. She got down and dirty on the ground, leading rallies and protests. She mourned the death of militants, for which sometimes she travelled deep into the treacherous interiors to visit the families. She would lead impassioned protests against human rights abuse, deliver hysterical speeches in which she lashed out at the state and the centre for the human rights abuse in Kashmir. And then it all unravelled in 2016 unrest.

But eight months of imprisonment seem to have helped Mehbooba get back into public favour. But, as of now, public rethink about her remains incipient and tentative. It is largely driven by an imagined expectation that once freed she will not only articulate the grievances in Kashmir but also take on Centre over the August 5 decision. Reinforcing this expectation is that Mehbooba has done this in the past. In the run up to revocation of Article 370, she had often warned the Centre against the move. One of her tweets during that time went like this: "We want to tell the central government that tinkering with Article 35-A will be akin to setting a powder keg on fire. If any hand tries to touch Article 35-A, not only that hand, but that whole body will burn to ashes."

This tweet was cited as one of the grounds of Mehbooba's detention under Public Safety Act in the six page dossier prepared by Home Ministry. The PSA was slapped against her along with Omar but in latter's case, it has now been withdrawn. For now, Mehbooba's detention has shored up her political standing. But if she does make scrapping of Article 370 an issue following her release, and offers people a plan to resist it, it will once again give her a distinct edge over Abdullahs.

Doing so, however, won't be without its risks. She could end up going back to jail considering the Centre over the past eight months has shown itself averse to expression of even a peaceful democratic dissent in Kashmir. There is thus a severely restricted space for any political activity in the union territory, as Abdullahs' silence has underlined. Will Mehbooba, as and when she is released, unseal her lips? Well, the future of her politics will depend on what choice she makes.

# Do We Actually Re-Read Books?

We are still here with our overflowing bookshelves, still debating with ourselves

CHERYL RAO

ave you noticed how you find something different to think about each time you reread a book? You think that you know the plot well enough but suddenly, out of the blue, something else will strike you, depending on what is happening in your own life at the time.

Keeping this in mind, it has become a difficult task to divest our home of the books we have collected over the decades.

Now libraries, book clubs and everywhere we could go for our "reading fix" are shut to us and we are actually re-reading our books

Most of them have found their way onto our shelves from pavement sellers and friends, or friends of friends who sought to streamline their possessions while we could not resist their offers despite having read most of their books already.

#### Pass-it-on policy

We assured ourselves — and them — that we would follow a "Pass-it-on" policy to spread the joy of books once we had re-read them but we did not get down to that because fortunately for us and unfortunately for our good intentions, we are members of a well-stocked and frequently updated library from which we can bring home eight books at a time.

Our cup runs over — and so do our book cupboards — and we sigh helplessly as we push at the doors of those cupboards and fix locks to prevent the

contents from spilling out.

"Will we ever re-read these books?" we ask ourselves. "Or are we just being greedy/acquisitive/clingy?"



We know at the back of our minds that there is a solution for us. All we have to do is empty our bookshelves in one shot, donate everything to a nearby library — and then draw on it when we feel we must go over The Collected Works of Somerset Maugham or Oscar Wilde or Jane Austen at sometime in the future.

Or we could go about reducing the clutter in our

home book by book, visiting book clubs and reading centres where we can walk in with a book that has been read and enjoyed by us and walk out with a completely different book, read and enjoyed by someone else!

#### Picking and choosing books

These book exchange centres have sprung up

in various cities, including ours, and we note down numbers and addresses and timings but although we make several false starts, picking and choosing books that we don't mind not seeing or reading again, we do not take that final step and actually go to those centres to take our chances.

We make excuses to ourselves: "We would like our grandchildren to one day have the wealth of choice that we never did when we were young."

"Imagine being able to open these cupboards and help themselves — we didn't have that option when we were youngsters, did we? We had to steal into Dad's library and pilfer books and hope he didn't notice, or read them under his table or behind the curtain!"

But those grandchildren we are saving our books for are nonexistent at present, so why do we continue to guard those bookshelves in anticipation of their imagined interest?

Call it greed or avarice, call it foolishness or inertia, call it sheer selfishness and an inability to let go — and you will be right with every one of those descriptions.

Because we are still here with our overflowing bookshelves, still debating with ourselves, still reluctant to part with our books.

Then, while we delayed in the hope (or was it dread?) that someone else would heartlessly sweep everything away while we are asleep because we could not get ourselves to do it, the lockdown happened.

Now libraries, book clubs and everywhere we

could go for our "reading fix" are shut to us and we are actually re-reading our books, lingering over them, appreciating once again why we liked them in the first place, discovering new facets to delight in, enjoying them anew.

Gulf News

# NEWS

## **Coronavirus Could Erode Global Fight Against Other Diseases**

avina D'Souza hasn't been able to collect her government supplied anti-HIV medication since the abrupt lockdown of India's 1.3 billion people last month during the coronavirus outbreak.

Marooned in a small city away from her home in Mumbai, the medicine she needs to manage her disease has run out. The 43-year-old is afraid that her immune system will crash: "Any disease, the coronavirus or something else, I'll fall sick faster.

D'Souza said others also must be "suffering because of the coronavirus without getting infected by it".

As the world focuses on the coronavirus pandemic, experts fear losing ground in the long fight against other infectious diseases like AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and cholera

pleted, said Dr John Nkengasong, head of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

That is compounded in countries with already overburdened health care systems, like Sudan. Doctors at Al-Ribat National Hospital in Sudan's capital. Khartoum, shared a document detailing nationwide measures: fewer patients admitted to emergency rooms, elective surgeries indefinitely postponed, primary care eliminated for non-critical cases, and skilled doctors transferred to Covid-19 patients.

Similar scenes are unfolding worldwide. Even in countries with highly developed health care systems, such as South Korea, patients seeking treatment for diseases like TB had to be turned away, said Hojoon Sohn, of Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of



that kill millions every year. Also at risk are decades long efforts that allowed the World Health Organisation to set target dates for eradicating malaria, polio and other illnesses.

With the coronavirus overwhelming hospitals, redirecting medical staff, causing supply shortages and suspending health services, "our greatest fear" is resources for other diseases being diverted and de-

Twitter post on Friday.

than 140 deaths.

**Dubai extends 24-hour** 

DUBAI: Dubai, the United Arab Emirates' business hub,

has extended by one week a 24-hour curfew imposed as

part of a sterilisation drive to control the spread of the

new coronavirus, the government's media office said in a

March 26 for the disinfection campaign, but Dubai on April

4 expanded it within the emirate to a 24-hour lockdown for

deaths from the virus, taking its tally to 5,825 with 35 deaths. It

larger neighbour Saudi Arabia among the six Gulf Arab states,

where the total infection count has surpassed 22,000 with more

does not give a breakdown for each of the seven emirates.

