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P3 CITY

DESPITE LOCKDOWN SRINAGAR LOGS OVER 9000 COVID-19 CASES IN NINE DAYS

There has been no let up in the positive cases in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar that recorded over 9000 cases in the past nine days, official figures reveal. The surge in the positive cases



Political leaders who have shown merit must ensure that petty differences do not crop up between them, which will destroy all possibilities of a defiant coalition. At the present time, Mamata Banerjee is certainly one such leader. Arvind Kejriwal in Delhi,



P5 STATE

SECOND WAVE IMPACTING CHILDREN SIGNIFICANTLY: EXPERTS

Relatively unaffected during the first wave of Covid-19 last year, a high number of children are contracting the novel coronavirus in the second wave. A large number



Dr Ambrish Mithal

Chairman, Endocrino

and Diabetes, Max

Don't chase #RTPCRTest after

Repeat #RTPCR NOT necessary

You are not infectious to others

Non infectious virus particles

and give false +ve results

may persist in the nose/throat

>10 days after onset of

>3 days after absence of

recovery

symptoms

symptoms

any more

Quote!

"If you trust someone. Trust till the end. In the end you either get a good friend or a good lesson"

—Hazrat Ali



NEWS DIGST

Explosive Material Recovered In Doda

JAMMU: In a major seizure, security forces have recovered 40 kilograms of high explosive material along with several improvised explosive devices (IEDs) during a joint search operation in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir, the Army said on Saturday. "The timely recovery of the explosives thwarted the nefarious designs of terrorists and their few supporters to destabilise the • More On P10

Truck Drivers 'Looted' On Highway

SRINAGAR: Two non-local truck drivers were allegedly looted by some extortionists along the Srinagar-Baramulla highway in Parimpora area of the city outskirts.

The truck drivers Ashish Raturi and Manvender Singh, both residents of Puniab have reported to police that and cell phones from them near Fruit Mandi Parimpora where they had parked their trucks • More On P10

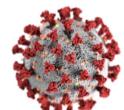
Teen Girl Dies Of Cardiac Arrest

SRINAGAR: A teenage died after suffering a massive cardiac arrest in Koil village of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Saturday. 16-year-old Misbah Magbool complained of chest pain at her home on Saturday and was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital by her family members, an official said. He said that at the hospital, the girl was

cured 496 marks out • More On P10 **Youth Arrested In** Minor Girl's Rape Case

declared dead on arrival. She had se-

JAMMU: A second accused was arrested on Saturday in a minor girl rape case in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. The girl was allegedly raped by two persons in the Kandi area of Rajouri on April 28, following which a case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act was registered, they said. Police said More On P10



Covid-19: J&K Logs Record 60 Deaths, 4788 New Cases

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Jammu Kashmir on Saturday reported sixty coronavirus related deaths, the highest single-day fatalities, even as 4788 fresh cases of infection were detected across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

Officials said that 42 more people succumbed to the deadly infection in Jammu division and 18 others died at the various healthcare facilities in Kashmir Valley on Saturday, taking the total number of fatalities since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 2672.

Among the victims from the Valley included a 75-yearold man from Rambagh Srinagar, who died a day after being admitted to SKIMS Soura, officials said. They

Robust Mechanism

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Taking note

of the "unprecedented

surge" in COVID-19 cases,

the Supreme Court on

Saturday moved to decon-

gest prisons and ordered

the immediate release of

prisoners who were grant-

Observing that the de-

congestion of prisons

housing around 4 lakh

and

inmates across the

country is a mat-

ter concerning

right to life of"

prisoners and

police person-

avoid delay.

nel, a bench

headed by Chief

Justice N V Ramana

said all those who were

allowed to go out on bail

in March last year by the

high-powered commit-

tees of states and Union

Territories (UTs) be grant-

ed the same relief without

any reconsideration to

those inmates who were

granted parole, pursuant

"Further we direct that,

"health

ed bail or parole last year.

SC Orders Release

Of Prisoners To

Decongest Jails

In Place To

Deal With

Situation: Govt



said a 70-year-old man from Khan Sahab Budgam died at SKIMS Bemina, hours after he was admitted to the facility. A 76-year-old man from Guzarbal here died a week after he was admitted to SKIMS

to our earlier orders,

should be again granted

parole for a period of 90

days in order to tide over

the pandemic," the bench,

also having Justices L

Nageswara Rao and Surva

Kant, said in its order up-

loaded on the apex court's

There is a serious con-

cern about the spread of

COVID- 19 in "overcrowded

prisons where there is lack

of proper sanitation,

hygiene and med-

ical facilities

the bench said.

adding there is

a requirement

management of

pandemic from

within the prison

walls so as to defeat this

The top court took note

of its March 23, 2020, or-

der by which it had di-

rected all states and UTs to

constitute high-powered

committee (HPC) to con-

sider releasing on parole

or interim bail prisoners

and the under trials for of-

fences • More On P10

deadly virus.

effective

website on Saturday.

Soura, they said. A 58-year-old man from Batwara, at present Pantha Chowk, died at SKIMS Soura, 11 days after he was admitted to the tertiary care hospital. A 67-year-old • More On P10

Life Remains Crippled On Day 10

ormal life remained affected in many areas in Jammu and Kashmir on the tenth day on Saturday with the imposition of the lockdown in the wake of an alarming surge in coronavirus cases, officials said. Roads across the vallev continued to wear a deserted look as public transport remained off the roads and markets were shut, they said. The officials said in the wake of the lockdown an nounced by the government, restrictions on the movement • More On P10

Senior KAS Officer Dies Of Covid-19



he Jammu and Kashmir administration said on Saturday that it has a robust mechanism in place to deal with any kind of situation that may arise due to the sec-

K Pole urged people to adhere to Covid related SOPs and guidelines in letter and spirit and termed it an imperative and effective way to stop the spread of the

virus, an official spokesperson said. "He assured that the administration has put in place all requisite facilities including Oxygen supply to deal with any emergent situa-

tion that may arise due to the 2nd wave of Covid," he added. The Div Com as per the official spokesperson asked people to follow advice of doctors and experts to remain

healthy and avoid pressing the panic button. He further said that collectively we can overcome this pandemic and appealed to the public to strictly

Mi

ond wave of Covid-19 in Kashmir division. Talking to media persons during his tour to this south Kashmir district, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang

senior Kashmir Administrative Service (KAS) officer on Saturday died of COVID-19 at a hospital ere, officials said, as Jammu district surpassed Srinagar to head the virus fatality chart among the 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, Special Secretary to Government, Finance Department, • More On P10

Covid +Ve Report Not Mandatory For In a significant directive to the states and Union Territories, the Union Health Ministry on Saturday said requirement of a positive

Hospital Admissions COVID-19 test report is not ● More On P10

Dr. Arvinder Singh Soin Group Chairman, Liver Transplantation, Medanta Hospital

As we gear up for a third wave, India needs to keep breathing. Healthcare workers need a breather. And VACCINATIONS need a

Dr. Muzaffar Maqbool Researcher and Associate Professor,

GMC Srinagar It is the race against time.

Numbers going up rapidly. Preparedness at war footing level will save us from the coming Covid tsunami. Lot is being done at every level, lot needs to be done at every level.

Time to wake up to this challenge as always.

TOGETHER WE CAN **BEAT IT#**

Basking in the sun at Lal Chowk: A man is seen taking a nap in the deserted commercial hub of Srinagar- KO photo.

Couple Held With Heroin Worth Rs 860 Cr

NEW DELHI: The police have arrested an Afghan couple and recovered over 100 kilograms of heroin worth Rs 860 crore from their possession, officials

said on Saturday.
The accused have been identified as Mohammad Shafi (48) and Tareena (36), both natives of

Kandahar in Afghanistan, they said The police recovered 125.840 kilograms of heroin worth Rs 860 crore in the international

market, officials said. "On Friday, police got information that two people would come from Wazirabad with heroin in their car and will go towards Khyala. A trap was laid, and More On P10

IEDDAH: Saudi Arabia and long standing ally Pakistan signed several agreements Saturday and vowed to reset ties strained by months of disagreement over

On his seventh visit to the western coastal city of Jeddah.

"They affirmed the depth

statement said.

Although the kingdom was the first foreign country Imran Khan visited after taking office, Riyadh appeared frustrated with Islamabad last year.

In a sharply worded statement in August, Pakistani Minister Foreign Mahmood Qureshi called on the Saudi-based Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to convene a high-level meeting on Kashmir.

The call raised eyebrows in Riyadh, where it was widely seen as a warning that Pakistan was preparing to call for a session outside OIC auspices.

Saudi Arabia prides itself on its role as guardian of Islam's holiest sites and is particularly sensitive about any move that might undermine its leadership of the 57-member pan-

And, while • More On P10

Govt Rejects Land Acquisition Request By BSF force and asked BSF and DC

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration turned down the Border Security Force's proposal for allotment of 515 kanals of land to the force for setting up the paramilitary force's key location point (KLF) in Samba district of Jammu province and instead asked the district administration to identify 160 kanals of state land for the purpose.

According to the official documents, the Financial Commissioner Revenue rejected the land acquisition case of BSF on the ground that huge chunks of land cannot be given to the

Samba to identify suitable state Land measuring 160 kanals.

.....FCR has rejected the case file on the ground that a huge chunk of land measuring 515 KI 18 MI cannot be given to BSF and asked BSF and DC Samba to identify suitable state land measuring 20 acres (160 Kanals),"reads the documents.

The FCR turned down the demand after case file was submitted to FCR by divisional commissioner Jammu for issuance of notification under section 6 and 7 of

The farmers had opposed the acquisition of land for setting up KLP by BSF • More On P10

Jammu BJP Leader Locks Horns With MoS PMO Demands CBI Probe Into 'Illegal' Mining Activities In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

IAMMU: BIP leader and former MLC Vikram Randhawa on Saturday demanded a CBI probe into alleged illegal mining activities and operations of the stonecrusher units near the Tawi river.

He reiterated his claim that the Jammu and Kashmir government has lost a huge revenue due to the "malpractices" of certain officials.

Randhawa, who is also president of the Stone Crusher Owners Association, welcomed the setting up of a four-member committee for an in-depth examination of mining activities in the Tawi and a high court



stay on the recovery of fine from the unit holders.

On May 3, the J&K BJP Secretary had levelled serious allegations of corruption against several officials of the

Geology and Mining department and Union Minister Jitendra Singh's office in Jammu and also threatened to immolate himself on coming Monday.

The BJP's disciplinary committee served Randhawa a show-cause notice after he went public against Singh, while the Union minister filed a criminal suit against him in a Delhi court for "committing an offence of defamation" against him.

"There is a high court ban on mining activities in the Tawi river but it is only on papers as illegal activities under official patronage are going on and we (unit holders) have been made the scapegoat • More On P10

Strained Over Kashmir, Saudi. Pak Leaders Vow To Reset Ties



Agenceis

policy on the Kashmir dispute.

wealthy kingdom since his 2018 election, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan was given a warm welcome by Saudi officials in the He was greeted by Saudi

Arabia's de-facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at the airport, before holding talks with Saudi officials at Jeddah's Al-Salam Palace.

of relations between the two brotherly countries and underscored the importance of expanding and intensifying aspects of bilateral cooperation and coordination," a Saudi

Islamic body.



Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir



How to write good answers in civil services exam?

Vijay GarG

he civil services main examination is not only a test of the knowledge of the candidates. It also tests their ability to write wellstructured answers in limited time. Writing 'good' i.e. marks fetching answers in the UPSC examination is not something that comes naturally to most candidates. Not even those with a flair for writing. The ability to write good answers is developed by regular practice. An aspirant should aim at developing a personalized style of writing answers while meeting the requirements of the examination.

Many candidates are under the misconception that a good answer is unique and exceptional. In fact, one will be ill-advised to aim to write 'perfect' answers or those which 'stand out' in the IAS exam. Then, what constitutes a 'good' answer? In the UPSC exam; a good answer is one which is relevant, meets the demands of the question, sticks to the word limit and is finished

Some tips for writing good answers in the civil service's examination are: Read the question care-

It is extremely important



to first, read the question properly. The candidate may highlight the important words in the question. They should clearly understand the demands of the question. Certain words in the question; like elucidate, critically analyse, enumerate, etc. need to be paid special attention to. They determine the main demand of the question. It is important for the candidate to be aware of their meanings. Careful reading of the question helps the candidate to write an an-

swer which is relevant.

Organize the answer It is important that one's answer has a broad, well laid out structure. It makes the answer more presentable and easier to read. The answer may begin with a short introduction. Typically, one may define the key terms in the introduction, quote a recent report or highlight some relevant facts. In the main body, the candidate may give appropriate subheadings for each part of the question. The content may be presented in points form to facilitate an easy read.

The conclusion may sum up the main arguments in the answer. Alternatively, you may end the answer on an optimistic note. If the question deals with certain socio-economic or governance- related issues; one may offer practical solutions in the end. A well- structured answer is easier said than done. Towards this end, one may develop a rough sketch of the answer in 30-50 seconds, before actually penning it down.

Write in limited time

important challenge candidates face in the UPSC exam - writing short and to-the-point answers in

limited time. When a typical candidate begins writing practice, it takes him anywhere between 15 and 25 minutes to answer a 10 marks question. In the UPSC exam, one has to attempt a 250 marks question paper in 180 minutes, leaving one with 7.2 minutes for a 10 marks question. Increasing one's writing speed to answer a 10 marks question in 7.2 minutes satisfactorily may seem daunting at first, but is im-

Creative presentation

Using creative presentation tools like flow charts and diagrams make the answers more appealing to the examiner. They can also help the candidate save time. It is thus, important to be innovative while using them. However, their optimal use requires familiarity. Thus, their repeated use during answer writing practice helps.

Stick to the word limit

It is important to not only know what to write, but also what not to write. Crossing the word limit will not fetch more marks. Instead, you will lose precious time. It will make it difficult for you to answer the other questions in the paper satisfactorily.

Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: DXC Progressing Minds Scholarship 2021

DXC Technology invites applications from students studying in the first year of BE/BTech program in CS/ IT/EE/EC streams. The scholarship supports meritorious students belonging to underprivileged sections of the society.

Eligibility: The scholarship is open for Indian nationals only. The students must be presently pursuing studies in the first year of BE/BTech program in CS/IT/ EE/EC streams in the academic year 2021-22. They must have obtained at least 60% marks in the previous class. The annual family income should not exceed Rs 4 lakh (Rs 4,00,000) from all sources. Applicants must not be availing any other scholarship benefits of 6,000 per annum or more. Children of DXC/Buddy4Study employees are not eligible for this pro-

Prizes & Rewards: 50% of the total fees or Rs 40,000 per annum (whichever

Last Date to Apply: 15-06-2021 Application mode: Online applications Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/DXC1

Scholarship Name 2: **IISER Berham**pur Post Doctoral Research Fellowship in Biological Chemistry and Nanomedi-

Description: Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Berhampur (IIS-

ER Berhampur) is inviting applications for IISER Berhampur Post Doctoral Research Fellowship in Biological Chemistry and Nanomedicine 2021 from Ph.D. degree

The fellowship is open for candidates below 35 years of age who Last Date to Apply: 23-05-2021 Application mode: Online application Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/

Scholarship Name 3: **IIT Indore De**partment of Computer Science and Engineering Junior Research Fellowship 2021

> Description: Indian Institute of Technology, Indore invites applications for the IIT Indore Department of Computer Science and Engineering Junior Research Fellowship 2021 from bachelor's/master's degree holders. The fellowship is meant for a project titled, "Reducing Parameterized Complexities of Matrix Determinant and Permanents".
>
> Eligibility: The fellow-

ship is open for candidates who hold a Master's degree

INR 31,000 per

in Computer Science/Maths with a valid NET/GATE score, OR a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Engineering with a valid GATE score. Alongside, they should have a basic knowledge of theoretical computer science, graph theory, and linear algebra.

Prizes & Rewards: month plus HRA

Last Date to Apply: 20-05-2021 Application mode: Via email only www.b4s.in/observer/SEF8

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW (R&B) DIVISION SHOPIAN

e-mail:- rnbdivisonshopian@gmail.com

(Phone/Fax No: 01933-260226)

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS Fresh to NIT 15

Fresh NIT No: Fresh/25/927-36 / SPN/RnB/e-Tendering/2021-22 Dated:- 06-05-2021 For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No		Major Head of Account			Time of Completion (In days)			Position of Funds
1	Repair / Renovation of Washroom including supply of various consumables in the office Chamber of District Development Commissioner Shopian in Mini Secretariat Arhama Shopian	2216 Housing	1.02	DEE	07 working days	200/-	Accorded	Available

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	06-05-2021	
2	Document downloading Start Date.	08-05-2021	From 10.00 A.M
3	Document Downloading End Date.	15-05-2021	upto 4:00 P.M
4	Bid submission Start Date.	08-05-2021	From 10.00 A.M
5	Bid Submission End Date.	15-05-2021	upto 4:00 P.M
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	17-05-2021	at 11:00 A.M

Bidders must upload the requisite cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan / Treasury Challan Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian (Tender receiving authority). (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian (Tender receiving authority). All the Bidders have to upload / submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the Circular of Finance Department (Bid security Dec

laration Form is as per Annexure "A" below). The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR within 03 Days before fixation of Contract.

The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the Bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Shopian (Tender receiving authority)

The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of Opening of Technical bids. All other terms and conditions are as per PWD form-25 (Double agreement form)

Executive Engineer No.:- NIT/e-Tendering/ DIPK-1461/21 Dated:- 06-05--2021 PW(R&B) Division Shopian

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

RESHAM GHAR COLONY, BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU - 180001

website:http://ikpsc.nic.in email;jkpscsecretary@gmail.com Jammu: G191-2566528 (f)2566530 Srinagar:0194-2312629(f) 2312631

Subjjject: Rejection of Candidature for the post of Consultant Radiology In Health & Family Welfare Department

NOTICE

Dated: 06-05-2021

Whereas, the J&K Public Service Commission vide Notification No.12-PSC of 2019 dated 01.10.2019 invited online applications for 01 (OM) post of Consultant Radiology in Health & Family Welfare Department from the permanent residents of Jammu & Kashmir possessing the prescribed qualification; and

Whereas, in response to the ibid notice, the Commission received 23 application forms in the said discipline; and

Whereas, after scrutiny of the application forms, the following candidates have not been found eligible for the said post for the reasons indicated against each:-

S. No	Name of the candidate	Reasons for rejection
1.	Younis Sediq Kanue	No Experience
2.	Sheetal Ganjoo	Hard copy of documents not submitted.
3.	Sayar Ahmad Taley	Hard copy of documents not submitted.

Now, therefore, the candidature of above candidates is hereby rejected. However, if any candidate feels aggrieved with the rejection of his/her candidature, he/she may represent before the Commission within (10) ten days from the date of issuance of this Notice. No grievance/representation shall be entertained/accepted after the stipulated period.