The UAE has imposed a nationwide nightly curfew since

The UAE on Thursday reported 460 new cases and two more

It has the second-highest infection count after its much

curfew by one week

Public Health, who is based in South Korea.

About 30 per cent of global TB cases — out of 10 million each year — are never diagnosed, and the gaps in care are concentrated in 10 countries with the most infections, Sohn said

"These are people likely not seeking care even in normal circumstances," he said.



# **Worldwide Death Toll From Coronavirus Pandemic Rises To 154,188**

Agencies

Paris: The worldwide death toll from the novel coronavirus pandemic rose to 154,188 on Saturday, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP.

More than 2,251,690 declared cases have been registered in 193 countries and territories since the epidemic first emerged in China in December.

Of these cases, at least 497,600 are now considered recovered. The tallies, using data collected by AFP from national authorities and information from the World Health

Organisation (WHO), probably reflect only a fraction of the actual number of infections.

Many countries are testing only the most serious cases. In the United States, now

the epicentre of the pandemic. the death toll stood at 37,079 with 706,779 infections. At least 59,672 patients have recovered.

Italy is the next mostaffected country with 22,745 deaths and 172,434 confirmed infections.

It is followed by Spain with 20,043 fatalities and 191,726 confirmed infections, France with 18,681 deaths and 147,969 infections and

Britain with 14,576 deaths and 108,692 cases

China—excluding Hong Kong and Macau—has to date declared 4,632 deaths and 82.719 cases

Europe has listed 1,115,555 cases and 97,985 deaths to date, the US and Canada together have 738,706 cases with 38,445 deaths, Asia 158,764 cases with 6,837 deaths, the Middle East 119,462 cases with 5.452 deaths, Latin America and the Caribbean 91,699 cases with 4,367 deaths, Africa 19,674 cases with 1,016 deaths and Oceania 7,835 cases with 86 deaths. — AFP

## 40,000 could die in UK as govt was too slow to act, says expert

**Agencies** 

LONDON: The British government was too slow to react on a number of fronts to the novel coronavirus outbreak that could cause the deaths of 40,000 people in the United Kingdom, a leading public health professor

told lawmakers on Friday.
Prime Minister Boris Johnson initially refrained from approving the stringent controls that other European leaders imposed but then closed down the country w projections showed a quarter of a million people could die in the United Kingdom.

So far, more than 14,576 people with Covid-19 have died in British hospitals, though new official data indicates the true death toll could be much larger. "Where were the system errors that led us to have probably the highest death rates in Europe?" Anthony Costello, professor of International Child Health and Director of the UCL Institute for Global Health, told the Health and Social Care Committee.

'We have to face the reality of that: We were too slow with a number of things," Costello told the committee. "We could see 40,000 deaths by

The recent estimates, even from the chief scientific officer, is that after this wave - we could see 40,000 deaths by the time it's over - we could only have maybe 10 percent, 15pc of the population infected or covered

the time it's over." Costello, a paediatrician who is an expert in epidemiology, said the government should make sure its response to the second and additional waves of infection was not too slow.

The United Kingdom has the fifth highest official death toll from Covid-19 in the world, after the United States, Italy, Spain and France, though the figure only covers hospital fatalities and the real number is probably much higher. ministers have defended

their response to the outbreak, saying they fol-

lowed scientific advice and have responded with urgency in what amounts to a warlike situation.

Costello said the United Kingdom needed widescale testing and the right systems in place to deal with further flare-ups of the outbreak.

"The recent estimates, even from the chief scientific officer, is that after this wave - we could see 40,000 deaths by the time it's over - we could only have maybe 10 percent, 15pc of the population infected or covered," he said

"So the idea of herd immunity would mean another five, six waves maybe in order to get to 60pc," he said. "We have got to pray the vaccinologists come up.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock said mass community testing was part of the British strategy, though the government has yet to find an antibody test that is accurate enough to be used. "It is part of the strategy, we will be introducing it when we can," Hancock told the committee.

## **Looking Into Reports That** Coronavirus 'Escaped' From China's Wuhan Lab: Trump

Washington: The US is looking into reports that the novel coronavirus, which has killed more than 150,000 people globally, 'escaped" from a virology laboratory in China's Wuhan city, President Donald Trump has said.

The US has been conducting a full-scale investigation into whether the deadly virus "escaped" from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, Fox News said in an exclusive report, adding that

intelligence operatives were reportedly gathering information about the laboratory and the initial outbreak of the pathogen.

'We're looking at it; a lot of people are looking at it. It seems to make sense," Trump told reporters at a White House news conference on Friday when asked if there was an investigation into whether the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) escaped from a lab in Wuhan, China.

"They talk about a certain kind of bat, but that bat wasn't in that

area if you can believe this," he claimed. "That bat wasn't sold at that wet zone.... That bat is 40 miles away.

Intelligence analysts are piecing together a timeline of what the government knew and "creating an accurate picture of what happened", the news channel quoted sources as saying.

'A lot of strange things are happening, but there is a lot of investigation going on and we are going to find out," Trump said. "All I can say is wherever it came from, came from China in whatever form, 184 countries now are suffering because of it." Trump added that the US would end its grant to a level-IV lab

"(The) Obama administration gave them a grant of USD 3.7 million," the president said. "We will end that grant very quickly." A group of more than half-a-dozen lawmakers sent a letter to House and Senate leadership, requesting them to ensure that no future coronavirus relief funds be appropriated to the Wuhan Institute of Virology

## Google To Waive Ad Fees As Part Of Journalism Relief Effort

**Agencies** 

WASHINGTON: Google said on Friday it would waive fees for publishers using its Ad Manager platform for the next five months as part of its efforts to support news organisations reeling from the coro-

alongside news coverage help fund the journalists who write breaking news stories, and keep news sites and apps running. Washing said ad serving fees for qualifying news publishers globally would be waived for the next five months.

Google's Ad Manager is an



navirus pandemic.

The move comes in addition to Google's "journalism relief fund" announced this week, which will include emergency grants to news outlets.

Jason Washing, head of global news partnerships at Google, said details would be announced in the coming days and disclosed to news outlets that meet certain requirements.

"During times of global crisis, people rely on quality journalism to stay informed and safe," Washing said in a blog post.

"And the ads that appear

automated platform which may be used by news outlets for marketing messages on websites.

The move by Google comes with news organisations getting hammered by a weak economy and downturn in advertising even as they ramp up coverage of the global health crisis.

Google said this week it would offer grants as part of its relief efforts ranging from the "low thousands of dollars" for the smallest operations to "low tens of thousands for larger newsrooms."

#### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER I&FC DIVISION SUMBAL e-TENDER NOTICE No01of2020

For and on-behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K State, e-tenders on item rate basis are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Government for following work

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

S.No	Name of work	Adv.Amt (in lacs)	Amt.of C.D.R	Class of Contract	Time of compl.	e-challan	Head of accounts	Tender receiving / Opening authority
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08
01	Dumping of sand filled bags at various spots on RP bund of River Jehlum to be required during floods in future from Asham to Banyari Bakshibal Hajin	2.33	4660.00	DEE	10 Days	230.00	Capex	nbal
02	Dumping of sand filled bags at various spots on LP bund of River Jehlum to be required during floods in future from Asham to Banyari Bakshibal Hajin	2.33	4660.00	DEE	10 Days	230.00	Capex	Ex.Engr.1&FC Divn.Sumbal
03	Dumping of sand filled bags at various spots on <b>RP</b> bund of River Jehlum to be required during floods in future from <b>Panzinara to Asham</b>	2.35	2350.00	S.H.G	10 Days	230.00	Capex	x.Engr.I8
04	Dumping of sand filled bags at various spots on <b>LP</b> bund of River Jehlum to be required during floods in future from <b>Dangerpora to Asham</b>	2.35	4700.00	DEE	10 Days	230.00	Capex	Ш

Position of Funds :- Assured

NO:/IFCDS/CC/87-90

Dated: 16/04/2020

Position of AAA :- Accorded						
1	Publishing date of tender notice	17 /04/2020				
li	Bid downloading date	17/04//2020				
lii	Bid submission start date	17/04/2020				
lv	Bid submission End date	27/04/2020 (4.00PM)				
V	Date of opening of Tenders	28/04/2020 (2:00PM)				

01. The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specification, Bill of Quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Department website

02. The tenders shall be deposited in electronic format on the developmental website w.w.w.jktenders.gov.in

DIPK-210/20

03. The complete bidding process will be online.

Sd/-

**Executive Engineer I&FC Division Sumbal** 

## NEWS MAKERS **Astronauts land back on Earth transformed by pandemic**

LMATY: Two Nasa astronauts and a Russian cosmonaut on Friday made a safe return from the International Space Station to find the planet transformed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Andrew Morgan, Jessica Meir and Oleg Skripochka touched down in central Kazakhstan in the first returning mission since the World Health Organisation declared Covid-19 a global pandemic

Morgan had been on the ISS since July last year, while Meir and Skripochka arrived in September.

"TOUCHDOWN! Welcome home, Oleg Skripochka, Andrew Morgan and Jessica Meir!" Russia's Roscosmos space agency wrote on Twitter.

Unusually, Nasa and Roscosmos did not show live footage of the trio parachuting down in their



Soyuz landing capsule.

This was scrapped "due to technical limitations associated with the epidemiological situation," Roscosmos said.

Subsequent footage from the landing site showed recovery crews wearing face masks and rubber gloves as they hauled the crew members out of the Soyuz MS-15 capsule,

which was lying on its side. "Please keep your distance," one ground crew member could be heard telling another.

While the trio's landing site southeast of the Kazakh town of Dzhezkazgan is the same as for previous crews, the pandemic has forced changes to mission-end protocol.

The crew will not be flying back home via Kazakhstan's Karaganda airport as usual because it has been shut down, like so many other airports across the world.



# **Study Links Genetics To** Childhood Emotional, Social And **Psychiatric Problems**

Agencies

ashington DC- In recent research, scientists have linked the emotional, social and psychiatric problems in children and adolescents with higher levels of genetic vulnerability for adult depression. The study implies that the genetics passed from parents may be linked with psychiatric problems in children and adolescents and may also leading to depression in adults.

University of Queensland scientists made the finding while analysing the genetic data of more than 42,000 children and adolescents from seven cohorts across Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the UK.

Professor Christel Middeldorp said that researchers have also found a link with a higher genetic vulnerability for insomnia, neuroticism and body mass index.

"By contrast, study participants with higher genetic scores for educational attainment and emotional well-being were found to have reduced childhood problems," Professor Middeldorp said.

"We calculated a person's level of genetic vulnerability by adding up the number of risk genes they had for a specific disorder or trait and then made adjustments based on the level of importance of each gene We found the relationship was mostly similar across ages," Middeldorp added.

The results indicate there are shared genetic factors that affect a range of psychiatric and related traits across a person's lifespan.

Middeldorp said that around 50 per cent of children and adolescents with psychiatric problems, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), continue to experience mental disorders as adults, and are at risk of disengaging with their school community among other social and emotional problems.

"Our findings are important as they suggest this continuity between childhood and adult traits is partly explained by genetic risk," the Professor said.

"Individuals at risk of being affected should be the focus of attention and targeted treatment," Middeldorp continued.

"Although the genetic vulnerability is not accurate enough at this stage to make individual predictions about how a person's symptoms will develop over time, it may become so in the future, in combination with other risk factors. And, this may support precision medicine by providing targeted treatments to children at the highest risk of persistent emotional and social problems," Middeldorp added.

## SCHOLARSHIPS THIS WEEK

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

Scholarship Name 1: NIT Warangal Junior Research Fellowship 2020

Description:

National Institute of Technology (NIT) Warangal in colaboration with Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Government of India has offered this scholarship for the BE/BTech and ME/MTech students The fellowship is applicable for a sponsored research project titled - 'Non-destructive damage detection and damage quantification on composite (HAP) panels'.

Indian BE/BTech and ME/MTech students with 60% aggregate or 6.5 CGPA on a 10 point scale can apply for this scholarship. ME/MTech degree holders in specializations of Structural Engineering or Applied Mechanics or allied specializations from a recognised university/institution are also eligible. Applicants should be under the age of 32 years.

Prizes & Rewards: Selected students will get a monthly allowance of INR 31,000 for the first 2 years and other benefits

Last Date to Apply: Application mode: Apply online www.b4s.in/observer/NWJ3

Scholarship Name 2: SwarnaJayanti Fellowships Scheme 2019-20

Description:

The Department of Science & Technology, Government of India has announed this fellowship for the indian scientists with a PhD degree in Science/Engineering/Medicine. The duration of the fellowship along with the project will be for a period of five years.

Eligibility:

Indian national having a regular position in a recognized Indian academic/research organization netween the ages of 30 to 40 years who possess a PhD in Science/Engineering/ Medicine can apply for this fellowship.

Prizes & Rewards:

Last Date to Apply:

Selected fellows will get INR 25,000 per month for 5 years and a research grant of INR 5 lakhs per annum.

30-04-2020

Application mode: Apply online Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SFJ4 Scholarship Name 3: Sardar Patel Scholarship for Students Pursuing Graduation 2020

Description:

Buddy4Study India Foundation invites scholarship applications from students studying in the 1st/2nd year of graduation. The scholarship programme is meant to support the higher education of deserving underprivileged students.

Eligibility:

The scholarship is open for students studying in the 1st/2nd year of a 3-year graduation programme (in any stream) from a recognised university/institution. The annual income of the family should be less than INR 6 lakhs per annum.