No: PSC/DR/Consultant/Radiology/H&FW/2019
DIPK-1408/21

(R. K. Katoch) KAS Secretary J&K Public Service Commission

Jammu And Kashmir Union Territory

Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Shopian.

hold a Ph.D. degree in a relevant discipline

(Biological or Chemical Sciences or relat-

ed), with a consistently good academic re-

cord throughout and have submitted the

thesis and awaiting the award of the de-

gree. This position is open for candidates

with 0-5 years of experience after obtain-

ing a Ph.D. degree in one of the specific

research areas such as Biological Sciences

Up to INR 54,000

and Chemical Sciences.

Prizes & Rewards:

per month plus HRA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER E-NITS.NO.:- (02) OF 2021-22 (E-TENDERING)

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF LT. GOVERNOR UNION TERRITORY OF J&K, E-TENDERS ARE INVITED ON ITEM RATE BASIS FROM APPROVED AND ELIGIBLE CONTRACTORS REGISTERED WITH J&K STATE GOVT. CPWD/ RAILWAYS/ OTHER GOVERNMENTS/ UNION TERRITORY FOR THE FOL-LOWING WORKS./

S. No.	Name of work	Adv. Cost	Cost of	Earnest	Time of	Class of	Head of Ac-
		(In lacs)	Tender Doc.	Money	completion	Contract	count
01	Repairement of Hydraulic Gate of D2 canal Head Works	0.47	150/	1410/-	07 davs	DEE	2702-M&R
01 02	Repairment of damaged bed portion of D3 canal at spots downstream RD 6500 M (Flume) at safnagri	1.97	200/	5910/-	08 days	DEE	2702-M&R
03	Repair/ renovation of Hydraulic control Gates at Head Works of Rakhi Litter canal including silt clearance from RD 0 to 100 M at safnagri	0.69	150/	2070/-	07 days	DEE	2702-M&R
04	Restoration/ raising of right side embankment of Zainapora canal at over- flow spots near RD 1800 M at Hr. secondary school Yaripora.	2.66	250	7980/-	10 days	DEE	2702-M&R
05	Construction of retaining wall / linned channel at damaged spots of embankment of Gama Ladi down stream RD 400 M	2.52	250	7560/-	15 days	DEE	2702-M&R
06	Repair/ renovation of Hydraulic contol Gates at Head of Melhura canal at Naghard	0.93	100	2790/-	05 days	DEE	2702-M&R
07	Crate diversion work , shoal clearance and repairement of Hydraulic gates at Head Works of Awneera canal at Kanjukullah.	0.835	100	2505/-	15 days	DEE	2702-M&R
80	Restoration/ construction of damaged spot of Nickloora Minor by way of crate protection wall at Rd 300 M	2.23	200	6690/-	15 days	DEE	2702-M&R
09	Resectioning/ desilting of Pahalwan Ladi branch of Rebbon Minor from RD 1200 M to 2700 M	1.55	150	4650/-	10 days	DEE	2702-M&R
10	Temporary restoration of Mochwa LIS daamged intake channel by way of laving of MS Pipes and concrete blocks.	3.21	300	9630/-	20 days	DEE	2702-M&R
	Resectioning/desilting of Awneera canal from RD 50 M to 870 M.	1.90	200	5700/-	10 days	DEE	2702-M&R

POSITION OF FUNDS: BUDGETARY PROVISION

1. THE BIDDING DOCUMENT CONSISTING OF QUALIFYING INFORMATION, ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, SPECIFICATIONS, DRAWINGS, SET OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND OTHER DETAILS CAN BE SEEN/ DOWNLOADED FROM THE DEPARTMENTAL WEBSITE WWW.JKTENDERS.GOV.IN AS PER SCHEDULE OF DATES GIVEN BELOW:

01	Date of issue of Tender Notice	06-05-2021 (04:00 PM)
	Date of start of downloading.	06-05-2021 (05:00 PM)
03	Bid submission start date Technical/ Financial.	07-05-2021 (10:00 AM)
	Bid submission end date.	17-05-2021 (4:00 PM)
05	Date & Time of opening of Bids (online).	17-05-2021 (05:00 PM)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

Bids must be accompanied with proof of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury receipt in favour of Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Shopian (tender inviting authority). The first lowest bidder has to produce an amount of 3% of Advertised cost in the shape of CDR pledged to Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Shopian (Tender Receiving Authority) within three days positively after opening of the tenders else his bid will be rejected and the 2nd lowest bidder will be called for the same.

The date and time of opening of Technical Bids shall be notified on departmental website www.iktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial Bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Shopian (Tender Receiving Authority).

The bid for the work shall remain valid for period of 90 days from the date of opening of bid. The earnest money shall be forfeited if:-

5) of the bid. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in terms and conditions

Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 7 Days after fixation of contract. 7) Instruction to bidders regarding e-Tendering process:-

Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on web site w jktenders.gov.in acquaint bid submission process.

To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per information Technology Act, 2000. Bidders can get Digital Certificate from any approved vender.

The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para- 01.

Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid. Note:- Scan all the documents on 100dpi with black & white option.

The Department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons. Scanned copy of Earnest Money/ Bid Security in shape of CDR as applicable pledged to Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Shop-

ian must be uploaded with the technical documents of the bid.

Price Escalation and Taxes:- The item wise cost/ offer be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes till completion of work, unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

in their user on e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required. 11) 12)

Instructions to Bidder (ITB): All bidders shall include the following information and documents with their Bids GSTN/PAN/Treasury Challan, & Registration Card duly

The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid. If the bidder does not quote rate for any item of the rate List/ Quantity Schedule, cost of such item/ items shall be deemed to be part of the overall/ total contract value. No rate shall be allowed for such item/ items in the allotment of contract.

All other terms & conditions shall be the same as laid down in the PWD Form 25 (Double Agreement Form). **Executive Engineer,** No: 517-39 Irrigation Division Shopian. DIPK-1389/21 Date: 05-05-2021

d.

renewed for the current year.

Despite Lockdown Srinagar Logs Over 9000 Covid-19 Cases In Nine Days

SRINAGAR: There has been no let up in the positive cases in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar that recorded over 9000 cases in the past nine days, official figures reveal.

The surge in the positive cases comes despite lock down in the district. The government imposed Corona Curfew in 11 districts of Jammu and Kashmir since April 29 evening in order to prevent the virus from spreading. However, in the last nine days, the district has recorded

As per the data available, the district recorded 932 positive cases on April 30 following which the cases started increasing as on May 01, it recorded 1084 cases.

9708 positive cases.

On May 02, the district recorded 1126 cases while on May 03,



capacity DG set as back up to overcome

any power failure. A Fire Tender from Fire

& Emergency Department remains sta-

tioned at Haj House as a precautionary

With regard to sanitation, cleanliness

and fumigation measures, the Chair-

man DDMA was informed that SMC has

deployed a dedicated team for ensur-

ing cleanliness and sanitization in and

It was further informed that all nec-

essary arrangements have been made

by the Nodal Officer to provide food to

Earlier, the Chairman DDMA Moham-

mad Aijaz Asad said that the initiative of

establishing 100 beded facility is aimed

at decongesting tertiary care hospital

occupancy. He said it will also serve the

purpose decongesting the unnecessary

occupancy of precious beds in tertiary

gen support facility and shall act as an

Aijaz Asad further said the initiative is

Health Society and District Red Cross So-

ciety. He added that more Oxygenated

He also said that LG has ordered for

around the premises.

the patients.

it recorded 1136 positive cases. after as the district recorded On May 05, a total of 1125 nagar while on May 06 and 07, or not. "The announcement will The figure kept increasing there- 1311 positive cases on May 04. COVID cases reported from Sri- the district recorded 1070 and be made soon," he said—(KNO)

1071 cases receptively. On May 08, the daily positive cases have reduced as compared to the previous days as 853 cases were detected across the district.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Srinagar, Syed Muhammad Hanief Balkhi said that the lockdown has helped the administration in curbing the number of daily positive cases to a large extent.

"The precautionary measures being taken by the people has helped in curbing the number of cases. The cases have reduced today and we hope that it will go down further as well," he said, adding that people have been following the Corona Curfew orders in spirit and thus has helped in reducing the cases.

However, he said that it has not been decided yet whether the restrictions would continue

THE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES BEING TAKEN BY THE PEOPLE HAVE HELPED IN CURBING THE

number of cases. The cases have reduced today and we hope that it will go down further as well," he said, adding that people have been following the Corona Curfew orders in spirit and thus have helped in reducing the cases.

Hajj House Turned Into 100 Bedded Covid Care Facility



SRINAGAR: In wake of spike in Covid-19 cases, the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Srinagar has established an oxygenated 100 bedded capacity Covid care facility at Hajj House Bemina.

While giving details, the CMO Srinagar apprised the Deputy Commissioner, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, who is also the Chairman DDMA that, the patients re- care hospitals by shifting patients having ferred by a physician having mild symp- oxygen requirement of less than 10 litoms of Covid-19 infection and require ters per minute and are not on injectable oxygen support of less than 10 litres per medications to facility at Hajj House. He minute can be admitted for Isolation as said this is not a medical facility but oxy-

He further added that the Health De- Oxygen Bank. partment is in the process of procuring more Bulk Oxygen Cylinders and Oxygen a joint venture of DDMA Srinagar, District Concentrators to augment the bed capacity at Hajj House.

The DC was further informed that a beds shall be established as per directions duty roster for Medical Officers and Para- of the LG to further strengthen the Oxymedical staff has also been framed to look gen support system in Srinagar district. after the admitted patients.

It was informed that all 100 beds have augmentation of beds at tertiary care been provided by the R & B department Hospitals & roll out of added infrastrucwhile PHE has made adequate arrange- ture to meet any exigent situation besides ments for ensuring 24*7 water supply breaking the chain of Covid-19 infection.

Covid Facilities In Srinagar Hospitals besides PDD has taken all measures to en-File Pic sure uninterrupted Power supply at Hajj house. The PDD has also set up a 63 KVA



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Incumbent parliamentarian from Srinagar, Dr Farooq Abdullah on Saturday released Rs 1.5 Cr from his Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) funds for improving for the year 2021-2022," the letter reads.

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A Central Reserve Police Force

(CRPF) personnel, who tested positive for

COVID-19, died on Friday at SK Institute of

An official said that a CRPF man iden-

tified as Abhimaniya Sahu of 96 BN

CRPF posted at Mattan area of South

Kashmir's Anantnag district died at

SKIMS Soura days after testing positive

Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Srinagar.

for COVID-19.

the COVID facilities in Srinagar hospitals. In a letter to Deputy Commissioner

Dr Farooq Releases Rs 1.5 Cr For Improving

CRPF Personnel Dies Of Covid-19 At SKIMS

He said that the CRPF man was ad- morning where he breathed his last in

(DC) Srinagar, Muhammad Aijaz Asad, Dr Farooq Abdullah recommended the release of Rs 50 lakh in favour of Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir and Rs 30 lakh each in favour of Govt Chest Disease hospital, Srinagar, Govt SMHS hospital. Srinagar and SKIMS Medical College Hospital, Srinagar.

According to the letter under number PS/DFA/MPLAD/21-22, National Conference (NC) president has said that "in view of the fact that Covid-19 is spreading at an alarming rate in Kashmir, I think it most appropriate to use the MPLAD Funds released by the Government of India recently in my favour mainly towards improving the Covid care facilities in the hospitals falling under the jurisdiction of my Parliamentary Constituency."

"In this connection I recommend release of funds out of my MPLAD Funds

DIAL-EMMA

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

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

CAPD: 18001807011 SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259



HIGHWAY STATUS

Sgrr-Jammu highway - (Open)



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

1502 - Christopher Columbus leaves Spain on his 4th and final trip to the New World

This Day in History

- 1915 German & French fight Battle of Artois
- 1916 British-France Sykes-Picot conference over division of Turkey
- 1922 The International Astronomical Union formally adopt Annie Jump Cannon's stellar classification system, which with only minor changes, is still used today
- 1944 Russians recapture Crimea by taking Sevastopol 1945 - World War II: Partisans liberate Ljubljana.
- 1945 World War II: Hermann Goering is captured by the United States Army 1945 - World War II: The Soviet Union marks Victory Day
- 1945 World War II: The Channel Islands are formally liberated by the British 1955 - German Federal Republic (West Germany)
- joins NATO 1956 -- First ascent of Manaslu, the world's eighth-
- highest mountain. 1956 - War Reparations and Peace Settlement between Philippines and Japan was finally signed at Malacañang Palace under Magsaysay administration 1960 - Nigeria becomes a member of British
- Commonwealth 1960 - US becomes the first country to legalize the birth control pill
- 1965 Luna 5 launched (USSR) 1st attempt to soft land on Moon (fails)
- 1966 China performs nuclear test at Lop Nor, PRC 1974 - US House of Representatives Judiciary Committee begins formal hearings on Nixon impeachment
- 1978 Corpse of kidnapped Italian ex-premier Aldo Moro found
- 1987-183 die aboard a Polish jetliner that crashes in Warsaw 1989 - Journalist petition Chinese government for freedom of press
- 1992 Armenian forces capture Shusha, marking a major turning point in the Karabakh War USA
- 1993 Landslide in Nambija Ecuador, kills 300 1995 - Kinshasa, Zaire under quarantine after an
- outbreak of Ebola virus 1997 - 1st US ambassador since Saigon fell
- arrives in Vietnam 2002 - 38-day stand-off in the Church of the Nativity in
- Bethlehem comes to an end when Palestinians inside agree to have 13 suspected militants among them deported 2002 - In Kaspiysk, Russia, a remote-controlled
- bomb explodes during a holiday parade killing 43 and injuring at least 130
- land mine bomb blast under a VIP stage during a World War II memorial victory parade in Grozny, Chechnya 2005 - Liberal commentary website The Huffington
- Post is launched 2006 - Estonia ratifies the European Constitution.
- 2009 Jacob Zuma is sworn in as President of South Africa 2012 - A Russian passenger jet disappears with 45 people on board
- 2015 A gun fight erupts in Macedonian town of Kumanovo between police and Albanian separatists adding to the government crisis

DC Srinagar Reviews Arrangements For Eid-ul-Fitr

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In view of upcoming festive occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Saturday convened a meeting of officers of various departments to take stock of the supply of ration and other essential commodities to people in the district.

The DC directed the officers of FCS&CA to complete the process of ration distribution for the month of May before Eid and ensure no household is left without ration in Srinagar.

He directed all TSOs to make sure that Covid-19 SOPs and guidelines are followed strictly in letter and spirit at ration stores for safety of all visiting the stores. He asked them to use past practices and devise an effective mechanism to avoid any kind of crowd at ration stores and ensure a hassle free and

crowd-less distribution process. With regard to power and water supply, the DC urged upon sectoral officers of PHE and PDD to ensure uninterrupted supply of water and electricity in all areas of Srinagar particularly on Shab-e-Qadr and Eid days so that people do not face any inconvenience for want of basic amenities.

The DC also enjoined upon officers to intensify market checking in the district to ensure people get quality commodities at Government fixed rates.

He directed the concerned enforcement wing to keep strict check on quality and rates of Meat, Chicken, Fruit, Vegetables, Bakery and other essentials to curb any hoardings and profiteering. He also stressed on strict adherence to Covid-19 Appropriate Behaviour at these shops to avoid spread of Covid-19 infection.

The DC also directed for maintaining cleanliness in market places and other areas in the City.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER ELECTRIC DIVISION-IIIRD, SHEREEN BAGH, SRINAGAR.

Notice Inviting Tender. e-NIT No.:- e-ED-III / 09 of 2021-22 Dated:- 06-05-2021

mitted in the hospital on Saturday the evening.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders, (In Two Cover System) are hereby invited from reputed companies or relevant class registered contractors/suppliers enlisted with CPWD/MES/Railways/OGS&D and Inspection Agency of JKPDD, for Creation of DT Sub Station along-with LT Network, (Key Material provided by departmentally) (SITC basis for allied Material) as details below,:

Name of the work.	Estt. Cost (Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document	EMD (In Rs)	Completion Period	Position of funds
Creation of 100 KVA DT Sub-Station along-with HT and LT Net Work, at Kolipira Khomani Chowk, Bemina Sub Division Watal Kadal. (Key Material provided by Departmentally like Transformer, Pole and Conductor)	3.32	Rs. 500/-	6640/-	15 days	Authorization Available under Capex 2020-21

Bidders are advised to study the Standard Bidding Document (SBD) / Tender Specifications carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be

A	Date & Time of downloading of Standard Bidding Document	The standard Bidding Document can be downloaded over http://jktenders.gov.in from 08-05-2021; 10:00 AM
В	Sale of Bid Document (Start)	08-05-2021; 10:30 AM
С	Sale of Bid Document (End)	28-05-2021; 2:00 PM
D	Clarification start date	08-05-2021; 10:30 AM
E	Clarification End date	17-05-2021; 03:00 PM
F	e-Bid submission (start) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format).	08-05-2021; 10:30 AM
G	e-Bid submission (End) date and time (submission of e-tender fee, EMD and other supporting documents in PDF/XLS format)	28-05-2021; 2:00 PM
Н	Hard copy of tender document Submission end date (along-with Original Copy of e-tender fee, EMD Instruments and other supporting documents)	Required for L1 only & to be submitted on or one day after opening of financial e-bid.
I .	Online commercial and technical e-bid opening date and time	29-05-2021; 02:00PM
J	Online financial e-bid opening date & time (only of the technically qualified bidders)	Will be communicated to the technically qualified bidders
K	Venue of opening of technical & financial e-bids	The office of Executive Engineer ED-III, Sgr.
L	Cost of e-bid document. (Copy of treasury challan/receipt to be up-loaded with e-tender), DD also acceptable, (however Original DD to be submitted on end date of e-Bid submission).	Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five hundred only).
М	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (Copy of CDR/FDR/DD, duly pledged to	

Executive Engineer Electric Division-Illrd, Shereen Bagh Srinagar, JKPDD, should be up-loaded with e-tender)

No.:- ED-III/TS/ DIPK-NB-662/21 **Executive Engineer** Electric Division-III

Srinagar.

From KO Archives

MAJOR AMONG 7

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - An army major and a Congress block president were among, seven persons killed as militants set off three explosions and clashed with security forces at various places, in Jammu and Kashmir. The army major was killed when militants ambushed a search party at Pazipora-Batpora village of Handwara in the border district of Kupwara late last night, an official spokesman said.

He said an unidentified militant, believed to be a foreigner, was also killed in the retaliatory fire. Some arms and ammunition were recovered from him. In a separate incident, militants detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) at Donipora-Sangam, 45 kms from here on Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, this morning killing an army jawan, the spokesman said. Hizb-ul-Mujahideen militant outfit has claimed the responsibility for the blast.

Militants abducted and later hanged to death Congress block president and village head Abdul Rahim Paul in Tangmarg area Of Baramulla district, the spokesman said. Paul, a resident of Kuthama, was abducted by militants from his house last last night and his body was found hanging from an electric pole at Saraipul today, he said

The spokesman said militants kidnapped one Ghulam Mohammad Lone from his house at Basman- Wadwan in Doda district on Wednesday and later killed him.In a separate incident, three security personnel were injured in a landmine explosion triggered by militants at Dachi-Makhvari in Mandi sector of Poonch district last night, the spokesman said. He said militant's also carried a grenade explosion at Nai Basti in Anantnag district when CRPF personnel were patrolling the village, injuring a civilian Shabir Ahmad Bhat.