Prizes & Rewards: Selected students will get scholarship of

Last Date to Apply: 31-05-2020 Application mode:

Apply online www.b4s.in/observer/SPS1 Short Url:



#### Scholarship Name 4: Keep India Smiling Foundational Scholarship Programme

Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd. is giving young students an opportunity to pursue their academic/career aspirations by providing them with scholarships for education. This scholarship program provides financial aid to students pursuing studies at various post-matric and undergraduate levels to continue their education and proceed towards a career of their choice.

Eligibility:

Students who have passed Class 10 with at least 75% marks or Class 12 with at least 60% marks in 2019 board exams are eligible to apply for the scholarship program for pursuing their higher secondary, 3-year graduation, 4-year engineering, Diploma programme and 1-year vocational course studies respectively. Annual Family income of all applicants must be less than INR 5 Lakhs per annum.

Prizes & Rewards:

Selected scholars can avail scholarship award of up to INR 30,000 per year for up to 3 years of studies depending on their current level of education

Last Date to Apply: 30-04-2020 Apply online Application mode: www.b4s.in/observer/KISSP01

## Time To Pause And Enrich The Business

**Agencies** 

'ew Delhi- The fashion industry worldwide is going through a rough time, and India is no exception. From the fashion capitals of Italy and France to the small and midsize businesses in Bangladesh and India, the fashion retail industry is reeling under the pressure of the global pandemic

After the World Bank group allocated 1 billion dollars in health aid to India, it is also mulling a social sector and economic sector package, the latter mostly aimed at uplifting the small and medium scale industries.

While difficult times call for tough measures, the current scenario is also a perfect time to take a backseat and invest in the foundation of the business to make it sustainable for the future. Sujata and Taniva, founders of Mumbai-based clothing brand Suta share some tips on how to survive the trying times, customise products and continue to boost creativity.

#### Focus on the unfocused

Bracing ourselves to focus on the unfocused becomes a primary goal at such times. "We are channelizing our energies on repairs, maintenance and innovations now. Our operations and customer support team is focusing on improving and fine-tuning minute aspects of the website. We are spending more time on planning and executing new offerings, collection launches and marketing strategies. We want our customers to have a more enriched shopping experience every-time they come to our website," says Sujata, who believes the present scenario gives most

brands the perfect opportunity to focus on the minute details they have been procrastinating.

#### **Exploring the creative side**

During this time, a lot of employees and employers are exploring their creative side. Sujata and Taniya made a painting that they say is their dream jungle of childhood. Spending a lot of time in their kitchen garden, cooking skills, sharing DIY videos and even learning a new instrument can surely enhance creativity. This will ensure productivity once the employees are back from the sabbatical.

#### **Enriching content**

Content and communication are two major aspects of any brand. This is the right time to let your customers know more about your business. Having engaging content and also letting your customers know about the current situation and how you are dealing with it is very essential.

"Now, more than ever, content is what is connecting us. During the lockdown we have focused on a lot of engaging content like saree draping styles, DIY videos, wash and care of fabrics, making sustainable products like bio-enzyme. We aspire to motivate people to look at the better side in this silent chaos. The content we are sharing now, celebrates our silver linings, sustainability and our entrepreneurial journey," says Biswas.

#### Focus on health

While staying indoors and staying safe is essential. It is also important to eat mindfully, unhealthy snacking and no exercise can affect your work. When the cravings increase, switch from eating packaged food to a fruit. Remove time for yoga, quip the designers.

## Facebook To Warn Users Who 'Liked' Coronavirus Hoaxes

facebook

AGENCIES

acebook will soon let you know if you saw or interacted with dangerous coronavirus misinformation on the site.

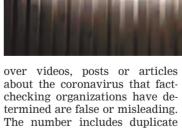
The new notice will be sent to users who have liked, reacted to, or commented on posts featuring harmful or false claims about COVID-19 after they have been removed by moderators. The alert, which will start appearing on Facebook in the coming weeks, will direct users to a site where the World Health Organization lists and debunks virus myths and rumours

The latest move is part of an unprecedented effort by Facebook, Google and Twitter that includes stricter rules, altered algorithms and thousands of fact checks to contain an outbreak of bad information online that's spreading as quickly as the virus itself.

Challenges remain. Tech platforms have sent home human moderators who police the platforms, forcing them to rely on automated systems to take down harmful content. They are also up against people's mistrust of authoritative sources for information, such as the WHO.

"Through this crisis, one of my top priorities is making sure that you see accurate and authoritative information across all of our apps," Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg wrote on his Facebook page Thursday.

disclosed company Thursday that it put more than 40 million warning labels in March



The number includes duplicate claims — the labels were based on 4,000 fact checks.

Facebook says those warning labels have stopped 95% of users from clicking on the false information.

"It's a big indicator that people are trusting the fact checkers," said Baybars Orsek, the director of the International Fact-Checking Network. "The label has an impact on people's information consumption."

But Orsek cautioned that the data Facebook provided should be reviewed by outside editors or experts, and called on the historically secretive company to release regular updates about the impact of its fact-checking initiative.

Orsek's organization is a nonprofit that certifies news organizations as fact checkers, a requirement to produce fact-checking articles for Facebook. Facebook has recruited dozens of news organizations around the globe to fact check bad information on its site. The Associated Press is part of that program.

Facebook will also begin promoting the articles that debunk COVID-19 misinformation, of which there are thousands, on a new information center called "Get The Facts." Putting trustworthy information in front of people can be just as useful, if not more, than simply debunking falsehoods.

Still, conspiracy theories, claims about unverified treatments, and misinformation about coronavirus vaccines continue to pop up on the site daily- sometimes circumventing the safeguards Facebook has implemented. The new feature also only applies to posts on users' main news feed — not in groups, where misinformation often spreads unchecked, and not on WhatsApp

or Instagram, though Facebook has put some other protections in place on those platforms.

Facebook users, for example, viewed a false claim that the virus is destroyed by chlorine dioxide nearly 200,000 times, estimates a new study out today from Avaaz, a left-leaning advocacy group that tracks and researches online misinformation.

The group found more than 100 pieces of misinformation about the coronavirus on Facebook, viewed millions of times even after the claims had been marked as false or misleading by fact checkers. Other false claims were not labeled as misinformation, despite being declared by fact-checkers as false.

"Coronavirus misinformation content mutates and spreads faster than Facebook's current system can track it," Avaaz said in its report.

This is especially problematic for Italian and Spanish misinformation, the report said, because Facebook has been slower to issue warning labels on posts that aren't in English. Avaaz also noted that it can take as long as 22 days for Facebook to label misinformation as such — giving it plenty of time to spread.

False claims about coronavirus treatments have had deadly consequences.

Last month, Iranian media reported more than 300 people had died and 1.000 were sickened in the country after ingesting methanol, a toxic alcohol rumored to be a remedy through private social media messages.