Securily forces recovered 24 under barrel grenade launcher (UBGL) grenades, ten IED switches and 1740 rounds of all ammunition during search operations at Bindigala and Nanyan in Noushera sector of Rajouri district last night, the spokesman said.

(Kashmir Observer, 09 May, 2005)



HIJRI

-UL-**MUBARAK**

1442

PRAYERS

FAJR 4:01 **ZUHR** 12: 27

ASR 5:19

MAGRIB 7:23 **ISHA**

8:55

Pakistan Imposes Eid Holiday Shutdown As Virus Cases Soar



Agencies

fecting travel and tourist

Already battling a third wave of infections and increasingly nervous about the crisis across the border in India, the government lockdown in April last year.

necessitated by the extremely dangerous situation which has been created in the region with the spread of virulent mutations minister Asad Umar, who has been leading the government response to the outbreak.

of the Muslim holy month of closed, except for trade. Ramadan, usually sees the mass the country and tourist spots crowded with Pakistanis.

the celebrations.

Businesses, hotels and restaurants as well as markets and parks will be closed, while public transport between provinces and within cities has been halted.

Mosques, however, which akistan on Saturday began have been packed each night n nine-day shutdown af- throughout Ramadan -- with few people wearing masks -hotspots in a bid to prevent a will remain open. Authorities surge in Covid-19 cases during fear curbs on places of worthe Muslim holiday of Eid Al Fitr. ship could ignite confrontation in the deeply conservative Islamic republic.

Impoverished Pakistan has recorded more than 850,000 has imposed the most severe infections and 18,600 deaths, restrictions since a one-month but with limited testing and a ramshackle healthcare sector, "These measures have been many fear the true extent of the disease is much worse.

Health officials have warned that hospitals are operating at close to capacity and they have of the virus," tweeted planning rushed to increase the number of intensive care beds.

International flights have been slashed and border cross-Eid, which comes at the end ings with Iran and Afghanistan

Flights and land crossings movement of people around with neighbouring India -- reeling from a devastating outbreak with hundreds of thousands of Last year the country saw a new cases a day -- were closed spike in cases in the weeks after before the pandemic because of political tensions.

Pakistan, which has so far vaccinated only a fraction of its population, received its first batch of 1.2 million AstraZeneca doses Saturday under the delayed Covax The military has been mobil- global vaccine sharing scheme.

Saudi-Pakistan Vow To **Reset Strained Ties**

Agencies

audi Arabia and longstand-ing ally Pakistan signed several agreements yesterday and vowed to reset ties strained by months of disagreement over policy on the Kashmir dispute.

On his seventh visit to the wealthy kingdom since his 2018 election, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan was given a yadh, where it was widely seen warm welcome by Saudi offi- as a warning that Pakistan was cials in the western coastal city preparing to call for a session of Jeddah.

He was greeted by Saudi talks with Saudi officials at Jeddah's Al-Salam Palace.

"They affirmed the depth of relations between the two broththe importance of expanding and cooperation and coordination," a Saudi statement said.

Although the kingdom was the first foreign country Khan visited after taking office, Riyadh appeared frustrated with Íslamabad last year.

eign Minister Shah Mahmood source told AFP in September. Qureshi called on the Saudibased Organisation of Islamic calls to send ground troops to Cooperation (OIC) to convene a support the troubled Saudi-led high-level meeting on Kashmir. military campaign against Ye-



outside OIC auspices.

Saudi Arabia prides itself on its Arabia's de-facto ruler Crown role as guardian of Islam's holi-Prince Mohammed bin Salman est sites and is particularly sensiat the airport, before holding tive about any move that might undermine its leadership of the 57-member pan-Islamic body.

And while the wealthy nation has supported Pakistan erly countries and underscored with billions of dollars in aid and loans in recent years, obintensifying aspects of bilateral servers say the kingdom is also keen not to upset India, a key business partner and importer of Saudi oil.

The kingdom recalled \$1 billion of a \$3 billion loan to cash-strapped Pakistan, and an expired multi-billion-dollar oil In a sharply worded state- credit facility to Islamabad has ment in August, Pakistani For- not been renewed, a diplomatic

Prior to that, Pakistan rebuffed The call raised eyebrows in Ri- men's Houthi rebels.



Bomb Targeting Afghan School In Kabul Kills At Least 25, Injures Dozens

school in a majority Shiite district of west Kabul on Saturday, killing at least 25 people, many them young students, Afghan government spokesmen said. The Taliban condemned the attack apparently aimed at civilians, and denied any responsibility.

Ambulances were rushing to evacuate wounded from the scene of the blast near Syed Al-Shahda school, in the Shiite majority neighborhood of Dasht-e-Barchi, Interior Ministry spokesman Tariq Arian said.

While no one has claimed responsibility for the bombing, previous, often brutal attacks in this neighborhood have been claimed by the Afghan Islamic State affiliate.

The radical Sunni Muslim group has declared war on Afghanistan's minority Shiite Muslims. Washington blamed

in a maternity hospital in the bomb exploded near a same area that killed pregnant women and newborn babies.

In Dasht-e-Barchi, angry crowds attacked the ambulances and even beat health workers, said Health Ministry spokesman Ghulam Dastigar Nazari. He implored residents to cooperate and allow ambulances free access to the site.

Images circulating on social media purportedly showed smoke rising above the neighborhood.

At one nearby hospital, Associated Press journalists saw at least 20 dead bodies lined up in hallways and rooms, with dozens of wounded people and families of victims pressing through the facility.

Outside the Muhammad Ali Jinnah Hospital, dozens of people lined up to donate blood, while family members checked casualty posted lists on the walls.

also wounded, and that the casualty toll could rise. The attack occurred just as the fasting day came to an end.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, and Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told reporters in a message that only the Islamic State group could be responsible for such a heinous crime. Mujahid also accused Afghanistan's intelligence agency of being complicit with IS, although he offered no evidence.

The Taliban and the Afghan government have traded accusations over a series of targeted killings of civil society workers, journalists and Afghan professionals. While IS has taken responsibility for some of those killings, many have gone unclaimed.

IS has previously claimed attacks against minority Shiites in the same area, last year claiming two brutal attacks on education facilities that killed 50 people, Both Arian and Nazari said most of them students.

Muslim Countries Condemn Violent Israeli Raid On Al-Aqsa Mosque

Agencies

everal Muslim countries have denounced a violent Israeli assault on Palestinian worshipers in the al-Agsa Mosque compound in the Old City of Jerusalem al-Quds.

More than 200 Palestinians were injured as Israeli forces fired rubber bullets, tear gas and stun grenades at hundreds of Palestinians attending night prayers at the compound.

The clashes took place on the last Friday of the holy Mus-

The Palestine Red Crescent ambulance service said 88 of those wounded were taken to hospital, adding, one of them lost an eye, two suffered serious head wounds and two had their jaws fractured.

also arrested by the occupation forces, according to Wafa news agency.

In a televised statement, Palestinian President Mahmoud occupying regime. Abbas held the Tel Aviv regime



gerous developments and sinful attacks that are taking place the International Quds Day, in the Holy City, and for the consequences thereof," urging lim fasting month of Ramadan. the United Nations Security Council to hold an urgent session on the issue.

Tensions have increased in the occupied West Bank during Ramadan, with nightly clashes in East Jerusalem al-Quds' Sheikh Jarrah, which sits near Dozens of worshipers were the Old City's Damascus gate.

Numerous families face eviction in the Palestinian neighborhood due to illegal settlement expansion policies of the

fully responsible for the "dan- out near Sheikh Jarrah as Is- duty against the war crime."

raeli forces used water cannon mounted on armored vehicles to disperse protesters.

Iran 'strongly condemns' Israeli raid

Iran's Foreign spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said the Islamic Republic 'strongly condemns" the Israeli raid on the al-Aqsa Mosque, the first Qiblah of Muslims (a place toward which Muslims pray), on the Quds Day.

"This war crime once again proved to the world the criminal nature of the illegitimate Zionist regime and the need for urgent international action to stop the violation of the most fundamental principles of international humanitarian law," he added.

"In addition to condemning this definite crime against humanity and offering condolences to the families of the martyrs of this incident and wishing a speedy recovery for the wounded, the Islamic Republic of Iran calls on the UN and other relevant international organiza-On Friday, scuffles broke tions to fulfill their decisive

WHO Approves China's Sinopharm COVID-19 Vaccine For Emergency Use



n a big relief for China, the WHO on Friday finally granted the conditional approval to its Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use, a move the WHO press release said. that could help Beijing step up its vaccine diplomacy amid the surge in coronavirus vaccines in several countries.

China has approved about five of its vaccines for emergency use and especially using Sinopharm and Sinovac vaccines for both at home and abroad.

The Sinopharm vaccine was authorised by 45 countries and jurisdictions for use in adults, with 65 million doses administered, according to official media reports. But many countries hesitated using the vaccine as it has not secured recognition from the World Health Organisation.

While WHO has listed the Pfizer/BioNTech, Astrazeneca-SK Bio, Serum Institute of India, Ianssen vaccines for emergency use, the Chinese vaccine got delayed recognition due to data related issues.

China was eagerly awaiting the global health body's nod for it to aggressively push the vaccine among different countries.

A press release issued by WHO in Geneva on Friday listed the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use, a first for the vaccine because prelimifor a Chinese vaccine, giving the nary data and supportive immugreen light for this vaccine to be rolled out globally.

The Sinopharm vaccine is produced by Beijing Bio-Institute of Biological Products Co Ltd, subsidiary of China National Biotec Group (CNBG). different safety profile in older

tivated vaccine called SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero Cell). Its easy storage requirements make it highly suitable for low-resource settings,

It is also the first vaccine that will carry a vaccine vial monitor, a small sticker on the vaccine vials that change colour as the vaccine is exposed to heat, letting health workers know whether the vaccine can be safely used, it said. Sinopharm vaccine efficacy for symptomatic and hospitalised disease was estimated to be 79 per cent, all age groups combined, the WHO said. The efficacy is, however, below the efficacy rates of other WHO vaccines which are in the range of 90 per cent. However, the WHO has okayed Sinopharm usage from 18 years and above, clarifying lingering doubts about its usage for people above 59 years. China itself listed the vaccine for people in the age group of 18 to 59 years which raised doubts about its efficacy in the senior citizens population.

Clarifying this issue, WHO said, Few older adults (over 60 years) were enrolled in clinical trials, so efficacy could not be estimated in this age group. Nevertheless, WHO is not recommending an upper age limit nogenicity data suggest the vaccine is likely to have a protective effect in older persons.

There is no theoretical reason to believe that the vaccine has a The two jab vaccine is an inac- and younger populations," it said.

Iraq: Fresh Drone Attack Targets Military Base Housing US Soldiers



'S military on Saturday said that a new drone attack targetted American forces in Iraq. The military said that the drone was packed with explosives and hit an Iraqi base that housed US troops early on Saturday. There have been no casualties.

The attack on the Ain Al-Asad air base was the fourth in Iraq in less than week.

"Each attack... undermines the authority of Iraqi institutions, the rule of law and Iraqi national sovereignty," said USled coalition spokesman Colonel Wayne Marotto.

was damaged," he said in a tweet. It was only the second time a drone had been used in an attack on a target inside Iraq.

In April, a drone packed with explosives hit the coalition's Iraq headquarters in the military part of the airport in the Kurdish regional capital Arbil. The attack sent shock waves

a headache for the coalition, as drones can evade the C-RAM air defences it has installed to protect its bases. But an Iraqi government offi-

around Iraq -- the tactic poses

cial told AFP that the Arbil strike was not the first use of a drone against a target inside Iraq. "Drones were used by pro-

Iran groups more than once before the attack in Arbil," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. In the meantime, there has been

no let-up in rocket and other attacks carried out by the coalition's foes over the past 18 months. "No injuries reported. A hangar (With inputs from agencies)

NEWS MAKERS

Perseverance Rover Captures Sound Of Ingenuity Flying On Mars

▼ASA's Perseverance rover was parked 262 feet (80 meters) away has for the first time cap-tured the low-pitched whir-The Martian atmosphere ring of the Ingenuity helicopter's about one percent the density of blades as it flies through the rar- our planet's, making everything efied Martian atmosphere.

The space agency on Friday released new footage shot by the said David Mimoun, a professor companion making its fourth flight on April 30 -- this time accompanied by an audio track.

The nearly three-minute-long video begins with the low rumble Crater, where Perseverance landed in February on a mission to search for signs of ancient microbes.

Ingenuity takes off, and its blades propagation strongly," he added. can be heard humming softly as 872-foot (262-meter) roundtrip.

sure they would pick up the flight sound at all, given that Perseverance their chemical composition.

The Martian atmosphere is much quieter than on Earth.

"This is a very good surprise," six-wheeled robot of its rotorcraft of planetary science at Institut Superieur de l'Aeronautique et de l'Espace (ISAE-SUPAERO) in Toulouse, France, and science lead for the SuperCam Mars microphone.

"We had carried out tests and of wind blowing across the Jezero simulations that told us the microphone would barely pick up the sounds of the helicopter, as the Mars atmosphere damps the sound

The SuperCam is an instrument they spin at nearly 2,400 rpm on the on board Perseverance that laserzaps rocks from a distance, in order The mission's engineers weren't to study their vapor with a device called a spectrometer that reveals



It also comes with a microphone to record the sounds, which yields additional insights into the physical properties of the targets, like how hard they are.

Similarly, explained Mimoun, the new recording of Ingenuity's flight will be a gold mine for our understanding of the Martian atmosphere."

Apart from having a lower volume, sounds emitted on Mars travel slower than they do on Earth, because of cold temperatures, which average -81 degrees Fahrenheit (-63 our understanding of the Red Planet.

The speed of sound on the planet is therefore around 540 mph (roughly 240 meters per second), compared to about 760 mph (roughly 340 meters per second) here.

The atmosphere of Mars, made up of 96 percent carbon dioxide, tends to absorb higher-pitched sounds, so only lower-pitched sounds can travel long distances.

NASA enhanced the audio, which was recorded in mono, by isolating the pitch of the helicopter blades at 84 hertz, and reducing audio at frequencies below 80 and above 90 hertz. They then increased the volume of the remaining signal.

Soren Madsen, Perseverance payload development manager at NA-SA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, said the recording was an example of how the mission's instruments are able to work in tandem to enhance

Nepali Climber Climbs Mount Everest For Record 25Th Time tor of Nepal. Without us, foreigners

KATHMANDU: Nepali climber Kami Rita Sherpa on Friday reached the summit of Mount Everest for the 25th time, breaking his own record for the most summits of the highest mountain in the world.

Sherpa was part of a 12-member team fixing the ropes to the summit, the first of hundreds of climbers expected to reach the top of Everest in coming weeks. "Kami Rita has made a new re-

gma Sherpa of Seven Summit Treks, an expedition organiser, told AFP. A guide for more than two decades, Sherpa first summited the 8,848-metre (29,029-foot) peak in

1994 when working for a commercial expedition. Since then, he has climbed Ever-

est almost every year.



My aim was to celebrate my silver jubilee by climbing 25 times in 2020 at the age of 50, but Covid didn't let that happen. So this year I will make my cord with his 25th summit," Mindream come true," Sherpa told AFP at the base camp before heading up.

The accomplished climber has also conquered other challenging 8,000-metre peaks including the world's second-highest mountain, K2 in Pakistan.

"I climb for my nation. Guides like us are necessary for the tourism sec-



twice, breaking and making records each time. But this time Sherpa climbed a slightly higher Everest after Nepal and China revised its height to 8,848.86 metres (29,031 feet) last

wouldn't come," he said.

year-- 86 centimetres (2.8 feet) higher than the measurement previously recognised by Nepal. Sherpa plans for a double summit this year too, and will guide up

In 2019, he ascended Everest

a royal Bahrain team to the summit. Nepal's tourism industry suffered a devastating blow last year when the pandemic prompted a complete shutdown of its summits, costing

This season it has issued a record 408 permits costing \$11,000 each.

millions in lost revenue.

CT Scan Effective Tool To Detect Covid Cases And Determine Its Severity: DAK

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Saturday said chest CT scan is an effective tool to detect and determine the severity of Covid-19 cases. CT scan helps in diagnosing and predicting the outcome of Covid-19 patients, said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan in a statement on Saturday.

Dr Hassan said, "We see many patients who test negative on RT-PCR test, but show CT features consistent with Covid-19 disease.

Many infected patients go unreported as only RT-PCR positive cases are reported. We have a large number of patients who test positive through CT, but are not reported," he said.

Dr Hassan said RT-PCR, which uses swab for the detection of Covid-19 infection has a sensitivity of 60%-70%. That means more than 30% of positive cases may be missed by the test.

now widely used is rapid antigen test. It has a sensitivity of around 50 percent, which raises the possibility of missing more than half of the positive cases," he said.

"Low sensitivity of swab tests implies that many patients with and help reduce the risk of Covid-19 infection may not be death in Covid patients and save identified and consequently are lives," he said.



not isolated from healthy population. And these individuals will continue to spread the disease in the community," he added.

"Studies have shown that CT has a greater sensitivity ranging from 86% and 98% for detecting positive cases, while having a lower false negative rate than the lab tests," Dr Nisar said

"In a study of 1,014 patients published in the Journal Radiology, researchers in china found that 88% of the patients showed chest CT findings indicative of Covid-19, while RT-PCR test detected only 59 percent of cases. Among those with negative swab "Another swab test which is test results, 75 percent had positive chest CT findings," he said.

The DAK President said not only is CT useful in identifying Covid cases, it also tells us about the severity of the disease.

"That would guide treatment

Minor Dead, Three Persons Injured In Poonch Road Accident



Observer News Service

POONCH: A 4-year-old boy died and three persons were injured on Saturday when a vehicle they were travelling in skidded off the road and rolled down 100 metres into a gorge along Rajpura Balnai road in Mandi area of Poonch.

A senior traffic police official said that a Xylo (JKO2AK-6609) fell into the gorge, apparently under relevant has after the driver lost control of tered in this regard.

the vehicle at Rajpura link road. He said that four persons onboard the vehicle including a minor were injured and shifted to Sub District hospital Mandi.

However, the minor Abdul Rayees (4) son of Shah Mohammad was declared brought dead while others, Ghulam Qader (35) son Abdul Ahad, Imtiaz Ahmed (20) son of Mohammad Abdullah and Sulaman (10) son of Ghulam Qader, all residents of Azamabad Mohalla Irinar, were referred to District hospital Poonch

SHO Mandi Bashir Kohli confirmed the accident and said that the body of the minor was handed over to the family for last rites

Meanwhile he said that a case under relevant has been regis-

C#VID-19

Health Condition Of Covid Patients In Home Isolation Should Be **Monitored Regularly: Dr Muzaffar**

SRINAGAR: As higher number of covid positive persons are in home isolation and care, their health condition should be moniregularly and only vaccinated and healthy persons should attend to them following proper covid protocol like wearing of masks preferably N95 and using hand sanitizers etc said Dr Muzaffar Maqbool, Associate Pro-

fessor, Medicine, Government

Medical College, Srinagar.

"More than 80 percent covid positive patients who are either asymptomatic or with mild symptoms are being treated at home. However, it is imperative to keep watch on SPO2 level which should not fall below 93 percent", he added. In case, a patient feels difficulty in breathing or there is increase in fever, then patients should be taken to a nearby health institute or triage centre for screening and required treatment. 'The decrease in oxygen saturation, pain in chest and increase in fever demonstrate that it is the time for hospitalization of a patient', Dr Muzaffar Maqbool said while elaborating the concept of home care. Hospitalization of such patients at the right time will ensure recovery of the patient and delay in such situations may worsen the condition of the patient. At the same time, he said there is no need to panic but seeking timely medical consultation would help in treatment of patients.

Meanwhile, he advised people that they should not take steroids on their own and persons with mild symptoms do not need to undergo CT scan. They should take healthy and nutritious diet besides keep themselves hydrated and take proper rest.

Patients in home isolation should be kept in a room with attached washroom facility so that there would be less contact with other family members. Only the vaccinated or young and healthy person should assume the role of

Second Wave Impacting **Children Significantly: Experts**

Observer News Service of children have also increased.

SRINAGAR: Relatively unaf- age of children in positive fected during the first wave cases was 4.2 which is now of Covid-19 last year, a high 5.8 percent," Shifa said. number of children are contracting the novel coronavirus in the second wave.

years and also between 1-8 years are being reported in the fresh surge —though most

are mildly symptomatic. Dr Suhail Ahmad Naik, Presonly few cases, mostly asymptomatic, reported in first wave, however, the second wave of Covid-19 has come with different aggression, high rate of transmission, changed spectrum of illness and is impacting kids significantly.

Naik said that as schools are infection from adults who go outside home and don't follow Covid appropriate behaviour.

"In second wave we have witnessed cases of bilateral pneumonia and multi-system children (MIS-C) which were not in the first wave," he said.

Naik said that there is no vaccine and drugs for children as of now so extra care must be taken.

Pediatrician Dr Showkat Shifa Assistant Professor at GMC Anantnag said as cases which can later prove fatal for increased in general the cases adults," Shifa said—(KNO)

"In first wave the percent-

However, Shifa said that there is no need to panic as 99 percent of positive chil-A large number of Covid-19 dren will recover at home cases in ages more than 10 and hardly one percent may need hospitalisation.

"Proper nutritions is essential for all. A positive mother can feed her baby while following precautions," he said. ident of Doctors Association Shifa said in case a parent is test-Kashmir (DAK) said there were ed positive, it is the "most dangerous" thing to send the children to live with someone else. "Keep in mind your child

would already be harbouring the virus even though they have no symptoms, they can innocently pass on the infection to the elders where you have sent them. Hence it would closed, the kids usually contract be wiser to keep them in your home along with you quarantined for 14 days," he said.

He said that in case a child tests positive for Covid-19, there is no need to rush them to the hospital and have inflammatory syndrome in them admitted. They can be monitored at home.

"Children are potential sources of virus and adults especially elderly people with ailments must handle children meticulously while following precautions as they can contract virus from children unknowingly

a caregiver and attendant. Those patients who are

asymptomatic or have mild symptoms and are under home care can end isolation after 10 days only if health condition improves and no severe symptoms develop. However, if the condition deteriorates within five days after a covid positive person is put under home care, the patient needs to be immediately admitted in a hospital for treatment.

Dr Muzaffar Maqbool stat-

ed that utensils of the infected should be kept separate, the masks and other items used by them should be disposed properly and should not be thrown in open places. The room has to be sanitized and cleaned later to contain further spread of virus.

During the home isolation period, he said, a person need not panic or get stressed but it is better if they engage themselves in reading books, meditation and other exercises, he concluded.

Additional Triage Centre For Covid-19 Patients Setup In Gandhinagar Hospital

Observer News Service

JAMMU: An additional Triage centre for Covid patients has Gandhinagar Hospital for regulating the admission of Covid patients in Jammu district.

The first Covid-19 Triage facility has been established in Chest Diseases Hospital, Jammu as first contact point for screening of any Covid +ve patient intending to get admitted in the designated Covid Hospitals in Jammu district.

'Now, in view of the recent surge in Covid-19 +ve cases and to ensure facilitation of such patients; additional Triage Centre is hereby ordered to be established at Govt. Hospital, Gandhinagar (Old Block), Jammu wherein Covid-19 patients shall be assessed by the designated teams of Health professionals," an order issued by Divisional Commissioner Dr Raghav Langer stated.

Accordingly, two Triage Centers at Chest Diseases Hospital and Government Hospital, Gandhinagar (Old Block), Jammu shall form the first Nodal point for the Covid-19 patients intending to get admission in the dedicated Covid Hospitals viz. Government Medical College Hospital, Jammu (Level-1, Tertiary Care Hospital); Chest Diseases Hospital, Jammu; Super Specialty Hospital, Jammu; MCH, Gandhinagar, Jammu; Psychiatry Hospital, Jammu; Government Hospital Gandhinagar (Old Block), Jammu ferral to the Tertiary Care Hospitals.

(under Directorate of Health Services, Jammu); Rajiv Gandhi Hospital, Gangyal (under Directorate of Health Services, Jammu); Subbeen set up in Government District Hospital, Kot Bhalwal (under Directorate of Health Services, Jammu) and Sub District Hospital, Bishnah (under Directorate of Health Services, Jammu).

As per the order, additional Triage facility established at Government Hospital Gandhinagar (Old Block), Jammu shall work under the Supervision of Medical Superintendent of Government Hospital Gandhinagar (Old Block), Jammu.

A team of Health Professionals shall also be nominated by the Principal, Government Medical College, Jammu at the said Triage facility to provide necessary coordination in the triaging and rationalization of admission of Covid +ve in Govt. Medical College Associated Hospitals/Dedicated Covid Hospitals under Directorate of Health Services, Jammu.

Medical Superintendent, Government Hospital Gandhinagar (Old Block), Jammu shall dedicate a land line as well as mobile number for facilitation of Covid-19 patients which shall be given wide publicity.

All the Chief Medical Officers of other nine Districts shall also establish a similar mechanism of Triage facility at their respective GMCs/District Hospitals and also make sure that there was no unnecessary re-

Police Arrest 106, Register 58 FIRs **Against Covid-19 SOP Violators**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir police on Friday said dur- guidelines envisaged by governing last 24 hours, it arrested 106 persons, lodged 58 FIRs and also realised fine to the tune of

lines throughout Kashmir valley. spread of Coronavirus by follow-

continued throughout all the districts of Kashmir Valley to ensure that people adhere to SOPs/ ment to curb COVID-19 pandemic, a police spokesperson said.

He said that community mem-91,150/- from 602 people for bers are requested to cooperate violating the covid-19 guide- with the Police in containing the The drive against the viola- ing the SOPs/ guidelines/ prototors of Covid-19 guidelines/rules cols for the safety of the people.

Two Arrested For Burglary In Baramulla Mosque

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday arrested statement reads.' two persons on allegations of being involved in a burglary case of were brought to the Police Station a local mosque in Utikoo village of for identification and finally one Kunzer area in Baramulla district. person namely Abdul Majid Lone

that it received a written complaint from the Management marg was arrested who, as per the Committee of Masjid Sharif Utikoo Kunzer about the alleged theft of money from the donation box of the mosque.

In this regard a case under relevant law was registered and investigation was initiated. accordingly booked under law.'

"CCTV footage was obtained and accordingly shared on media for identification of the persons, the

He said that many suspects A police spokesperson said son of Ghulam Ahmad Lone resident of Cheatham Chanpora Tangstatement, 'confessed his involvement in the burglary and also disclosed the name of another accomplice namely Imran Hussain Mir son of Manzoor Ahmad Mir resident of Mirgund who also was

Doctors Treating Covid Patients Seek Hostel Accommodation

SRINAGAR: With the resurgence the Covid patients across differ- otherwise, infect their families. ent hospitals in the valley have sought to remain in hostels after service hours in fear of infecting their families.

Observer News Service patients in hospitals have tested Co- am still vulnerable to the virus" on the forefront in dealing with the risk of contracting the vid positive. The doctors associated with the different hospitals in the in the Covid-19 positive cases in valley have sought immediate hostel the valley, doctors dealing with accommodation, fearing they will,

A doctor wishing anonymity said. "I am doing my duties in a Covid hospital, and after finishing my shift I have to go home, for which I am

provide a separate facility for the who are involved in treatment of Covid patients. At least our families to get infected. won't get infected by us, in case we are getting infected," he said.

Dr.Nisar-Ul-Hassan President

"At least the government should Covid-19 positive patients are al- all should be given separate accomways at high risk of getting infected modation, so that their families will doctors, paramedics and nurses with the virus, and going to their not come in direct contact with homes makes their families prone them," he said.

rectly with Covid-19 patients, there medic and all the staff dealing are paramedics, nursing staff and with the Covid patients, so that Doctors Association of Kashmir people associated with the hygiene there is always a pool of doctors Many doctors treating the Covid never ready. Despite the PPE kit on, I said, the doctors who are working of Covid wards, who are also at high available in the back up.

He demanded rationalisation

"It is not only doctors dealing di- in the duties of the doctors, para-

In 6 Years Over 2000 People Killed In Road **Accidents In Jammu Division**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a span of six years, more than 2,000 people have lost their lives in different road accidents of Jammu division.

According to the city traffic police, Jammu nearly 2178 people have lost their lives in Jammu city from March 2015 to March 2021.

The officer in a reply to Right to Inactivist M M Shuja said that the traffic the regulation of the traffic." police city, Jammu has recovered more

than four Crore rupees from the court grammes have been organised in dif-Challans and nearly Rs 24 Crore via compound Challans during this period.

"Rs 4,57,48,671 court Challans and Rs 23,59,83,924 compound Challans have to create a sense of awareness among been recovered from violators as fine in the jurisdiction of traffic department Jammu city from March 2015 to March 2021," it reads.

The Public Information Officer (PIO) said, "There are 321 traffic police performation (RTI) application filed by the sonnel are deployed in Jammu city for

"At least 203 traffic awareness pro-

ferent schools, colleges and other educational institutes in Jammu city by this unit during the year 2015 to March-2021 the people," reads the RTI reply.

Stating the annual budgetary allocations, the PIO in a reply has said that in the year 2017-18, a total of Rs. 1, 30,000 budgets was allotted for organising the traffic awareness programs in the Jammu city, followed by the year 2018-19 with Rs. 50,000. In the year 2019-20 and 2020-21. Rs. 1, 00,000 was also allotted respectively.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Department of Health And Medical Education Office of the Principal Government Medical College Baramulla

Kanth Bagh, Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir - 193101 E-Mail:principalmedicalcollegebla@gmail.com Contact no; 01952238140 || 01952238139

Advertisement Notice No. 06 of 2021

Dated: 06-05-2021

Subject: - Advertisement for contractual appointment of Medical officers in GMC Baramulla.

SHS/NHM/J&K/1594-1624 dated 05-05-2021. Applications, on the plain paper are invited from (Non PSC/ retired) candidates, for walk-in interviews for the contractual posts of Medical Officers for COVID-19 under Emergency Response and Health System Preparedness package initially for a period of three months, extendable up to six months.

Name of the post Minimum Qualification No. of Posts Selection Criteria **Medical Officers** MBBS Walk-in Interview. Interested candidates are advised to come for walk-in Interview on 11th May 2021 from 11AM in the office of Principal GMC Baramulla.

Candidates are advised to bring two passport size photographs and the following documents in Original along with one Photocopy set for verification by the selection

MBBS/ Higher Qualification certificates from a MCI recognized Institution. Internship completion certificate.

Permanent Registration Certificate from State Medical Council/ MCI. Attempt certificate of all professional examinations. Marks Cards of all Professional Examinations Character Certificate from institution last attended Domicile Certificate.

Experience certificate if any issued by the Principal or equivalent recognized authority.

The selected candidates shall be paid monthly remuneration of 34,200/- per month inclusive of all allowances and benefits The selected candidates have to join within 5 days' time failing which they shall forfeit their claim and the contractual engagement shall stand cancelled without any further notice. The posts are on contractual basis and temporary; do not confer any right for the selected candidates to permanent absorption in the department.

In case of unsatisfactory performance the contractual engagement can be terminated at any time. The engages shall not be entitled to private practice or undertake simultaneous part time / full time job anywhere else. He / She shall work on Full time basis. The selected candidates shall have to execute an agreement that he/she shall not leave the department before completion of his/her sanctioned tenure fail-

He/She will not participate in any kind of strike during the period of his/her tenure engagement, in the event he/she proceeds on strike, his/her Contractual shall be terminated without any notice as this service is covered under the ESMA Act. Candidates with higher qualification shall be preferred.

The Competent Authority reserves the right of any amendment, cancellation and changes to this advertisement as a whole or in part without assigning any reason or giving notice Further information if any shall be displayed on College website www.gmcbaramulla.com

DIPK-1428/21

Dr. (Prof.) Ruby Reshi Principal Govt, Medical College Baramulla

J&K Bank Offers 250 Oxygen Concentrators To J&K Admin

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Bank Saturday offered to donate 250 Oxygen Concentrators to the government of J&K UT for use during the ongoing

Covid-19 crisis. "J&K Bank is conscious of the current situation and the difficulties faced by the people it is so emotionally connected with. These are calamitous times and we are duty bound do our bit to help our people. In addition to offering a donation of 250 oxygen concentrators to the J&K UT government we shall be tial items meant to give some relief to Covid 19 patients and their attendants," said J&K Bank CMD R K Chhibber.

Highlighting the role of J&K Bank em-Covid cause, the CMD recalled that dur-

staff had pooled an amount of Rs 5.0 Cr that was donated to the J&K Relief Fund through Lieutenant Governor J&K UT.

The CMD appealed to the people to exhibit prescribed SOPs while visiting the Bank's business units and preferably switch over to digital modes of banking using JK Bank mPay and ebanking facilities to avoid moving out of their homes unnecessarily.

Earlier the CMD held a virtual meeting with the Zonal Heads of J&K UT and the Quick Response Team constituted for the purpose, instructing them ensure business continuity and support providing food, water and other essento all walks of life and to conduct relief distribution activities at appropriate places in their jurisdiction, especially around major health care centers.

Meanwhile J&K Bank today distributployees in coming forward towards the ed face masks, sanitizers, food packets water bottles and other essential items

besides three premier hospitals of UT, J&K Government Medical Colleges Jammu & Srinagar and SKIMS Srinagar.

major hospitals of UT of J&K.

These relief distribution activities at SKIMS and GMC Srinagar today.

The distribution activities will continue at GMC Jammu and Srinagar in days to come. The relief distribution at other Zones of the UT shall be undertaken in the next few days.

ing the first wave of Covid, the J&K Bank amongst the people at various places

With Covid-19 Pandemic in the middle of its second wave, J&K Bank will be carrying out such exercises across all

are being undertaken under the direct supervision of Zonal Heads. Starting yesterday, Zonal Head Jammu Central 1 Shareesh Sharma lead the team at GMC Jammu while as Zonal Head Kashmir Central 1 Syed Shafat Husain Rufai was present at the relief distribution venues

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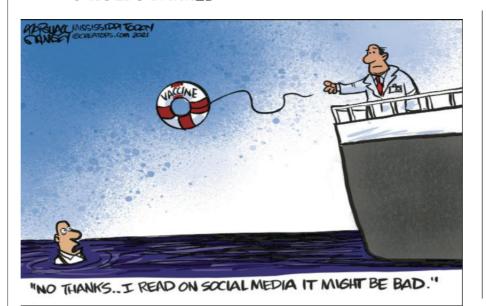
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NO **HOLDS** BARRED



The Human Rights
Watch report is a
valuable, sober, and
deliberately uninflammatory
piece of scholarship—which
won't make a damn bit of
difference for Palestine

United we Live, Divided we Die

R. RAJ RAO

History shows
us that, at least as
far as India is
concerned, the second
last year of the second
term of an ruler turns
out to be the worst,
when power goes to the
ruler's head. In Indira
Gandhi's case, that year
was 1975, when she
declared the
Emergency. It might be
2023 for the current
ruling dispensation.

olitical leaders who have shown merit must ensure that petty differences do not crop up between them, which will destroy all possibilities of a defiant coalition. At the present time, Mamata Banerjee is certainly one such leader. Arvind Kejriwal in Delhi, and even Uddhav Thackeray in Maharashtra, who has been able to walk the tight rope and form the Maha Vikas Aghadi with the Congress whose ideology is at loggerheads with the Shiv Sena's, are other such leaders.

The Congress and the Left must not join hands with the BJP in alleging that it is the Trinamool Congress that is responsible for the violence that broke out in West Bengal in the aftermath of last Sunday's election results. They must pay heed to Mamata Banerjee who points out that the violence was restricted to areas where BJP candidates won. They must wait for the matter to be judiciously investigated by an independent inquiry commission.

History shows us that, at least as far as India is concerned, the second last year of the second term of an ruler turns out to be the worst, when power goes to the ruler's head. In Indira Gandhi's case, that year was 1975, when she declared the Emergency. It might be 2023 for the current ruling dispensation.

One does not know if Covid will exit from India by 2023. However, the reconstructed Ram Temple on the site of the demolished Babri Masjid will be ready in 2023. This will be monumental enough to let the public, whose memory is anyway short, forget all sins of omission and commission by the government at center and give them a majority in the Lok Sabha once again. It is only a determined coalition that can prevent such an occurrence.

Indira Gandhi's high-handedness was restricted to the two Emergency years from 1975 to 1977, when the Fundamental Rights of citizens guaranteed by the Constitution were suspended. Today, the high-handedness of our leader, on the other hand, is far more insidious. It has already extended over a seven-year period, and has taken the form of an undeclared Emergency. There was demonetisation, the beef lynching of Muslims, the CAA and NRC bills, the new farm laws, and numerous arrests of students, artists and activists on fabricated sedition charges, chucking constitutional provisions like habeas corpus into the rubbish bin.

And now, their handling of the Covid pandemic is the icing on

Last year it was the sudden lockdown at four-hour's notice, bringing all transport to a halt. This led to India's labour force, whom Mother Teresa would have called the poorest of the poor, walking home for thousands of miles in the scorching summer heat, many of them dying on the way. This year, it is haunting images of a line up of dead bodies on India's streets, shown more in the foreign me-



dia than our own.

This, I would say, is attributable, symbolically, to just one or two things. It is attributable to the Prime Minister's speech at an election rally in West Bengal in February, where he said in Hindi: Wherever I look, I can only see people, and nothing but people. Obviously, this implied that there was no social distancing at all between the thousands who had gathered to listen to him, cheek by jowl. But instead of this filling Modi with a sense of dread, he took it as an indication of his popularity. And symbolically, it may also be said to be attributable to the shahi snans at the Kumbh Mela in Haridwar, which was permitted only because it happened to be an upper caste Hindu religious festival.