Facebook will also begin promoting the articles that debunk COVID-19 misinformation, of which there are thousands, on a new information center called "Get The Facts." Putting trustworthy information in front of people can be just as useful, if not more, than simply debunking falsehoods.

## **COVID-19: Target China? Centre moves to block** opportunistic takeovers of **Indian firms**

**Press Trust Of India** 

entities from mounting defence and telecom. opportunistic takeovers of vulnerable, pandemic-hit Indian firms. On Friday, the Ministry of Commerce and Indus- der with India, or where try moved a notification the beneficial owner of amending its Foreign an investment into India Direct Investment (FDI) is situated in... can inpolicy, making govern- vest only under the govment approval manda- ernment route".

The earlier policy had **NEW DELHI:** The Gov- allowed FDI through the ernment of India has automatic route in over swiftly moved to block 1,000 categories, except deep-pocketed Chinese for 16 sectors including

> The newly amended policy now says that "an entity of a country which shares a land bor-



tory for any investment from countries sharing a also apply to the trans-

soon after several sec- rectly" results in benefitions of the industry warned the Centre that heavily capitalised Chinese entities and funds were shopping for vulnerable Indian companies laid low by the CO-VID-19 pandemic.

such takeovers by Chinese entities, since out of the seven countries In- per cent stake in one of dia shares a land border with, investments from financial firms: HDFC. Pakistan and Bangladesh already required government approval. Excluding China, the rest -- Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan Chinese companies from and Myanmar -- are insignificant sources of behaviour and buying FDI into India and aren't out firms left vulnerable generally perceived as fi- by the Covid-19 pannancial national security demic.

This condition shall "land border" with India. fer of ownership of FDI, The notification comes which "directly or indicial ownership falling to entities in one of these countries, said the notification.

The move comes after a series of developments and warnings from industry bodies to The Centre's amend- the Centre. For instance, seems clearly March shareholding disat preventing closures had revealed that the Chinese central bank now held a 1.01 India's biggest blue-chip

> Other countries like Australia and Germany have also recently tightened FDI rules to prevent indulging in predatory

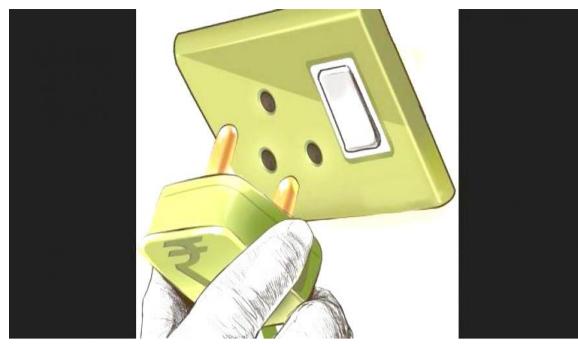
## Hvundai Motor India readv to restart operations amid extend COVID-19 lockdown



CHENNAI: India's sec- port market obligations. cision, said a senior of-

Vice-President (Corpothe company has to ful- will submit its report on fil its domestic and ex- Monday.

ond largest car maker Dutta said that the issue Hyundai Motor India is to bring people to the Ltd (HMIL) is ready to plant as some may be restart its production living in the coronavirus operations at its plants containment zone. "We and is waiting for the have the Standard Opstate government's de- erating Procedure (SOP) for social distancing, sanitisation and other hy-"The HMIL qualifies the giene aspects," he said. guidelines issued by The Tamil Nadu govthe central government ernment has set up a for restart of produc- committee to study and tion operations like the come out with recomplant should be in rural mendations as to the area or inside an indus- industries that may be trial estate and others," allowed to restart operations. Chief Minister rate Affairs) BC Dutta Edappadi Palaniswami told IANS. He said that has said the committee



# **Power Ministry Brings New Draft Of Electricity Amendment Bill**

**Press Trust Of India** 

power purchase agreement between pandemic." discoms and gencos.

will have sole authority to adjudi- sis should have led to nationalise take place due to the lockdown. cate matters related to specific per- all sectors, including power, across formance of contracts related to India. "At this juncture, the Governpurchase or sale of power, between ment of India's step of privatization power generation companies (gencos) and distribution companies (dis-

The decision of the ECEA can be challenged at the Appellate Tribunal For Electricity (APTEL) and, subsequently, at the Supreme Court. The of the stakeholders on the Bill with three weeks from April 17.

Commenting on the Bill, All India Power Engineers' Federation (AIPEF) VK Gupta told PTI, "The setting up of ECEA would dilute the power of the state and central regulatory commissions to settle matters related to culated in 2018 and 2019. PPAs (power purchase agreements) between discoms and gencos.'

Electricity Regulatory Commission doldrums, the timing is not suit-**NEW DELHI:** The Union power min- settle state-level and inter-state PPA able for introducing the enactment istry has come out with fourth draft disputes, respectively. He also said, of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill "AIPEF strongly condemned the timsince 2014, which seeks to set up ings of the power ministry's move an Electricity Contract Enforcement to bring back the Electricity Amend-Authority (ECEA) having power of a ment Bill 2020 when the whole councivil court to settle disputes related to try is fighting against the COVID-19

He was of the view that the bad The draft provides that the ECEA experience from the COVID-19 criof the power sector through the pro-Act 2003 is "ill-timed and ill-intentioned", he added.

in 2014 that was introduced in the sub-licensee and franchisee with-Lok Sabha seeking separate carriage ministry has sought the comments and contend electricity distribution no schedule or dispatch of electricbusiness. The Bill could have given ity without the security of payment option to consumers to change their clearly points towards the intentions service providers like they do for of the power ministry.' their mobile phone service.

But, unfortunately, that Bill lapsed after dissolution of the Lok Sabha. state sector despite the fact that dur-The second and third drafts were cir-

latory commissions and Central paralysed and administration is in of amendments to any law under such conditions and thus Electricity Amendment Bill 2020 be put on

> The body has also shot off a letter to Power Minister RK Singh demanding that the proposed date of receipt of comments should be extended to September 30 as no discussion can

It also urged all state governments to seek extension in time for giving their proper reply. At first glance, posed amendments in the Electricity Gupta said, "The purpose of the Bill seems to be to privatise discoms and ensure payment to private genera-The ministry had brought first draft tors. The introduction of distribution out separate licenses for them and

The body is of the view that the central government is out to destroy ing the COVID-19 crisis, only the state sector companies stood by the gov-The AIPEF has demanded to put ernment, while private entities were etween discoms and gencos." the bill on hold saying, "While the nowhere visible in this bad time on Currently, state electricity regueconomy of the whole nation is the country.

## L'Oreal donates 60,000 litres of hand sanitizers to aid coronavirus fight

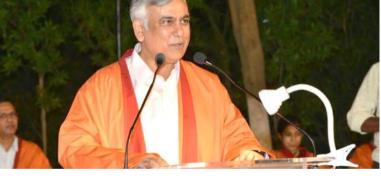
**Press Trust Of India** 

**NEW DELHI:** Personal care firm L'Oreal on Friday announced that it hol-based hand sanitiser to contribute towards the nation's fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

A statement said that L'Oréal India's operations team will donate hand sanitisers to public health institutions, police forces and NGOs. who are at the forefront of the fight against the virus.

In addition, the company is also planning to collaborate with primary healthcare centres around its working to contain the pandemic and CARES Fund, and will be matching all manufacturing facilities in Baddi in Himachal Pradesh and Chakan in Maharashtra to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) to their medical personnel, it added.

L'Oréal India MD Amit Jain said, "We the resources available to us in supplementing and contributing to the profit organizations. collective efforts made across the



those most afflicted by it."

L'Oréal India will also provide food and essentials to migrants and their families in Baddi, Chakan, Mumbai, Gurugram and Bengaluru, through its Nirmala Niketan. This is in in addition complete lockdown from March 25, consider it our responsibility to use to L'Oréal's global Solidarity Program to prevent the spread of the virus. which includes a donation to non-

tion of those who are at the frontline, a donation drive towards the PM the country.

contributions with a corporate contribution," it added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday announced the extension of lockdown till May 3. India is present-Commenting on the development, partnership with NGOs ActionAid and ly going through an unprecedented

According to the latest updates from the Health Ministry, the number "L'Oréal India will also channelise of cases from Covid-19 has climbed to country. Our initiatives are in recognithe support of its employees through 12,380 and death toll rises to 414 in

## **COVID-19:** Air India opens bookings on select domestic routes from May 4, international from June 1



routes from May 4 and June of novel coronavirus. 1, respectively. "In the light stopped accepting bookings for travel till May 31, 2020," a notification on Air India's website said on Saturday.

"Bookings for select donational flights for travel

**NEW DELHI:** Air India on from June 1, 2020 onwards Saturday announced it has are open," it stated. India has opened bookings on select been under lockdown since domestic and international March 25 to curb the spread

The first phase of the lockof the ongoing global health down was from March 25 concerns, we have currently to April 14. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 14 on all domestic flights for extended the lockdown till travel till May 3, 2020, and May 3. All domestic and inon all international flights ternational commercial passenger flights have been suspended during this period.

On April 3, Air India had said it has stopped bookings, mestic flights for travel from both domestic and inter-May 4, 2020, and for international, till the end of the

## **HDFC Bank Reports 18% Jump In Q4 Profit; Asset Quality Improves**



on-year increase in net profit on Saturday at Rs 6,927.69 crore for the March2020 other income, operating income, NII and

lower tax cost. financial year 2019-20 rose sures for COVID-19, HDFC by 24.6 percent from the Bank said that on accounts previous year to Rs 26,257.3 crore. Its NII (net interest income), that is the difference classification will remain between interest earned and interest paid, grew by 16.15 for the quarter under review from Rs 13,089.5 crore in the same period of the previous

enues for the March quarter and 6 bps respectively,

exchange & derivatives revenue, Rs 565.3 crore in gain crore a year ago.

of those in the agriculture Saturday.

MUMBAI: HDFC Bank re- segment. The result is an imported a 17.72 percent year- provement on 1.42 percent gross NPAs reported for the previous quarter and 1.36 percent in March 2019. Net ended quarter on higher non-performing assets were 0.36 percent of the net advances.

As per RBI's latest an-Its net profit for the whole nouncements on relief meawhere a moratorium will be granted the asset account standstill. These include payments towards install-

percent to Rs 15,204.06 crore ments or interest due between 1 March and 31.

May, even if overdue as on 29 February. "The Bank year. The increase in NII was holds provisions as on March driven by 21.3 percent rise in 31, 2020 against the potential advances and 24.3 percent impact of COVID-19 based on growth in deposits it said the information available at with a net interest margin of this point in time and the same are in excess of the Other non-interest income RBI prescribed norms. As vas at Rs 6.032.6 crore which a result. GNPA and NNPA is 28.4 percent of the net rev-ratioswere lower by 10 bps compared to Rs4,871.2 crore HDFC Bank said in its filing. The country's largest HDFC Bank said that the private bank also said that four components of the oth- its board has decided not to er income were Rs 4.200.8 issue a final dividend for the crore in fees & commission, fiscal year ended 31March Rs 500.8 crore in foreign 2020 on account of recent instructions from the RBI. "The Reserve Bank of India, on sale/revaluation of invest-vide its circular dated April ments and Rs 765.7 crore in 17, 2020, has decided that miscellaneous income. Its banks shall not make any operating income for the Jan- further dividend payouts March period rose by 16.3 from profits pertaining to percent YoY to Rs 8,277.8 the financial year ended crore compared to Rs 7,117.1 March 31, 2020 until further instructions, with a view HDFC Bank reported gross that banks must conserve non-performing assets at capital inan environment 1.26 percent of gross ad- of heightened uncertainty vances as on 31 March 2020. caused by COVID-19." it said which excluded 1.1 percent in a stock exchange filing on

## **COVID-19 lockdown: Centre asks** states to coordinate with control rooms to resolve workers' issues

**Press Trust Of India** 

Santosh Gangwar has asked May 3, with conditional relaxstates/UTs to designate nodal officers to coordinate with the areas. "Labour Minister Santosh 20 control rooms set up by the ministry to mitigate workers' State/UT Governments to desigproblems amid the coronavirus nate a nodal officer from Labour

trol rooms pertained to states/ union territories. The labour ministry has set up 20 control rooms pan-India to address wage-related grievances and to mitigate problems faced by migrant workers amid the lock-

dressal centres were set up after grievances of the workers.'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced extension of NEW DELHI: Labour Minister the nationwide lockdown till ations from April 20 in some Gangwar has requested various Department to coordinate with Gangwar shot off a letter Control Rooms set up by Union to states after it emerged that Government for addressing ismore than two-thirds of the sues of the labour/workers in complaints received by the con- the country in view the lockdown announced to combat CO-VID-19 pandemic," a ministry statement said.

In the letter shot off by Gangwar on Friday to the labour ministers of states/UTs, he said, "The coordinated efforts of Central and State Governments are These workers grievance re- required in order to resolve the

## Zomato introduces 'contactless dining' for restaurants amid **COVID-19 pandemic**

**Press Trust Of India** 

unicorn Zomato on Friday announced "contactless dining" features to help restaurants increase trust and confidence of blog post. customers in their safety and hygiene measures in a postlockdown world.