In hindsight, PM could have used the time he spent in West Bengal seeing nothing but people, which turned out to be counterproductive anyway, attending to vaccines, drugs, oxygen supplies, ICU beds and ventilators. That might have ensured that many of his voters' loved ones were still in their midst today.

In 1977, it was easy for Morarji Desai and the Janata Party to put an end to Indira Gandhi's Emergency by voting her out of power. In 2024, it will be harder for coalition parties to do the same, unless they stand united from this very moment. That is

why the Congress and the Left should not be in a hurry to accuse Mamata Banerjee of fomenting violence in West Bengal. They should give her a patient hearing. Who knows, in 2024, Mamata Banerjee might prove to be the Morarji Desai of 1977.

Of course, by 1980, Indira Gandhi came back to power with a vengeance. And her sense of infallibility sunk so deep that it resulted in Operation Bluestar in 1984. Everyone knows the course of events that followed Operation Bluestar.

If we do not strengthen our coalition parties today, we might not find our way out of this regime's excesses of power. We might see the same patterns and events repeating.

History, after all, has a way of repeating itself.

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

Dr. R. Raj Rao is an internationally known Indian English novelist, poet and critic. He was Professor and Head of the Department of English at the University of Pune in Maharashtra. He has also been a Visiting Professor at universities in Canada and Germany

he recent Human Rights Watch report "A Threshold Crossed: Israeli Authorities and the Crimes of Apartheid and Persecution" is a valuable piece of scholarship: 213 pages of carefully worded, heavily footnoted evidence martialed in sober, and deliberately uninflammatory, prose. Unfortunately, it won't make a damn bit of difference.

The "apartheid" debate in—and about—Israel has been simmering for decades. Though anti-Zionists have long insisted on the term's accuracy, it has slowly gained credence inside Israel as well and has been deployed by an Israeli attorney general, a deputy mayor of Jerusalem, and two former Israeli prime ministers, among others—but almost always as a warning about the consequences of the occupation rather than as a description of current reality. The last time the term caused a stir in the United States was in 2006, when former president Jimmy Carter published a book titled Palestine Peace, Not Apartheid. Following angry attacks by Israel's partisans in the media, Carter retracted his usage of the term and issued an "Al Het," which is a prayer Jews usually say on Yom Kippur, to atone for their sins and ask God for forgiveness. He added, "We must not permit criticisms for improvement to stigmatize Israel.

Well, Israel has not improved in this regard. It has gotten worse. Without formally annexing the West Bank, successive Israeli governments have been purposely erasing the pre-1948 border and the occupied West Bank. At the same time, its governments passed a succession of laws designed to let the 24 percent of the population that do not identify as Jewish know that they are second-class citizens. Extremists arguing for Arab expulsion have been gaining in popularity and recently earned sufficient support to be elected to parliament, with the implicit support of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The HRW report follows on a lengthy legal brief issued in July 2020 by the Israeli human rights organization Yesh Din that concluded that Israeli authorities were committing "the crime against humanity of apartheid" in the West Bank. This past

The Occupiers

Eric Alterman

January, B'Tselem, Israel's largest human rights organization, expanded this argument by applying the term to what it called Israel's "regime of Jewish supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea." These reports received little attention in the mainstream media and even less in Congress. They were also successfully ignored by those Jewish publications that identify with the "pro-Israel" position and almost all Jewish professional organizations.

Immediate reactions to the HRW report, however, flew fast and furious; almost all appeared to have been written as if on preprogrammed computer keyboards. The Israeli Foreign Ministry called Kaleem Hawa arguing that it "lends strength to the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement." Hawa invoked the example of the "the global effort to support the South African people in their fight to end apartheid: a campaign of moral, political, and economic boycott." Like all such invocations, however, this is an example of the triumph of hope over experience. Leaving aside the myriad differences between the Israeli and South African versions of apartheid—such as the fact that you will find no "Jews only" signs on Israel's beaches or restaurants, and that skin color is the not the determinative factor in how a person is necessarily treated or what legal rights and protections he or she may en-

Well, Israel has not improved in this regard. It has gotten worse. Without formally annexing the West Bank, successive Israeli governments have been purposely erasing the pre-1948 border and the occupied West Bank

the report "fictional...preposterous and false." The Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations attacked what it called "the disgraceful report," which, in its view "attempts to demonize, delegitimize, and apply double standards to the State of Israel." The American Jewish Committee found its arguments to be "baseless and sometimes border on antisemitism." Alone among self-described "pro-Israel" organizations, J Street took a nuanced position, defending HRW against scurrilous attacks without endorsing its conclusions.

Palestinians and their supporters celebrated its publication. The Nation published an article by

joy—the movement has so far failed spectacularly to demonstrate any positive policy influence what-soever. While BDS has enjoyed some popularity on college campuses and among leftist organizations and publications since its founding in 2005, it has caused no discernible damage to the Israeli economy (and, according to two sympathetic Brookings Institute scholars, is unlikely ever to do so). This is, to put it mildly, nothing like the experience of the movement that ended apartheid in South Africa.

The Palestinian cause, moreover, has been rapidly receding in relative importance to the rest of the world. What remains of the Israeli

peace movement played little or no role in Israel's recent spate of elections, which were successively dominated by ever more right-wing parties. Arab governments are increasingly cozying up to Israel, both openly in the case of the Gulf States and Morocco and surreptitiously in many others, owing to the more immediate threat they discern from Iran, together with bribes-often in the form of generous arms sales—from the US government. While more and more Democrats have sought to distance themselves from Israel, in part because of Netanyahu's open embrace of the Republican Party, President Biden won election with a promise not to condition US aid to Israel in any way. An AIPAC-promoted bill to ensure that this remains the case recently received 330 cosponsors in the House; an alternative bill, seeking to prevent the money from being spent in support of apartheid-entrenching causes, received only six. The State Department has rejected the conclusions of the HRW report and has made it clear that there will be no meaningful pressure on Israel to change its ways under the Biden administration. The Palestinians remain hopelessly divided themselves, with a government in the West Bank that is viewed as corrupt and increasingly illegitimate—President Mahmoud Abbas recently canceled what would have been its first election since 2006, while the Palestinian Legislative Council has not met since 2009—and Gaza is run by an organization, Hamas, that much of the world equates with terrorism. Even attempting to restart peace talks is considered a waste of time

by almost all concerned.

Still, thanks to HRW et al., the question is no longer whether the word "apartheid" applies to Israel but what if anything remotely realizable can be done about it. Nowhere, perhaps, does Antonio Gramsci's observation, "Indifference operates with great power on history. [It] operates passively, but it operates," apply so accurately as with Israel/Palestine.

The Nation

A Gentle Stroll through Ramadan

Shakir Malik

✓ We should **understand** that Ramadan is not a once in a lifetime event. 'Eid-ul-Fitr' will repeat with its promised gusto, probably next year. This year, we would deserve celebrations in a traditional sense only when the virus is brought to its knees and lives of all are secured. And this 'Eid', that would require a slight inaction from our part, that is to restrict our respective celebrations to just a feast of family and to practice social distancing

hen it comes to Kashmir, every season wears its own colours and ingredients; talk of spring and fluttering butterflies, flowers, greenery and idyllic sunshine comes to mind, winter means snowflakes, icicles and frozen water, so on and so forth. And talk of Ramadan, these things normally linger around, a mosque full of worshippers, a capsizing 'Kangri' with couple of people clearing the smoldering coal with bare hands—that of course when Ramadan falls in wintry months; throat clearances to signal the 'Imam' to amplify his speed of recital during 'Taraweeh', and in case the 'Imam' is hard headed then taking refuge in short spells of sleep, etc. On a serious note though, when the entire life seems to be a mere repetition of tasks, Ramadan has a way of making you remember

One of the Ramadan stories that I remember is from the footsteps of Jama Masjid, Delhi-cliques of people, loitering with fruit platters, samosas, date palms, etc. inviting us to break the fast with them. And the tone of their invitations would just melt your heart, 'Brother, please have 'iftari' with us.' 'Brother, brother, brother...' constant solicitations from all sides. That day, my friends and I had decided to break our fast at Jama Masjid. We finally sat with one group who insisted that we eat as much as we could. And when we left, a person meandering around Gate no. 3 of the same mosque, with a huge container on his back, would offer a cold glass of water to anyone who wanted. To make someone quench a day long thirst in such an enervating heat, while getting yourself drenched in sweat is no mean task by any means. I mumbled to my friends, 'This is the best of humanity.' I felt it very profoundly probably because I had not seen such kind of camaraderie around that city before.

Another 'iftari' that I remember is from a mosque at Khati Talab, Jammu. Tens of people sat along both sides of sheets strewn with fruits, date palms, etc. Everyone was in a fit of silence, some would raise their hands and pray while others very innocuously stared at the food, counting seconds, perhaps feeling the churn in their stomachs. The volunteers were frantically unfolding mats as more people would enter. These community hangouts are very unique to Ramadan.

While growing up one feels the huge nonnegotiable gap between acts of childhood and adulthood. As a kid, during the last week of Ramadan evenings, I remember watching my sister and other girl children making a big circle and doing rounds while singing the Kashmiri Eid song 'Eid aayi rasi rasi'. And I would also blend in as my sister used to lobby for my inclusion. A chorus of melodiousness would fill the air. Then, we would talk and make plans for the Eid from day one of Ramadan, about the amount of 'Eidi' we would get and toys we would buy. I would rarely keep fast then, but I loved waking up for 'Sehri', not because I hated sleep, but I wanted to see the person called the 'Sehar khan' who still goes round and round in our village beating the drums to awaken the people at that time. But,I never saw him. Back then, I would worry that he should not be attacked by some wild animal in the street at that



hour. That tradition is still in vogue, though my mobile alarm wakes me now.

These days, I love 'sehri', especially because of the way Muezzins and other 'Naat' singers sing Kashmiri 'naats'. It is not easy to make that hour of the night reverberate, which otherwise stays doomed in silence.

Ramadan of 2020 and this year have been tough. Last year, when the pandemic struck and I was stuck in Delhi at that time. I experienced there how the collective distress caused by a dreadful disease can spoil our most cherished memories. It felt like everything was meaningless in the moment. Hunger and anxiety weighed on me quite heavily. This year, the same feeling is getting somewhat repeated.

And we are supposed to give up on socializing which otherwise is a very important aspect of Ramadan.

The absence of pre-Eid hustle and bustle in mar-

kets and mosques makes this Ramadan a solitary affair. In fact, pandemic is forcing us to go against all kinds of definitions of normal and allowing empty streets to take over

However, we should understand that Ramadan is not a once in a lifetime event. 'Eid-ul-Fitr' will repeat with its promised gusto, probably next year. This year, we would deserve celebrations in a traditional sense only when the virus is brought to its knees and lives of all are secured. And this 'Eid', that would require a slight inaction from our part, that is to restrict our respective celebrations to just a feast of family and to practice social distancing.

> The writer can be reached at malikshakir96@gmail.com

Reflections On Mother's Day

Aruj Sipra

"An ounce of Mother is worth a pound of Clergy." (Spanish proverb)

hen I read this quotation I wondered what made the writer compare mothers to priests? Then I closed my eyes and started to contemplate an intense hardship that a woman suffers in the pregnancy, delivery, nursing and rearing of her child – A complete role for a task in hand that none other can perform more selflessly than a mother. It is this character that I believe must have influenced the writer and helped him envisage the importance of a mother in a role that is much bigger and more sacred than the role of a saint. Whatever urged the writer to say this beautiful quote, it was extremely apt

Mother – how do you define her? For me she is an epitome of love, sacrifice, care, compassion, a never ending list of doting attributes. Allah SWT, the ultimate creator of every single soul in the universe, knowing the role of mother on earth, infused all these qualities in her soul. A mother is an instinctive philosopher and her heart forever goes walking around outside her body in the form of her children.

Allah has made honoring one's mother a virtue. There are verses in the Holy Qur'an and numerous Ahadith that emphasize the burdens that a mother carries and the respect that should be accorded to her.

"And we have enjoined on man to be dutiful and kind to his parents. His mother bears him with hardship and she brings him forth with hardship, and the bearing of him, and the weaning of him is thirty (30) months.

[The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 46, Verse 15]

The Holy Qur'an guides us through divine examples of good mothers who are an immense source of inspiration when it comes to having faith

"And We inspired the mother of Moses, (saying): suckle him (Moses), but when you fear for him, then cast him into the river and fear not, nor grieve. Verily! We shall bring him back for you, and shall make him one of (Our) Messengers.

[The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 28, Verse 7]



Then I closed my eyes and started to contemplate an intense hardship that a woman suffers in the pregnancy, delivery, nursing and rearing of her child - A complete role for a task in hand that none other can perform more selflessly than a mother

"And Mary, the daughter of `Imran who guarded her chastity; and We breathed into (the sleeve of her shirt or her garment) through Our "Ruh" (i.e. Gabriel), and she testified to the truth of the Words of her Lord (believed in the Words of Allah "Be! and he was; that is Jesus-son of Mary;-as a Messenger of Allah), and (also believed in) His Scriptures, and she was of the Qanitun (i.e. obedient to Allah).

[The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 66, Verse 12]

Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) commanded believers to respect their mothers.

"A man came to the Prophet and said, 'O Messenger of Allah! Who among the people is the most worthy of my good companionship? The Prophet (PBUH) said: Your mother. The man said, 'Then who?' The Prophet said: Then your mother. The man further asked, 'Then who?' The Prophet said: Then your mother. The man asked again, 'Then who?' The Prophet said: Then your father.'

It is related from Talhah ibn Mu'âwiyah as-Salamî (may Allah be pleased with him) who said:

"I came to the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon

him) and said, "O Messenger of Allah, I want to perform Jihad in the way of Allah." He (peace and blessings be upon him) asked, "Is your mother alive?" I replied, "Yes." The Noble Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) then said: "Cling to her feet, because Paradise is there.'

[At-Tabarânî)]

So what exactly is Mother's Day? According to Wikipedia, Mother's Day is as a celebration of honoring mothers and motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. It is celebrated once a year, the exact date varies around the world, but it is usually in May/Spring.

People celebrate one day to give honor to the most important person in their lives! Just one day! Mothers should be celebrated and honored 24/7 a week and 365 days a year. We should be aware of our mother's importance with every single breath we take. They are the ones who make our lives magical and meaningful after Allah. They bring us to this world, feed us, teach us how to read and write, walk and talk, help us grow, prosper, and reach greater heights. We should show our gratitude to our mothers by always being kind and gentle to them and look after them as they have protected us through our childhood and tender years. Our love for our mothers should be as water and sunshine is to saplings that grows into mighty trees.

I can feel the pain and vacuum in the life of people whose mothers are not alive today as I lost my mother when I was just 22 years old. There are always moments in the day when I crave for her company, a word, a hug or just her kind gaze. Those of us who are, Alhamdulillah, still blessed with the presence of their mothers should count their blessings twice and take this opportunity to earn a place in paradise by simply loving and looking after their mothers.

To end with a quote from the Holy Qur'an that we should recite in all our prayers and whenever, wherever we think of our mothers.

My Lord! Bestow on them thy Mercy even as they cherished me in childhood

[The Holy Qur'an, Chapter 17, Verse 24]

Muslim Moms

Study finds hand dermatitis in two thirds of public due to stringent hand hygiene during COVID

Agencies

he dermatological impact of COVID-19 is a burning topic at EADV's 2021 Spring Symposium. New research presented today highlights the effect that stringent hand hygiene during the pandemic has had on hand skin health.

Researchers at Father Muller Medical College, India, analysed transepidermal water loss (TEWL - an essential parameter for measuring skin barrier function) from 582 people (291 healthcare professionals (HCPs) and 291 healthy individuals from the general population).

Results indicated that hand dermatitis was now present among 92.6% of HCPs and 68.7% of the general population, despite only ~3% of HCPs and 2.4% of the general public in the study had reported a prior history of hand dermatitis (obtained through medical history and self-reported history). Higher mean TEWL (dryer skin) was also noted in females (65.4 g/m2h) and intensive care professionals (58.2 g/m2h), which was associated with a high frequency of handwashing and use of alcohol-based hand rubs.

Both the HCPs and participants from the general public in this study stated that skin irritation and dryness was the main barrier to the consistent practice of hand hygiene (as reported by 72.1% of HCPs, and 50.8% of healthy volunteers).

Dr Monisha Madhumita, Father Muller Medical College, India explains: "This research truly demonstrates the impact of increased



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handwashing and uptake of alcoholbased rubs on the hand skin health of HCPs and the general public. Moreover, we now know that using TEWL to measure skin barrier function can help us compare the efficacy of various barrier protective measures, and discover suitable modifications of hand hygiene

practices and products to help prevent hand eczema. Finding suitable modifications to practices and products that may increase the accessibility of proper hand hygiene is something of vital importance to many in our community."

Marie-Aleth Richard, EADV Board Member and Professor at the University Hospital of La Timone, Marseille, adds: "This research shows there is now a skin-disease epidemic within the COVID-19 pandemic. It is promising to see this problem is recognised, and I am excited to see how the dermatology community goes about finding potential solutions to this issue."

Scientists discover way to trick cancer cells into consuming toxic drugs

Agencies

new research led by a team at the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) points to a promising strategy to boost tumours' intake of cancer drugs, thereby increasing the effectiveness of chemotherapy treatments.

The group's findings are published in Nature Nanotechnology. Getting enough anticancer drugs

into a tumour is often difficult, and a potential strategy to overcome this challenge involves binding the medications to albumin, the most abundant protein in the blood.

The strategy relies on tumours' large appetite for protein nutrients that fuel malignant growth. When consuming available albumin, the tumours will inadve

mours will inadvertently take in the attached drugs.

A popular albumin-bound drug approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is nanoparticle albumin-bound paclitaxel (nab-PTX), and it has been successfully used to treat latestage lung and pancreatic cancers.

"Not all patients respond to nab-PTX, though, and the effectiveness of its delivery to tumours has been mixed, owing to an incomplete understanding of how albumin impacts drug delivery and actions," says senior author Miles Miller, PhD, a principal investigator in the MGH Center for Systems Biology and assistant professor of Radiology at Harvard Medical School.

To provide insights, Miller

and his colleagues assessed the delivery of nab-PTX to tumours at a single-cell resolution in mouse models of cancer. Using 3D microscopy and what's called tissue clearing technology, the team found that cancer cells can take up a significant amount of nab-PTX, and that the consumption of these drugs is controlled by signalling pathways that are involved in the cells' uptake of nutrients such as albumin.



"This discovery suggested that if we could manipulate these pathways, we might be able to trick cancer cells into a nutrient-starved state, thereby enhancing their consumption of nab-PTX," explains Ran Li, PhD, first author on the study and an instructor in the MGH Department of Radiology and the Center for Systems Biology.

Indeed, treating tumours with an inhibitor of insulin-like growth factor 1 receptor, an important component of one of the signalling pathways, improved the accumulation of nab-PTX in tumours and boosted its effectiveness.

"These results offer new possibilities to improve the delivery of albumin-bound drugs in patients with diverse types of cancer," says Miller.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER GANDERBAL

(Vice Chairman DISTRICT HEALTH SOCIETY)
(OPPOSITE QAMARIYA PARK, GANDERBAL-191201)

Subject: - Final Selection List of Staff Nurses advertised under NHM.

FINAL SELECTION LIST

In response to Advertisement issued vide No DRHS/NHM/GBL/20-21/1284-91 dated 10-09-2020 regarding contractual hiring of services of Junior Staff Nurses for which provisional section list was published by this office vide No DRHS/NHM/GBL/20-21/59-66 dated 06/04/2021. The following candidates have been selected under National Health Mission against the available vacancies.

45 1076

S.No Roll No Name

Qaisar Hassan Mir S/O.D/O.W/O Gh Hassan Mir

SaimaNazir

S.No	Roll No	Name	Remarks	S.No	Roll No	Name	Remarks
1	1003	Asif Rashid	Selected	23	1093	Shagufta Mohiuddin	Selected
		S/O,D/O,W/O Ab Rashid Hajam				S/O,D/O,W/O Ghulam Mohi ud din Shah	
		R/O Nunar Ganderbal				R/O Harran Ganderbal	
2	1039	Rehana Tabasum	Selected	24	1033	Mehnaz Amin	Selected
Г	1.005	S/O,D/O,W/O Ali Mohmad Dar	Sciected		1033	S/O,D/O,W/O Mohd Amin Mir	Sciccica
		R/O Sehpora Tulmulla				R/O Reshipora Saloora	
3	1102	Mahapara Sultan	Selected	25	1010		Calaatad
5	1102	S/O,D/O,W/O Mohd Sultan Bhat	Selected	25	1010	Sumaia Maqbool	Selected
						S/O,D/O,W/O Mohd Maqbool Reshi	
4	10/0	R/O Bagimahanand Watlar	Selected			R/O Khallamulla	
4	1040	Aaliya Qammer	Selected	26	1050	Masrat Nabi	Selected
		S/O,D/O,W/O Tasaduk Ali Dar				S/O,D/O,W/O Gh Nabi Wani	
_	1000	R/O Sehpora Ganderbal	6 1 1			R/O Gorpora Youngoora	
5	1002	Asif Rashid	Selected	27	1072	Nazia Shafi	Selected
		S/O,D/O,W/O Ab Rashid Sheikh				S/O,D/O,W/O Mohmmad Shafi Wani	
_		R/O Waskura Wakura				R/O Yenihama Lar	
6	1038	Tahmeena Jan	Selected				
		S/O,D/O,W/O Mohd Afzal Mir		28	1100	Aabida Afzal	Selected
		R/O Barsoo Lar				S/O,D/O,W/O Mohammad Afzal Malik	
7	1017	Rubaiya Gull	Selected			R/O Safapora Lar	
		S/O,D/O,W/O Ghulam Mohmd Bhat		29	1099	Nusrata Bashir	Selected
		R/O Batwina Wakura				S/O,D/O,W/O Bashir Ahmad Dar	
8	1018	Bisma Ashraf	Selected			R/O Kachan Ganderbal	
		S/O.D/O.W/O Mohd Ashraf Mir		30	1063	Rashida Yousuf	Selected
		R/O Chundina Ganderbal		50	1003	S/O.D/O.W/O Mohammad Yousuf dar	Selected
9	1021	Zahida Akhtar	Selected			R/O Kujar A/P Rakhi haran	
		S/O,D/O,W/O Ali Mohd Ganie		21	1112		Selected
		R/O Batwina Wakura		31	1113	Bisma Nazir	Selected
10	1071	Shazia Shafi	Selected			S/O,D/O,W/O Nazir Ahmad Bhat	
10	1071	S/O,D/O,W/O Mohd Shafi Wani	Sciected			R/O Lar Ganderbal	
		R/O Yenihama Lar		32	1001	Talia Khursheed	Selected
11	1061	Saima Manzoor	Selected			S/O,D/O,W/O Khursheed Ahmad Sofi	
"	1001		Selected			R/O Reshipora Saloora	
		S/O,D/O,W/O Manzoor Ahmad Ganie		33	1111	Mahajabeena	Selected
12	1109	R/O Kurhama Wakura	Selected			S/O,D/O,W/O Gh Mohammad Khan	
IZ	1109	Tanseefa Parveen	Selected			R/O Wakura	
		S/O,D/O,W/O Gh Hassan Lone		34	1077	NusratNazir	Selected
12	1070	R/O Wussan Kangan	C - I 4 I	34	1077	S/O,D/O,W/O Nazir Ahmad Hajam	Sciccica
13	1079	Asiya Nazir	Selected			R/O Larson Bardalla Gbl	
		S/O,D/O,W/O Nazir Ahmad Baba		35	1006		Selected
		R/O Harran Ganderbal		33	1096	Ishrat Maqbool	Selected
14	1080	Nargis Jahan Malla	Selected			S/O,D/O,W/O Mohammad Maqbool	
		S/O,D/O,W/O Gh Ahmad Malla				Wani R/O Telimohalla Lar	
		R/O Shahpora Ganderbal		36	1012	Syed Towseef Afroz	Selected
15	1041	NaziaFayaz	Selected			S/O,D/O,W/O Syed Mohhammad Afroz	
		S/O,D/O,W/O Fayaz Ahmad Kuchay				R/O Rajbagh Colony Nagbal	
		R/O Safapora Lar		37	1051	Ruqaya binti Habibullah	Selected
16	1035	Sabiya Sidiq	Selected			S/O,D/O,W/O Habib Ullah wani	
		S/O,D/O,W/O Mohd Sidiq Sheikh				R/O Wani mohallah Safapora	
		R/O Guzerbal Ganderbal		38	1059	Bisma Ali	Selected
17	1015	Safia Ali	Selected		1	S/O,D/O,W/O Ali Mohammad Rather	
.,	1.0.5	S/O,D/O,W/O Ali Mohammad Parah	Jeitetta			R/O Manigam Ganderbal	
		R/O Zazna		39	1057	Tariq Hussain Naik	Selected
18	1009	Shaguf-un-nisa	Selected	29	1037	S/O,D/O,W/O Mohammad Sadig Naik	Selected
10	1009		Selected				
		S/O,D/O,W/O Ab Rashid Sheikh		40	1112	R/O Ramwari Gund Kangan	Calastad
10	1007	R/O Bamloora Ganderbal	Calaat	40	1112	Sheikh Shariq Rashid	Selected
19	1097	Nusrat Hamid	Selected			S/O,D/O,W/O Ab Rashid Sheikh	
		S/O,D/O,W/O Abdul Hamid Bhat				R/O Bagi mahanand Lar	
		R/O Kulpora Safapora		41	1013	Bisma Ali	Selected
20	1019	Ishrat Bashir	Selected			S/O,D/O,W/O Ali Mohammad Wani	
		S/O,D/O,W/O Bashir Ahmad Shiekh				R/O Wayil Ganderbal	
		R/O Saloora Ganderbal		42	1090	Nighat Ara	Selected
21	1058	Madeena	Selected			S/O,D/O,W/O Ghulam Mohiudin Dar	
	1	S/O.D/O.W/O Ali Mohmad Laherwal				R/O Batwina Wakura	
		R/O Kondbal Yangoora		43	1107	Shabnum Chesti	Selected
22	1006	Nayeema Rashid S/O,D/O,W/O Ab	Selected	7.5	1107	S/O,D/O,W/O Zahoor Ahmad Chesti	Jeiceleu
	1000	Rasheed Ahanger R/O Youngoora Lar	Selecteu			R/O Takia Khalmulla Alastang	

40	1070	S/O,D/O,W/O Nazir Ahmad Sheikh	Selected
		R/O Qasba Lar	
46	1014	Madeena Manzoor	Selected
40	1014		Selected
		S/O,D/O,W/O manzoor Ahmad Lone	
		R/O Sindbal Ganderbal	
	- · · · ·	Waiting List	
S.No	Roll No	Name	
ı	1016	Arjumand Yosouf	
		S/O,D/O,W/O Mohamad Yosouf Ganie	
		R/O Wakura	
2	1005	Ulfat Nazir	
		S/O,D/O,W/O Nazir Ahmad Bhat	
		R/O Repora Lar	
3	1023	Amir Yasin Shah	
		S/O,D/O,W/O Mohd Yaseen Shah	
		R/O Qasba Lar	
4	1086	Abida Rasool	
		S/O,D/O,W/O Gh Rasool Reshi	
		R/O Repora Lar	
5	1028	Insha Shabir	
_	1.020	S/O,D/O,W/O Shabir Ahmad Bhat	
		R/O Yenihama Lar	
6	1027	Shahnaz Oadri	
•	1027	S/O,D/O,W/O Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat	
		R/O Kurhama Wakura	
7	1031	Bilgees Jalal	
,	1031	S/O,D/O,W/O Jalal uddin Malik	
		R/O Preng Kangan	
8	1116	Nazima Mushtaq	
0	1110		
		S/O,D/O,W/O Mushtaq Ahmad Rather	
9	1110	R/O Nunner Ganderbal Shahida Akhtar	
9	IIIU	S/O,D/O,W/O Gh Mohd Mir	
10	1000	R/O Baghi mahanand Lar	
10	1068	Farhat Jan	
		S/O,D/O,W/O Nazir Ahmad Dar	
		R/O Sehpora Ganderbal	
11	1029	Syed Ufada	
		S/O,D/O,W/O Nazir Ahmad Shah	
		R/O Baghi mahanand Lar	
12	1055	Mohd Auyais Hajam	
		S/O,D/O,W/O Mohd Shafi Hajam	
		R/O Hakeemgund Ganderbal	
13	1084	Onaiba Jan	
		S/O,D/O,W/O Ali Mohmad Rather	
		R/O Manigam Lar	
14	1114	Malik Saika Faroog	
		S/O,D/O,W/O Faroog Ahmad Malik	
		R/O Haripora Kangan	
15	1044	Rifat Aara Sheikh	
		S/O.D/O.W/O Abdul Hammed Sheikh	
		R/O Qasba Lar	
16	1007	Nahida Hassan	
10	1007	S/O.D/O.W/O Gh Hassan Wani	
17	1067	R/O Khranihama Lar	
17	1067	Roohina Fayaz	
		S/O,D/O,W/O Fayaz Ahmad Lone	
		R/O Nagbal Ganderbal	

18	1066	Uzma Ayaz S/O,D/O,W/O Mohammad Ayaz
10	1110	R/O Wayil Ganderbal
19	1118	Ruby Jan S/O,D/O,W/O Gulzar Ahmad Reshi R/O Giraj Ganderbal
20	1020	Saima Fayaz S/O,D/O,W/O Fayaz Ahmad Wani R/O Wanipora Saloora
21	1052	Waheeda Akhtar S/O,D/O,W/O GhNabi Mir R/O Watlar Ganderbal
22	1045	Fatima Akhtar S/O,D/O,W/O Gh Ahmad Khan R/O Shallabugh Ganderbal
23	1022	Subreena Zahoor S/O,D/O,W/O Zahoor Ah Tantray R/O Checki Duderhama

Terms and Conditions:

Remarks

Selected

The selected candidates shall report to the office of Chief Medical Officer Ganderbal along with original testimonials which shall be verified as per NHM Guidelines.

The hiring is purely on contractual basis initially up to 31th march 2022, extendable by one year subject to approval of the post by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India in the SPIP.

The Contract may be renewed further based on performance of the candidate. In case of unsatisfactory performance, this office on the recommendations of the concerned Medical Superintendent may terminate the hiring.
 Drawl of honorarium shall be subject to verification of date of birth/academic,

State subject and other relevant credentials which shall be verified by this office from the concerned institution duly recognized. In case of adverse report regarding authenticity of documents, the engagement shall be cancelled straight away.

The performance of the appointee should be reviewed after every three months.
 In case the appointee wants to quit the service, he/she shall have to inform the department before one month.

The selected candidate shall have to work at the place against which he/she has been engaged and shall not be eligible for transfer from the place of posting in any case. Furthermore, the posting shall be made as per the Merit List obtained in recruitment process.

The selected candidate shall be terminated at any time for non-performance, indiscipline, absentee from duty or any other reason without any prior notice.

The selected candidate shall have to submit an affidavit duly signed by lst Class Magistrate that he/she shall not claim for any regularization of his/her services in the Department/Government.
 He/she shall not be entitled to any allowances or monetary benefit whatsoever

except as admissible under the scheme.
 The hiring shall be governed by other terms and conditions that are not specifically mentioned herein but are made applicable in case of such appointments at any time by the contracting authority.

He/she shall report in the office of Chief Medical Officer Ganderbal as mentioned along with all original documents/testimonials, for their duties within 07 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the engagement order will be treated as cancelled without any prior notice and consequently the waiting list shall be operated.

Dr. Mehraj Ud Din Chief Medical Officer Ganderbal

No:-DRHS/NHM/GBL/20-21/ Dated: 06/05/2021.

378-85

DIPK-1385/21

Telecom Industry Cautions Against Rumours Of 5G Causing Covid



Telecommunications and have

apprised them of the situa-

tion. We appeal fellow citizens

to beware of these fake mes-

sages. Together we can fight

TAIPA Director General Tilak

campaigns, if not brought under

control immediately, may sig-

uninterrupted telecom services

that there are no 5G trials in

have been installed as yet.

Telecom services are a lifeline

for the nation, especially in

In fact, these networks

enabling work from home,

online classes, e-health and

time information when they

penalty for polluters must also

be accompanied by reward or

Petrol and diesel vehicles in-

cluding cars, two-wheelers and

converted to Auto LPG or CNG by

up to Rs 25,000 can be made sig-

GST cuts and subsidy support,

said that the nodal body for the

These conversion kits are

taxed at a prohibitive GST rate

chotomous to the government's

"Rationalising this prohibitive

commitment to clean energy.

The COAI and TAIPA added

at this crucial juncture."

Agencies

NEW DELHI: In a joint statement on Friday, the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) and the Tower and Infrathis menace of misinformastructure Providers Association tion," Kochhar added. (TAIPA) expressed their concern regarding false rumours Raj Dua said: "Such misleading connecting 5G technology with the spread of Covid-19.

The industry bodies said that nificantly impact the telecom they have come across mul- operations and hence the contiple messages on social media nectivity at large and deprive platforms as well as reports in the general public and governa few regional media allegedly ment authorities from getting claiming '5G spectrum trials' as the probable cause of rising cases of Covid-19.

"We would like to clarify that these rumours are abso- the country. No 5G towers lutely false. We urge people not to fall for such baseless misinformation. Several countries in the world have already the current times, they said. rolled out 5G networks and people are using these servic- are keeping people safe by es safely," COAI Director General S.P. Kochhar said.

Even the World Health Or- online doctor consultations ganisation has clarified that among others. Hundreds of there is no correlation be- millions of people depend on tween 5G technology and Co- these networks to access real vid-19, he said.

"We have shared our con- need it the most, the statecerns with the Department of ment added.

Agencies

cles, Indian Auto LPG Coalition

(IAC) is advocating the need

for this deterrent to be accompanied by incentives to people shifting to cleaner alternative

The Union Ministry for Road

to switch to environmental-

vehicles running on clean al-

empt from this tax. The initia-

pay for environmental pollu-

tion in India's choking cities.

a step in the right direction, In-

dian Auto LPG Coalition has sug-

should be accompanied by re-

"India's choking cities need

ward for users of clean fuels.

fuels such as auto LPG.

friendly alternatives.

'Government Should

Tith the government

imposing a green tax

on old polluting vehi-

Incentivise Use Of Clean Fuels'

Transport and Highways re- incentives for citizens switch-

cently approved a proposal ing to clean fuels to make it

to levy a 'green tax' on old more impactful," said Suyash vehicles in a bid to curtail pol- Gupta, Director General, Indian

Notably, hybrid vehicles and three wheelers can easily be

ternative fuels such as LPG, installing conversion kits. Con-

CNG and ethanol will be ex- version kits that currently cost

tive aims to make polluters nificantly more affordable with

While welcoming the move as promotion of Auto LPG in India.

gested that penalising polluters of 28 per cent, a policy that is di-

to shift a large number of their GST rate on conversion kits to 5

private vehicles to clean alter- per cent has been a long-pend-

native fuels immediately and ing plea of the Auto LPG sector.

pushing consumers to switch Reducing this GST rate will make

their existing vehicles to clean conversion kits more affordable

alternatives is the quickest way for mass usage," Gupta said.

lution and push consumers Auto LPG Coalition.

Govt To Negotiate With HCI On Hotel Centaur Take Over



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government Saturday constituted a five-member committee to negotiate with the Hotel Corporation of India (HCI) to take over the control of much famed hotel Cenatuar located on the banks of famous Dal Lake in Srinagar.

matters relating to Centaur Lake View Hotel Srinagar of HCI com-

In this regard, an order was issued by the government, a copy of which lies with the news agency. The order issued by Commissioner Secretary to the government Manoi Kumar Diwedi. reads: "In supersession of all pre-The government has constitut- vious order, sanction is accorded in taking good care of the prop-

prising four members.

comprising four members including Financial Commissioner, principal secretary to government public works and Road and Building department, secretary to tourism department and managing director of Jammu and Kashmir tourism Development Corporation." The committee shall finalize

all details and modalities with the representatives of Centaur Lake View Hotel and HCI and come up with a concrete proposal for the consideration of the government," the order reads.

Meanwhile, the Coordination Committee of Centaur Lake View Hotel welcomed the move and said that this was the need of hour to preserve the property.

Spokesperson of the committee Mufti Igbal said: "We welcome this step. The Government should speed up the process of negotiations with the HCI to take over the Centaur control as soon as possible. The hotel desperately needs renovation."

He said there was a dire need ed a committee for settlement of to the constitution of committee erty and the staff rights—(KNO)

Big Relief To Jewellers On Mandatory Hallmarking



Agencies

he Nagpur Bench of Bombay High Court passed an interim order on May 7 which stops Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) from taking any coercive action on jewellers across India or impose penalty on those who may not comply with BIA (BIS Act, 2016) regulations, Section 29(2) on mandatory hallmarking due to the lack of adequate infrastructure in terms of assaying and hallmarking centres.

The Court ruled: "The contention is that the new regulation making it compulsory to hallmark gold jewellery before it is stored or sold, which has to come into force w.e.f. 1st June 2021, is likely to result in great hardships to lakhs of jewellers in India and their number is stated to be 5 lakhs."

The writ petition was filed by All India Gem & Jewellery Domestic Council (GIC), which is the industry's apex domestic Council that ensures promotion, protection and progress of jewellers. GJC was represented in court by counsel, Rohan Shah.

Ashish Pethe, Chairman, All India Gem & Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) stated, "Courts have seen the hardship of the jewellers. The order stated that further contention is that in proportion to such multitude of iewellers in India - the percentage of hallmarking centres available in India, is just about 34% of the 733 districts in the country and that there are at least 488 districts in the country, which do not have any hallmarking centres. It is further submitted that there are about 6,000 crore pieces of jewellery, which still need to be hallmarked."