The Zomato app will also a hassle-free dining experienable contactless ordering ence. and payment. "This eliminates

the need for menu cards and bill books, two articles that are NEW DELHI: After contact- often touched by guests, and less delivery to deal with the are typically unsanitized and COVID-19 pandemic, foodtech could potentially be a source of concern," Gaurav Gupta, Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer at Zomato wrote in a

"So far, the waiting staff will still need to bring you your food from the kitchen, but Zomato said that contact- as long as the waiting staff is less dining will have three wearing a mask, and followmain components, contact- ing the highest hand hygiene less menu, contactless order- standards, we should all be With a contactless menu, din- is building additional features ers will be able to scan a QR on the app -- such as the abilcode on the table to explore ity to order multiple courses, the restaurant menu with dish and the option to pay for self and pairing recommendations. or the entire table -- to ensure for the users," Gupta noted.



ing and contactless payment. okay," he said. Zomato said it sures that consumers don't experience for customers, and have to wait to place their or-

Zomato believes that con-"Contactless dining also en- a better and hassle free dining app wherein restaurants will put under quarantined.

also improve the economics of der or pay the bill. Thus, mak- the restaurant industry -- by ing the entire experience far helping bring down manpower building confidence back in dinmore seamless and convenient costs, as well as reducing the table turnover time.

The foodtech company is

be able to self report safety and hygiene measures that they undertake, such as how frequently they sanitise high touch points such as tables/ door handles etc., and whether they arrange tables at least one metre apart from each other.

"Prompts on the Zomato app will reveal the restaurant's hygiene records to assist in informed decision making, and also allow consumers to report any deviations from what has been self-reported by the restaurant," Gupta said.

"We believe a proactive approach towards safety and hygiene will go a long way in ing out," he added. A food delivery boy this week was found corona positive - leading to 72 tactless dining will provide for adding safety features on the families in South Delhi being

#### **Air travel aggregators start** refund to passengers for suspended flights

government direction with fresh bookings," coming in, the online air he said. travel aggregators have started giving cash re- several airlines had fund to passengers who booked tickets between March 25 and April 14 tween April 15 and May

in this direction travel to customers who had aggregator Easy Trip booked tickets between ("EaseMy-Trip") has started refunding the money in 15 and May 3, instead cash to the customers from the company's account during

NEW DELHI: With the tors will be adjusted Amid the lockdown,

suspended flights and offered credit shell to the customers which for their travel plan be- they could use later. Presently, as per DG-CA's advisory, airlines Taking the first move have to refund money March 25 to April 14, for travel between April of credit shell.

A statement from the EaseMyTrip



the time of nation-wide lockdown due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

practice, in India, online travel aggregators had to deposit advance in EMT's virtual wallet amounts with the air- only. lines including Indigo, SpiceJet, Go Air, Air Asia against which they issue air tickets to aggregators for further booking by end users.

now been providing take this necessary step money in the virtual to provide refund in wallet of travel aggre- the form of cash to the gators, which does not customers in the hour reflect directly on their of need. We have been bank accounts, said receiving money on an official adding that our virtual wallet from aviation sector is a cash airlines which is of no flow business andthe use for the time being. airlines are not able to But still we are paying refund directly to cus- money to customers' tomers. "This virtual bank account from our money with aggrega- own expense.'

that it is the only company who has been refunding money to the As per the prevailing customers' bank account even if airlines are providing amounts

Speaking on the cur-

rent situation, Nishant Pitti, Co-founder and CEO, EaseMyTrip, said, "As a responsible corporate we are very The airlines have much concerned to

## Days after recovery, **85-year-old Covid patient** dies in Kerala

KERALA: Kerala Health Minister KK Shailaja on Saturday stated that the death of a 85-year-old man, who was a former Covid-19 patient from Malappuram, is not due to the coronavirus, but due to a renal complication he developed.

"He tested negative for Covid-19 thrice had underlying ailments. He was a cardiac patient for three decades, had breathing issues (COPD) and had kidney problems. He recovered from Covid-19 and thanked the medical staff, which took care of him. Then he had a kidney problem and infection. He died today morning, but not due to Covid," said

She added that the funeral will take place based on the present national guidelines, when a person dies a normal death.

In the state the total number presently under treatment is 138 and in the past week, the number of new cases was in single digits and there were around 78,000 people under observation in the



## **Renewed Focus By Armed Forces** To Insulate 15 Lakh Personnel **From Coronavirus**

**Press Trust Of India** 

**NEW DELHI:** The outbreak of coronavirus at a key naval facility in Mumbai where 26 sailors have been infected is a wake-up call for stricter implementation of all laid down norms to insulate around 15 lakh armed forces personnel from the pandemic, military officials said on Saturday.

enforced a "no movement" policy under which almost all their bases have ring the wings handling key operational matters and strategic surveillance, they said.Official sources said the top brass in the defence ministry is reviewing the overall preparedness of the armed forces to deal with the

The Navy has strictly ordered all its infection so far. bases to not allow any movement of

its personnel and assets besides sus- evacuation missions to coronavirusthe first case of the infection was detected on April 7, a Navy official said.

the bases," said another official.

well as platforms from the virus. The IAF has not reported any case of the

He said the aircraft sent on various the areas were minimum.

pending all training activities after infected countries were too "quarantined" for 14 days besides being "disinfected" thoroughly. An Army The Navy has suspended all trans- official said a "rigorous protocol" is fers and fresh postings besides or- being followed at all the bases and dering people on leave to stay back establishments of the force to protect home. Those onboard various ships the 15lakh armymen from the virus. and other platforms were told to ex- Listing the measures, he said all the tend their stay, he said. "We are now establishments are operating with All the three forces have already restricting movement of people from skeleton staff and people coming one building to another building in- back from leave or emergency outside the bases and commands. We are station assignments are being made been put under total lockdown bar-restricting any movement to and from to stay "separately" for at least couple of weeks. "We are even extending dis-An Indian Air Force official said the tance between the beds in barracks. It Air Headquarters have issued specific is an invisible war we are fighting," guidelines to all the bases and estab- the official said. About frontline bases lishments to insulate the personnel as along borders with Pakistan and China, the official said stricter norms are being followed to insulate them and that chances of the virus travelling to

## 26 Navy Personnel In Western Naval **Command Test Positive For Coronavirus**

**Press Trust Of India** 

Navy personnel have tested positive for coronavirus at the Western Naval Command in Mumbai, in first case of a major outbreak of the deadly disease in the Indian armed forces.

All the infected sailors were serving at the INS Angre, a shore-based logistics and support establishment, and they are undergoing treatment at a Navy hospital, official sources said. "The number of infected sailors is 26,"

The Navy has launched a largescale contact tracing operation to track the people who may have come in contact with the sailors.