Nitin Khandelwal, Past Chairman, GJC, said, "Courts have been reasonable and strict with BIS as further contention is that if there is any breach of the said mandate of law as provided under Sections 14 and 15 of the gists, designers, and allied ser-Bureau of Indian Standards Act, vices to the domestic Gems &

ty in offence as provided under Section 29 of the BIS Act, 2016 punishable with maximum imprisonment of one year. It is also submitted that within the time available, it could not be possible for all the jewellers and for every piece of jewellery presently available to be hallmarked before these provisions of law come into force."

Saiyam Mehra, Vice Chairman, GJC, commented, "It is further submitted that there are also other problems arising out of the present COVID restrictions, which prevent a person to travel from one district to another district and that there are several districts, which do not have any hallmarking centres yet. And the court has in the meanwhile, directed that no coercive action shall be taken against the jewellers under Section 29(2) of the BIS Act, 2016, till next date of hearing on 14th June 2021. This is a big relief to the jewellers who shall now be fully protected from any actions from BIS even though they may wish to still go ahead with mandatory hallmarking."

Dinesh Jain, Director, GJC who represented GJC in the writ petition filed, commented, "The writ has been admitted on merit and notice has been issued to BIS and all respondents. BIS is wise enough to know what to do in such a situation and we are sure that BIS shall not proceed with mandatory hallmarking without doing their homework properly. GJC is fully supporting Hallmarking and pray in the writ petition that a 'High Level Committee' be constituted by Honourable court to streamline and resolve all issues for the benefit of Consumers, Jewellers and core objective of BIS.'

All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC) represents over 5,00,000 players comprising manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, distributors, laboratories, gemmolo-2016 (BIS Act), there is a penal- Jewellery industry.

COURTS HAVE SEEN THE HARDSHIP of the jewellers. The order stated that further contention

is that in proportion to such multitude of jewellers in India - the percentage of hallmarking centres available in India, is just about 34% of the 733 districts in the country and that there are at least 488 districts in the country, which do not have any hallmarking centres.

Govt Allows Cash Payment Of Over Rs 2 Lakh For Covid-19 Treatment At Hospitals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Income Tax Department has issued a notification allowing hospitals and nursing homes to accept cash payments of Rs 2 lakh and more for the treatment of COVID-19 patients. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), which frames policy for the department, issued the notification on Friday.

It said hospitals, dispensa-ries, nursing homes, COVID care centres or similar other medical facilities providing COVID-19 treatment to patients are being "specified for the purpose of section 269ST of the Income Tax Act".

This section restricts any person from receiving an amount of Rs 2 lakh or more in cash, from a person in a day, in respect of a single transaction or in respect of transactions relating to one event or occasion from a person. It was introduced by the Union



government in 2017 as a measure to curb black money.

The notification said the latest provision is being made for a period between April 1-May 31 "on obtaining the PAN or Aadhaar of the patient and the payee and the relationship between the patient and the payee" by such hospitals or COVID care centres.

The country is grappling with the onslaught of a massive COVID-19 wave with a record 4,187 deaths and 4,01,078 new infections being reported in a span of 24 hours, according to the Union health minis-Officials said the move was try data updated on Saturday.

being faced by relatives and care-

givers of COVID-19 patients who

visit hospitals for treatment.

Maruti Suzuki India Extends **Maintenance Shut Down Until May 16**

of its plants till May 16 amid the

ongoing surge in COVID-19 cases

The company had last month

said it was advancing the annual

across the country.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India on Saturday said it has extended maintenance shutdown plant maintenance shutdown to components.

May 1-May 9, which was originally scheduled for June.

.. the maintenance shutdown, which was till the 9th May, 2021, is being extended till the 16th May 2021 keeping in view the current pandemic situation," Maruti Suzuki said in a regulatory filing.

It, however, said some activities will continue in the plants located at Gurgaon and Manesar in Haryana.

Suzuki Motor Gujarat has also taken a similar decision, the filing added.

MSI had earlier stated that as part of the car manufacturing process, it uses a small amount of oxygen in its factories, while relatively much larger quantities are used by the manufacturers of



MUMBAI: In a regulatory filing, the company said that its board at its meeting held on May 7, deliberated the possibility of raising funds for the company through a qualified institutions placement (QIP).

Company should continue to

explore all options to increase its liquidity, including by way of a QIP," it said.

In January, the airline had shelved plans to raise funds up to Rs 4,000 crore through a QIP and instead, opted to raise money through sale and lease back (SLB) transactions and "The Board decided that the other alternative options.

SHORT TAKES

229 Taxmen Died Of Covid; Thakur Says Nations Will Remain Grateful

NEW DELHI: Minister of State being swiftly cleared at various taken for Finance Anurag Thakur on ports of entry. Saturday condoled the death of due to COVID-19 complications, saying the nation will always remain grateful to them.

The minister said that as many as 110 officials of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Custhe Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) have lost their lives in the line of duty amid the pandemic.

"You are risking your lives in of crisis and the nation is grateful for your service. It is because of your service that essential medical supplies such as oxygen cylinders and equipment are

"It is because of your service 229 taxmen in the line of duty that the wheels of the govern- including ment system are running efficiently," the minister said.

The Finance Ministry was one of the hardest hit ministries during the pandemic, Thakur said.

"I also want to take a moment toms (CBIC) and 119 officials of to remember 110 officers of CBIC and 119 officers of CBDT who and staff have lost their lives in the line of duty. My heart goes out to their families and loved ones,' service of the nation in this hour the minister said and appealed to everyone to follow COVID-19 protocols and get vaccinated.

The CBDT and the CBIC are primarily into revenue collection. The Finance Ministry has

setting up of testing camps at period interval and motivating officer

cination. Besides, the ministry is coor-

dinating with hospitals and medicine suppliers and oxygen supplier to



help officers and staff and their family members who may need

TATA Motors To Hike Passenger Vehicle Prices From May 8

ata Motors on Friday said it will increase prices of its passenger vehicles by an average of 1.8 per cent depending upon the model and variant from May 8, in order to partially offset the rise in input costs.

The auto major noted that it would offer protection from the price increase to customers who have booked vehicles on or before May 7.

With effect from May 8, the company will increase prices of its passenger vehicles, averaging 1.8 per cent, depending on the variant and model, Tata Motors said in a statement.

"Increase in prices of commodities, such as steel and precious which sells models like Safari,



metals, necessitates us to pass on a part of it through increase in price of our products," Tata Motors President Passenger Vehicles Business Shailesh Chandra said.

Keeping in mind the interest of customers who have booked cars already, the automaker

Harrier and Nexon, is offering price protection for all bookings done till May 7, he added. The price hike on model range

would be effective for bookings made thereafter (May 8), Chandra noted. Tata Motors sells a range of

vehicles starting from entry hatchback Tiago to newly introduced Safari SUV, priced between Rs 4.85 to Rs 21.4 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi).

For the well-being of its business and supporting ecosystem, the company had recently announced that it has set in motion a comprehensive 'Business Agility Plan' to protect and serve the interests of its customers, dealers and suppliers

Israeli Police Beef Up Presence In Jerusalem, Fearing Unrest

Press Trust of India

JERUSALEM: Israel's national police chief on Saturday announced that he was beefing up forces in Jerusalem ahead of expected disturbances in the coming days following a night of heavy clashes between Palestinians and Israeli police in the holy city.

Palestinian medics said more than 200 Palestinians were wounded in the Friday night clashes at the Al-Aqsa mosque compound and elsewhere in Jerusalem. The violence drew condemnations from Israel's Arab allies, and calls for calm from the United States and Europe

Israel has been dealing with the heaviest unrest in Jerusalem in several years, with nearnightly clashes between Israeli police and Palestinian protesters throughout the current Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The protests broke out at the beginning of Ramadan three weeks ago when Israel restricted

gatherings at a popular meeting spot outside Jerusalem's Old City. Israel removed the restrictions, briefly calming the situation, but protests have reignited in recent days over the threatened eviction of dozens of Palestinians from their homes in east Jerusalem, which is claimed by both sides in their decades-old conflict.

Other recent developments, including the cancellation of Palestinian elections and the election to Israel's parliament of a far-right Jewish nationalist party, also have added to the tense atmosphere.

It was unclear what set off the violence at Al-Aqsa, which erupted when Israeli police in riot gear deployed in large numbers as thousands of Muslim worshippers were holding evening prayers at the sprawling hilltop esplanade.

Throughout the night large groups of protesters could be seen hurling rocks as Israeli police fired rubber bullets and stun grenades. At one point, the police entered one of the buildings in the complex, which includes the Al-Aqsa mosque and the iconic golden Dome of the Rock.

The Palestinian Red Crescent emergency service said 88 of the wounded were hospitalized. The Palestinian Health Ministry said 83 people were wounded by rubber-coated bullets, including three who were shot in the eye, two with serious head injuries and two with broken jaws.

The Israeli police said protesters hurled stones, fireworks and other objects at them, wounding 17 officers, half of whom were hospitalised.

The Al-Aqsa mosque compound is the third holiest site in Íslam. It is also the holiest site for Jews, who refer to it as the Temple Mount because it was the location of the biblical temples. It has long been a flashpoint in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and was the epicenter of the 2000 Palestinian intifada, or uprising.

Saturday night is Laylat al-Qadr or the Night of Destiny, the

most sacred in the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Thousands of worshippers were expected to gather for intense nighttime prayers at Al-Aqsa. Israeli Police Commissioner

Yaakov Shabtai said he had ordered up reinforcements ahead of Laylat al-Qadr, saying the right to demonstrate will be respected but public disturbances will be met with force and zero tolerance. I call on everyone to act responsibly and with restraint.'

Police could be seen stopping more than a dozen buses that appeared to be filled with Arab citizens on a highway leading to Jerusalem. Footage circulating online showed the passengers disembarking, protesting and blocking traffic going the other way. Several hours later, the road was reopened, Israeli media said.

In recent days, protests have grown over Israel's threatened eviction in Sheikh Jarrah in east Jerusalem of dozens of Palestinians embroiled in a long

legal battle with Israeli settlers trying to acquire property in the neighborhood.

The United States said it was deeply concerned about both the violence and the threatened evictions, and was in contact with leaders on both sides to try and de-escalate tensions.

It is critical to avoid steps that exacerbate tensions or take us farther away from peace, the US State Department said. This includes evictions in East Jerusalem, settlement activity, home demolitions, and acts of terrorism. The European Union also urged calm and expressed concern about the potential evictions, saying they are "illegal under international humanitarian law and only serve to fuel tensions on the ground.

Egypt and Jordan, which made peace with Israel decades ago, condemned its actions, as did the Gulf kingdom of Bahrain, which was one of four Arab countries that signed USbrokered normalization agreements with Israel last year.

EU Yet To Firm Up Position On Patent Waiver For COVID Vaccines

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The European Union on Saturday did not provide a clear position on whether it supports a proposal to temporarily waive patents on COVID-19 vaccines after the issue was discussed at a virtual India-EU meeting.

Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs Vikas Swarup said at a media briefing that Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited the EU to support the proposal by India and South Africa to waive patents on COVID-19 vaccines so that there can be equitable vaccine access for the entire world.

'The prime minister requested the EU's support for our joint proposal with South Africa for a TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) waiver on vaccine productionrelated patents," he said.

"The US has also supported the proposal a couple of days ago. The EU's support at WTO for this waiver will ensure that

we can scale up the vaccine production for equitable and global

access and save lives," he said. EU officials said there was no concrete decision on the matter.

Swarup said India will be

tion on the matter. The virtual meeting was participated by leaders of 27 member states of the EU.

watching the evolving EU posi-

"When it comes to a proposal of a temporary TRIPS waiver for vaccine international property rights, I think it is very important that we should be open to this discussion," President of European Commission Ursula von der Leyen said after the Leaders' meeting.

She said issues relating to licensing, price of licensing and investment for capacity building are also very important and all stakeholders should discuss them.

These are important topics to discuss. We should be aware of the fact that these are topics for the long-term. These are not topics for short or medium term," she told reporters.

CONTD. FROM **FRONT** PAGE

Covid-19: J&K

woman from Batamaloo died at JLNM hospital Rainawari, the officials said.

Four other persons died at GMC Anantnag and among others included a 50-year old man from Banihal, an 80-year-old woman from Anantnag and a 68-year-old man from Nowpora Anantnag.

The officials further said that 3259 fresh cases of infection were reported from Kashmir Valley on Saturday and 1529 from Jammu division, taking the overall tally of infected persons to 206954 in the Union Territory.

Giving district wise details, the officials said Srinagar reported 853, Baramulla 470, Budgam 444, Pulwama 325, Kupwara 131, Anantnag 573, Bandipora 83, Ganderbal 55, Kulgam 237, Shopian 88, Jammu 634, Udhampur 181, Rajouri 247, Doda 22, Kathua 169, Samba 66, Kishtwar 23, Poonch 82, Ramban 63, and Reasi 42 new cases of coronavirus.

Moreover, officials said, 2500 more patients have recovered-910 from Jammu Division and 1590 from Kashmir.

There are 46535 active positive cases, 16148 in Jammu and 30387 in Kashmir, they added. (With GNS inputs)

Life Remains

and assembly of people continued to remain in force in many districts of the union territory.

They said while curfew was in place across the Kashmir Valley and in Jammu district, restrictions on the assembly of people were also imposed in many areas of the Jammu Division.

The officials said security forces have sealed several roads by putting barricades at many places in the city here as well as in other district headquarters of the valley to prevent the movement of people.

They said only essential and emergency services were allowed.

The restrictions are being implemented strictly and action is being taken against viola-

Police arrested 43 persons, lodged 12 FIRs and also realised fine to the tune of Rs 70,010 from 480 people for violating the guidelines/ rules throughout the Kashmir Valley on Friday, they said.

Besides, 24 vehicles were also seized in Budgam and Baramulla for violating COVID-19 norms, he added.

On April 29, the Jammu and Kashmir administration imposed a curfew in 11 districts in a bid to tackle a surge in COVID-19 cases, which was subsequently extended to all the 20 districts the next day.

The curfew, which was supposed to end at 7 am on May 3, was extended in the twin capitals of Jammu and Srinagar, besides Budgam and Baramulla till 7 am Thursday. However, the authorities in other districts of

the Kashmir Valley also ordered extension in the restrictions first till Thursday and now till Monday morning.

Senior KAS Officer

Shamim Ahmad Wani was recently admitted to Government Medical College (GMC) hospital Jammu after he tested positive for COVID-19, the officials said.

They said 54-year-old Wani breathed his last in the morning and is being laid to rest in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines. Chief Secretary B V R Subrahmanyam ex-

pressed grief over the demise of Wani.

Expressing solidarity with the bereaved family members of the officer, the chief secretary remembered Wani as a dedicated, soft spoken and well-meaning officer who served with commitment in his capacity as Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, Special Secretary, Finance and Commissioner, State Taxes, among others.

Jammu and Kashmir has recorded over 570 COVID-19 related deaths in the past three weeks with the Jammu region registering 340 fatalities against 219 in Kashmir division till Friday evening

Jammu district accounted for over 200 such deaths to reach the overall tally of 613, which is highest among the 20 districts. Srinagar with 597 deaths is placed second in the chart but continued to be among the worst hit districts with the highest number of cumulative cases, which stand at 51,361 against 38,645 in Jammu district till Friday evening.

While there are 10,800 active cases in Srinagar, the number of such cases in Jammu district stands at 7,087, an official bulletin said.

The overall fatality figure in the union territory stands at 2,612 among a total of 2,06,954 cases since the outbreak of the pandemic, with Kashmir accounting for the highest 1,515 deaths against 1,097 in Jammu province till Friday evening.

There are 44,307 active cases in the UT while 1,60,035 patients have recovered after successful treatment, as per the bulletin.

Covid +Ve Report

mandatory for admission to a health facility. In its revised national policy for admission of COVID patients to various dedicated health facilities, both public and private, the Union Health Ministry said no patient will be refused services on any account, including oxygen and essential drugs, even if the he or she belongs to

"In a significant directive to states, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has revised the national policy for admission of COVID patients to various categories of COVID

"This patient-centric measure aims to ensure prompt, effective and comprehensive treatment of patients suffering from COVID-19," the ministry said.

"Hospitals under the central government, state governments and UT administration, including private hospitals managing COVID patients, shall ensure that requirement of a positive test for COVID-19 virus is not mandatory for admission to a COVID health facility.

"A suspect case shall be admitted to the suspect ward of COVID Care Centre (CCC), Dedicated COVID Health Centre (DCHC) of Dedicated COVID Hospital (DHC) as the case may be," the directive to all the states and Union Territories said.

It said no patient will be refused services on any count which includes medications such as oxygen or essential drugs even if the patient belongs to a different city.

"No patient shall be refused admission on the ground that he/she is not able to produce a valid identity card that does not belong to the city where the hospital is located," it said.

The ministry also said admissions to hospital

nust be "based on need' "It should be ensured that beds are not occupied by persons who do not need hospitalization. Further, the discharge should be strictly in accordance with the revised discharge policy,' it said.

The Ministry said it has advised to the chief secretaries of states/Union territories to issue necessary orders and circulars, incorporating these directions within three days, which shall be enforced till replaced by an appropriate uniform policy.

The Union Health Ministry has earlier enunciated a policy of setting up three-tier health infrastructure for appropriate management of suspect/confirmed COVID-19 cases.

The guidance document issued in this regard on April 7 envisaged setting up of COVID Care Centre (CCC) that will offer care for mild cases. These have been set up in hostels, hotels, schools, stadiums, lodges etc., both public and private, it said.

Functional hospitals like CHC and others, which may be handling regular and non-COV-ID cases, may also be designated as COVID Care Centres as a last resort, it said.

The other facility was the Dedicated COVID Health Centre (DCHC) that offers care for all cases that have been clinically assigned as moderate.

"These should either be a full hospital or a separate block in a hospital with preferably separate entry/exit/zoning. Private hospitals may also be designated as COVID Dedicated Health Centres. These hospitals would have beds with assured oxygen support," the ministry said.

The last one - Dedicated COVID Hospital (DCH) was ordered to be set up to offer comprehensive care primarily for those who have been clinically assigned as severe.

"These hospitals should either be a full hospital or a separate block in a hospital with preferably separate entry/exit. Private hospitals may also be designated as COVID Dedicated Hospitals. These hospitals would have fully equipped ICUs, Ventilators and beds with assured Oxygen support," it said. (PTI)

Robust Mechanism

follow the restrictions besides avoiding gatherings to combat it.

Earlier, Pole took stock of Covid containment measures and made on spot and detailed inspection of various medical and healthcare facilities associated with Covid management in the district.

According to the official spokesperson, the Div Com also took a detailed stock of medical infrastructure and oxygen availability besides the augmentations being made for effective mitigation of the pandemic here.

"At District Hospital Kulgam, he inspected the newly commissioned 1000 LPM oxygen plant and reviewed its functioning briefly. He directed the health officials to utilize the oxygen supply rationally and directed to make an additional 300 LPM oxygen plant operational within two days so that the service can be utilized in addition for Covid-19 wards," he said.

He further said that the Div Com also took stock of availability of oxygen and other facilities for Covid-19 patients at Emergency Hospital Qazigund and NTPHC Check Wagund.