The outbreak of the infection in the board the USS Theodore Roosevelt, as 500 cases of the virus. The French Navy has also been hit hard by the pandemic.

having single-room accomodations and barracks within the INS Angre and have been traced to a single sail-NEW DELHI: At least 26 Indian complex, while one sailor was living or who was tested positive on April 7. with his mother in his own house. The sailor's mother has also tested

> positive, the sources said. The Navy is carrying out virus test-



Indian Navy comes at a time when a ing of all people staying in the resinumber of navies globally are grap- dential accommodation and it has told his personnel that vital operapling with the pandemic. A sailor on been declared as a "containment tional assets such as ships and subzone", while INS Angre was put under an aircraft carrier, reported as many total lockdown as per the prescribed protocol of apex medical research body ICMR, they said.

ed sailors were staying at a building positive for COVID-19 at the facility.

"Most of these are asymptomatic They all reside in the same accommodation block at INS Angre," it said.

Sources said the top defence ministry officials as well as the Naval headquarters are keeping an eye on

They said the Navy has ordered all its establishments to maintain highest precaution to protect the personnel from the virus. It is the first case of a sizeable num-

ber of military personnel being treated for COVID-19. The Indian Army has reported eight cases of the deadly virus so far.

Last week, Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh, in a video message, marines must remain free from the

"The coronavirus pandemic is unprecedented and it has never been In a statement, the Navy said 21 seen before. Its impact has been ex-The sources said 25 of of the infect- serving personnel have been tested traordinary across the globe, including India," he said.

## **COVID-19 striking more** children than expected: Study

**NEW DELHI:** Contrary to this timeframe. what governments and a extensive than what is cur- 17. rently reported -- a hidden

A new study, published in tice from the University of South Florida (USF) and the Clinical reports ind 2,381 children infected with the US.

Children younger than 2 school of scientists claim accounted for 30 per cent of (including Tesla and SpaceX) the cases, 24 per cent were CEO Elon Musk), the num- ages 2 to 11 and 46 per cent ber of children infected with of the PICU cases were chilthe coronavirus is far more dren between ages 12 and

Researchers say that if detail that could vastly un- as many as 25 per cent of derestimate the demand on the US population becomes health care systems and pe- infected with the coronavidiatric intensive care units rus before the end of 2020, 50,000 children with severe illness will need to be hospithe Journal of Public Health talized, with 5,400 of them Management and Prac- critically ill and requiring

Clinical reports indicate Women's Institute for Inde- the average length of stay pendent Social Enquiry (Wi- for pediatric COVID-19 is 14 iSE), estimated that for each days. According to a national child who requires intensive survey, there are approxicare for COVID-19, there are mately 5,100 PICU beds in

"Government officials and



a report from the Chinese derstand the likelihood of Center for Disease Control clinical study of over 2,100 of effective mitigation stratchildren in China with CO-VID-19.

is lower in pediatric cases than adults, hospitals should proper equipment and staffing levels to deal with a potential influx of younger quarantine protocols. patients," said author Jason Salemi, associate professor of epidemiology in the USF College of Public Health.

American registry, Virtual PICU Systems, 74 children and April 6, signaling an ply with home infection additional 176,190 children control and self-isolation were likely infected during recommendations.

This calculation followed policy makers should uncapacity challenges, which and Prevention regarding its underscores the importance egies such as frequent and thorough handwashing and "Although the risk of severe illness from COVID-19" measures," stressed Salemi. persisted social distancing

Pediatric coronavirus is highly complex, as many be prepared and have the hospitals are prohibiting

A caretaker may also be infected, which would require logistical and infection ollege of Public Health. control accommodations According to the North that place an additional strain on hospital resources.

Upon hospital discharge, in the US were admitted to young children may be un-PICUs between March 18 able to independently com-

## Three lakh more Rapid **Antibody Test kits sent to India** from China: Envoy

ing used for quick detection #Guangzhou | Supplies are Chinese city of Guangzhou, ground by our team at @cgithe Indian envoy said on Sat-

lifted to Rajasthan and Tamil here. Nadu from the Chinese city Misri said.

"Nearly 3 Lakh Rapid An- plies. — PTI

**BEIJING:** Three lakh more tibody Tests have just been Rapid Antibody Test kits be- airlifted by @airindiain from of the COVID-19 have been headed to Rajasthan and dispatched to India from Tamil Nadu. Great work on guangzhou" Misri tweeted.

This is in addition to 6.5 About three lakh Rapid lakh Antibody Tests and RNA Antibody Test kits were air- Extraction Kits sent from

India is procuring the of Guangzhou, Indian Am- medical supplies from China bassador to China Vikram in recent weeks to ensure availability of adequate sup-

BOTTOM LINE

# Congress against e-commerce firms delivering non-essential items

NEW DELHI: The Congress on "The traders have locked down Saturday voiced concern over the their shops in last one month, government's decision to allow even as the GST, demonetisation e-commerce companies to de- and e-commerce are breaking liver non-essential items during their backbone." the lockdown period, saying that it will break the backbone of the pay fixed electricity charges, retail sector in the country. It demanded that there be a level playing field.

through video conferencing, se- ply the vehicles of e-commerce nior Congress leader and former companies. And surprisingly Union Minister Ajay Maken said, this order does not stop the e-"As per the sixth economic census, retail trade is the most dom- non- essential items," he said. inant economic activity outside agriculture.

than 35.41 per cent of total eco- after the lockdown period they nomic activities outside agriculture, which is the largest.

He said that as far as employ-

retail traders across the country,

Maken said that they have to property tax, commercial tax and several other charges.

"And on top of this clause 14 Addressing a press conference of the MHA order has allowed to commerce company from trading

"There is no level field for non trading items. And if the trad-He said that it factors more ers are not given level field then would not be able to stand on their feet," he said.

The Congress leader added that ment is concerned it gives "one on top of that they have to pay fifth" of the total employment the salaries and electricity chargin India as it generates employ- es. "So I request the government ment for 2.72 crore people in In- that it should clarify the order dia, second after manufacturing. and come forward for the rescue Highlighting the plight of the of these traders," Maken said.



conferences, he said, "Prime dress but many people are not PPE and others still remain unan-To a question on the leaders Minister Narendra Modi is mak-getting answers to their ques-swered." the former union minister said, of other countries holding press ing people aware through his adtions and issues like shortage of

He said monotonous talk is be- the country.

ing carried by the Prime Minister. When asked about the FIR reg-

istered against the doctors of Hindu Rao hospital for accepting personal protective equipment from a NGO, Maken said, "Today even doctors from LNJP have approached me and said that PPEs provided to doctors and medical teams are sub-standard.'

"And if the NGO gives the PPE then a FIR is registered against the doctors. It is saddening," he

To a question on the wheat flour scam in Madhya Pradesh where the people were given less flour in the packet, Maken slamming the BJP government in the state said, "This is Shivraj (Singh Chouhan) style of governance as only 7-8 kg wheat flour is coming out of 10 kg packet. And this is the biggest sin and soon the people will give a befitting reply to the BJP."

On Saturday, the total number of Covid-19 patients in India rose to 14,378 with 480 people losing their lives to the pandemic across