"It was given out that Emergency Hospital Qazigund is also dealing with Covid positive maternity cases. The Div Com also visited toll plaza at Qazigund and took stock of the functioning of the testing centre/Kiosk at the spot,"

Later, Pole visited Covid designated centers at Degree College Kulgam, GNM College and took stock of facilities available at these quar-

antines/ Covid Care Centres (CCCs) Pole, as per the official spokesperson was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad SSP Kulgam, Gurinder Paul Singh, Divisional Nodal officer for COVID, Dr. Waseem, ACR, CMO, Medical Superintendent and other concerned

SC Orders Release

entailing up to 7-year jail term to decongest prisons in the wake of coronavirus pandemic.

It had also directed states that the HPC shall consist of (i) Chairman of the State Legal Services Committee, (ii) the Principal Secretary (Home/Prison) by whatever designation is known as, (ii) Director General of Prison(s), to determine which class of prisoners can be released on parole or an interim bail for such period as may be thought appropriate.

CJI Ramana, writing the order for the bench, said, "The rapid proliferation of the virus st the inmates of congested prisons is a

matter of serious concern. The HPCs...shall consider release of prisoners by adopting the guidelines (such as inter alia, SOP laid down by NALSA) followed by them last year, at the earliest. Such of those States which have not constituted High Powered Committees last year are directed to do so immediately. Commissioner of Police Delhi shall also be a member of the High Powered

Committee, Delhi, the order said. Referring to immediate concern of raging pandemic, the bench highlighted the importance of prisons' de congestion and said HPCs, in addition to considering fresh release, should forthwith release all the inmates who had been released earlier pursuant to our order March 23, 2020, by imposing appropriate conditions. Such an exercise is mandated in order to save valuable time

Referring to a judgement, the top court said as a measure and being the sentinel on the qui vive of the fundamental rights there was a need to strictly control and limit the authorities from arresting accused in contravention of guidelines laid down by this court in the Arnesh Kumar judgement.

All the State Governments instruct its police officers not to automatically arrest when a case under Section 498 A IPC (Dowry harassment) is registered but to satisfy themselves about the necessity for arrest under the parameters laid down above flowing from Section 41 CrPC," the judgment had said.

The apex court said the direction prohibiting automatic arrest will not be restricted to dowry harassment cases only would be applicable to cases where offence is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may be less than seven years or which may extend to seven years, whether with or without fine.

The fight against pandemic is greatly benefitted by transparent administration, it said and took note of the example of Delhi, where the prison occupancy is updated in websites.

Such measures are required to be considered by other States and should be adopted as good practice. Moreover, all the decisions of HPCs need to be published on respective State Legal Service Authorities/State Governments/High Courts websites in order to enable effective dissemination of information.

It said overcrowding of prisons is a problem plaguing several countries including India and directed the jail authorities to provide proper medical care to those who do not want to come out of prisons.

The authorities are directed to ensure that proper medical facilities are provided to all prisoners who are imprisoned. The spread of Covid 19 virus should be controlled in the prisons by regular testing being done of the prisoners but also the jail staff and immediate treatment should be made available to the inmates and the staff, it said. It is necessary to maintain levels of daily hy-

giene and sanitation required to be improved and suitable precautions shall be taken to prevent the transmission of the deadly virus amongst inmates, it said. On Friday, the bench had termed the situa-

tion "very alarming and had said that it would pass orders to ensure release of prisoners to decongest prisons in view of a surge in COVID-19 cases in the country. On March 16, 2020, the top court had taken suo motu cognisance of overcrowding of pris-

ons across the country and said it is difficult for jail inmates to maintain social distancing to

prevent the spread of coronavirus. **Couple Held**

the accused were apprehended," Deputy Commissioner of Police (west) Urvija Goel said. The heroin was kept in seven plastic bags, police said.

Shafi told the police that he supplied heroin from Wazirabad to Khyala and thereafter to Punjab, they said. — PTI

Strained Over

the wealthy nation has supported Pakistan with billions of dollars in aid and loans in recent years, observers say the kingdom is also keen not to upset India, a key business partner and importer of Saudi oil.

The kingdom recalled \$1 billion of a \$3 billion loan to cash-strapped Pakistan, and an expired multi-billion-dollar oil credit facility to Islamabad has not been renewed, a diplomatic source told AFP in September.

Prior to that, Pakistan rebuffed calls to send ground troops to support the troubled Saudiled military campaign against Yemen's Huthi

'Exceptional cordiality'

But Imran Khan's visit appeared to have restored cooperation between the two Islamic countries that are both heavily engaged in the "war on terror" which requires effective intelligence sharing.

"The two sides stressed the need for concerted efforts by the Islamic world to confront extremism and violence, and reject sectarianism," the Saudi statement said.

The official Saudi Press Agency said the two sides signed agreements addressing the treatment of criminals, and crime.

They also agreed two memorandums of understanding on combating drug trafficking, and on financing energy, water and infrastructure

The two countries also agreed to establish a Saudi-Pakistan Supreme Coordination Council

"During the meeting, it was agreed to further strengthen, deepen and diversify the existing bilateral political, economic, trade, defence and security ties," a Pakistani statement said.

"The talks were marked by exceptional cordiality and a commitment to fortify the upward trajectory in the bilateral relationship," it added.

Saudi-Iran moves

Pakistan has close links with Saudi Arabia, with more than 2.5 million of its nationals living and working in the kingdom, but it also maintains close ties with Iran and represents Tehran's consular interests in the United States.

its ties with Iran, with which it shares a near 1,000-kilometre (625-mile) border. In 2019, Imran Khan travelled between Saudi Arabia and Iran in a bid to calm animosities be-

For decades, Pakistan has tried to balance

its strong relationship with Saudi Arabia and

tween the rival Muslim powers. His visit to Jeddah comes as Saudi Arabia and Iran hold secret talks in Iraq, the first significant effort to defuse tensions since the regional powers cut ties in 2016 after Iranian protesters, infuriated over the kingdom's execution of a top Muslim cleric, attacked Saudi diplomatic missions.

'The prime minister of Pakistan's visit to Saudi Arabia is an important milestone in bilateral relations," Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan tweeted Saturday. 'The kingdom is keen to further strengthen

relations between the brotherly countries as well as enable broader economic cooperation." Jammu BJP Leader

and find who are involved in such kind of clandestine activities as it has lost revenue worth several hundred crores over the years," Randhawa told reporters here.

He said they are ready to cooperate with the government and will provide all relevant information with regard to this theft. "The minor minerals worth Rs 15 lakh to Rs 20 lakh are being illegally sold on a daily basis and not a single penny is deposited in the government treasury.'

Randhawa said the government should also ensure revocation of the high court ban and regularize the mining activities which provide sustenance to a large number of families.

Asked about the proposed protest, the BJP leader said he is satisfied with the steps taken by the government and the court and hence "the self-immolation is shelved but our struggle against the mining mafia will continue".

In response to a question about the showcause notice and the defamation suit filed against him, Randhawa said he "lost temper after the unit holders were served notice to pay huge amounts ranging between Rs 50 lakh and Rs 1.25 crore by the mining department even as they were closed for 10 months".

"I have nothing personal against the Union minister who is not himself involved in corruption. Someone is taking advantage of his proximity with him and I wanted him to take "I am sorry for using words which I should

not have used against anyone but it was an emotional outburst after we were served huge penalties. The high court has intervened and issued a stay order on the recovery of the fine," Randhawa, who himself was slapped with a

penalty of Rs 97 lakh for alleged lapses in the

conduct of mining business and stone crusher,

said he is a senior worker of the BJP and had put forth his point before the party leadership. "I am a dedicated worker of the party and answerable to it," he said, adding he is responding to the legal notice served on him by

the Union minister. **Govt Rejects**

and submitted objections against the plan to Lieutenant Governor. The LG's office had forwarded the objections to the Revenue department and the same were also forwarded to DC

Samba on February 9, 2021 for a factual report. The matter came up for discussion during a meeting chaired by divisional commissioner Jammu on March 27 in Jammu.

Explosive Material

security situation in the district" a defence spokesman said.

He said a joint team of the Army, the CRPF,

the SSB and the J-K Police launched a search operation in Chakarandi village on a specific information. During the operation, security forces recovered 40 kilograms of high explosive material, five-liter pressure cooker IEDs, five-inch iron

pipe IED, four electrical detonators, electri-

cal wire, power sources, six heavy duty cells,

insulation tape and 1.5 kg iron splinters, the spokesman said. 'These caches have been created by the terrorists in the remote areas to be used for destabilising the security situation which is heading

towards normalcy," he said. He said security forces have successfully recovered IEDs, explosives, arms and ammunition in recent months to thwart the nefarious

designs of militants. PTI **Truck Drivers**

on the highway, local news agency KNT reported Saturday.

According to the report, the duo have also alleged that one of the extortionist was carrying a pistol and he snatched mobiles in Rs 10000 from them

Police have taken cognizance of the complaint and set investigation into motion, the eport added.

Teen Girl Dies

of 500 in recent 10th exam—(KNO)

Youth Arrested

a special investigation team (SIT) was constituted and after strenuous efforts, one of the accused Rameez Ahmad Sheikh was arrested from Budgam district of central Kashmir.

The second accused, Manoj Kumar Jatav of Karauli district in Rajasthan, was also arrested from the jurisdiction of police station of Kandi on Saturday when he had come to collect his We want the government to order a CBI probe belongings, the police said



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: India wicketkeeper batsman Rishabh Pant on Saturday joined the fight against the raging COVID-19 pandemic, pledging an undisclosed amount to procure oxygen cylinders with beds and kits for the affected patients. The 23-year-old said he will donate the amount to Hemkunt Founda-

tion, a Gurugram-based NGO. "I am supporting the Hemkunt Foundation through a monetary donation that will help provide O2 cylinders with beds, Covid-relief kits and much more to those suffering across the country," Pant said in a statement posted on his Twitter handle.

Pant saluted the country's frontline workers, who have been working tirelessly to help the coronavirus-infected people throughout the past year.

"However, the cause of helping India overcome these unprecedented times needs all our collective efforts," he wrote.

"One of the most important aspects I have learned from sport is the power of working together as a team for a common cause," said Pant, who captained Delhi Capi-

tals in the now-suspended IPL. Essential supplies such as oxygen cylinders and ventilators, hospital beds and some crucial medicines are dwindling in the face of a devastating second wave of coronavirus which is killing more than

3000 people daily in the country. "The scale of despair across our country has been immense and something I have been deeply affected by. As someone who has seen personal loss up close, my heart goes out to all the families who have suffered over the past year and I pray for the souls of

those who have left us," Pant said. "I am keen to work with organisations providing medical aid and support to rural India and nonmetro cities, which do not have the capacity of medical infrastructure than that of the major cities."

Pant asked people to come forward and join the fight against COVID-19. He also urged the people to get vaccinated.

"I urge everyone to contribute in their own way so that we can help reach the remotest part of the country and spread awareness about COVID relief and vaccination programs being run by the central and state governments," he said.

"Please remember to stay safe, follow safety protocols, and get vaccinated, when possible.'

Several cricketers, including Virat Kohli, Shikhar Dhawan, Jaydev Unadkat, Hardik Pandya and Pat Cummins have already made contributions to help India's fight against the unprecedented health crisis.

India Cricket Team To Leave For UK On June 2

NEW DELHI: Indian cricketers will complete an eight-day hard quarantine period in Mumbai before leaving on June 2 for a marathon tour of United Kingdom, where they will play six Test matches, including the marquee World Test Championship final against New

The BCCI is still carrying out negotiations regarding the duration of 10 days of soft quarantine (training allowed) for players after reaching the UK where they will be based for three and half months.

"Indian team will have eight days of hard quarantine (confined to hotel rooms) in India with mandatory negative RT-PCR reports on second, fourth and seventh day required to board the flight," a senior BCCI official told PTI on Saturday.

"Since we have a bubble to bubble transfer, it needs to be seen if the duration of the 10-day quarantine can be reduced a bit. However players during soft quarantine can



go for training. In any case, Hotel Hilton where the teams will be put up in Southampton, is a part of the Ageas Bowl property," the source added.

In case it's a 10-day quarantine, the Indians will be allowed to move around the city from June 13 while the WTC final against New Zealand will start on June 18.

It is also learnt that looking at the length of the tour, players' families will accompany them.

However, it is still not clear whether the WAGS and children will join from the start of the tour or come after the WTC final when there is a substantial gap of more than a month before the start of the Test series on August 4.

India's Greco Roman Wrestlers Bite Dust At Olympic Qualifiers In Bulgaria

Press Trust of India

SOFIA: Putting up an abject show, India's Greco Roman wrestlers drew a blank at the World Olympic Qualifiers as none of them could earn a Tokyo Games quota, here on Saturday.

India's brightest chance was with Gurpreet Singh but he was ousted after losing his 77kg pre-quarterfinal in just 48 seconds to 2020 European champion Rafig Huseynov from Azerbaijan.

The quick Huseynov pulled off a quick four-point move to stun Gurpreet. Before Gurpreet could regroup, the Azerbaijani effected another four-pointer to end the bout in the first period itself.

Gurpeet, who had won a bronze medal at last month's Asian Qualifiers, had got a walkover from Tajikistan's Daler Rez Zade in his opening bout.

All Greco Roman wrestlers cut a sorry figure as none of them could win a bout. While Sachin Rana forfeited his opening bout to bow out of the 60kg competition, Ashu (67kg) squandered 'Par Terre' position advantage to lose 3-8 against Aliaksandr Liavonchyk of Belarus.

Sunil Kumar missed chances aplenty against Russia's Davit Chakvatadze in the 87kg pre-quarterfinal. He was up 1-0 but did not take advantage of the 'Par Terre' as he let the Russian get out of the defensive

Chakvatadze was tired towards the ends but the Indian could not

take advantage of even that. Deepanshu was pinned by Spain's Jesus Gasca Fresnada when he was trailing 3-7 in his 97kg pre-

quarterfinal. Only the two finalists were given Tokyo Olympics quota in this competition.

Overall, India will field its biggest ever contingent of eight wrestlers at the Tokyo Games -- four men's free style wrestlers and as many women wrestlers.

In the last edition in 2016, India had fielded seven wrestlers -- two men's free style, two Greco Roman and three women wrestlers.

Men's free style wrestler Sumit Malik (125kg) and Seema Bisla (50kg, women) earned quotas from this event in Sofia.

Before this event, Ravi Dahiya (57kg), Bajrang Punia (65kg), Deepak Punia (86kg) and Vinesh Phogat (women's 53kg) had qualified through the 2019 World Championship in Nur Sultan, Kazakhstan.

Young guns Anshu Malik (57kg) and Sonam Malik (62kg) had also qualified through the Asian Qualifier in Almaty, last month.

Sourav Ganguly, Jay Shah to be in UK for WTC final

Agenceis

CCI president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah are expected to be a pected to be present in Southampton for the WTC final.

"Both president and secretary are supposed to be present during the World Test Championship final as of now," the source added.

One could expect them having some discussions with ECB brass with regards to the option of hosting the remaining 31 games of IPL in the United Kingdom apart from various ICC policy decisions.



To Escape COVID-Hit Delhi, Kane Williamson, 3 Other **Kiwis Fly Out To Maldives**

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Kane Williamson and three other New Zealanders on Friday flew to Maldives in a departure from their original plan, as they were not feeling comfortable staying in COVID-19 hotspot Delhi.

Sunrisers Hyderabad captain Williamson, Chennai Super King's Mitchell Santer and Royal Challenger Bangalore's Kyle Jamieson and CSK physio Tommy Simsek took a commercial flight to Maldives

The four were originally supposed to stay in Delhi in a mini biobubble till May 10 and take a flight to the UK ahead of the Test series in England and World Test Championship final against India from June 18.

"Kane and few others from New Zealand were not feeling safe in Delhi because of the COVID situation there. That is why they decided to fly to Maldvies," a Sunrisers Hyder-



abad official told PTI.

Another Test regular Trent Boult has flown back to New Zealand with will join the team in the UK after spending a week with his family.

Though there is a travel ban from India, New Zealand is allowing its citizens to return home with a mandatory two weeks quarantine.

The Australian contingent has also flown to Maldives after the suspension of the IPL as its government has banned entry of all travellers from India until May 15.

Prasidh Krishna 4th KKR Player To Test Positive For COVID-19

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Kolkata Knight Riders pacer Prasdih Krishna has tested positive for coronavirus and is in quarantine in his home town Benga luru, a BCCI source said on Saturday.

The 25-year-old Krishna, who was named in the Indian squad for the England tour as a stand-by on Friday, is the fourth KKR player to have contracted the dreaded virus.

"Prasidh is COVID positive and currently in home isolation in Bengaluru," a BCCI source told PTI. Varun Chakravarthy, Sandeen

rier and Tim Seifert are the other KKR players, who tested positive earlier. According to the BCCI source, both Krishna and Warrier contracted the virus from Chakravarthy during one of the training sessions. He said Krish-

na is Chakravarthy's close friend. "Prasidh like all India players left bubble on May 3 after getting two negative results. However on reaching Bengaluru he tested positive,"



the source said.

The BCCI is hoping that by the time the UK-bound players enter the bio-bubble in India on May 25, Krishna will test negative.

New Zealand's wicketkeeperbatsman Seifert is also in isolation in Ahmedabad from where he will go to Chennai for treatment at a private hospital.

Seifert failed both his pre-departure RT-PCR tests and "is experiencing moderate symptoms."

The IPL was postponed indefinitely after the virus breached the bio-bubble and infected a number of players and support staff members.

Olympic Hockey Gold Medallist Ravinder Pal Singh **Succumbs To COVID**



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Former India hockey player and a member of the 1980 Moscow Olympics-winning side, Ravider Pal Singh, died on Saturday morning in Lucknow after battling COVID-19 for nearly two weeks. He was 60.

Singh was admitted at the Vivekananda Hospital on April 24 after contracting the deadly virus.

According to family sources, Singh had recovered from the virus and was shifted to non-COVID ward on Thursday after testing negative.

But his condition suddenly deteriorated on Friday and he was put

Singh, who also played at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, did not get married and is survived by a niece, Pragya Yadav.

Singh also played in the 1979 Junior World Cup and took voluntary retirement from State Bank of India after quitting hockey.

Born in Sitapur on September 6, 1960, Singh excelled as a centre-half from 1979 to 1984.

Besides two Olympics, Singh had also represented India in the Champions Trophy in Karachi (1980, 1983), Silver Jubilee 10-nation Cup in Hong Kong in 1983, 1982 World Cup in Mumbai and 1982 Asia Cup in Karachi, among other tournaments. Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju condoled the death of the double Olympian.

"I'm deeply saddened to learn that Shri Ravinder Pal Singh ji has lost the battle to Covid19. With his passing away India loses a golden member of the hockey team that won Gold in the 1980 Moscow Olympics. His contribution to Indian sports will always be remembered," he tweeted.

Hockey India also mourned the untimely demise of Singh

"Hockey India extends its deepest condolences to Ravinder Pal Singh's family. Ravinder made an immense contribution to Indian hockey and his achievements will always be remembered. MayRavinder's family and friends have the strength to pass through this difficult time," HI president Gyanendro Ningombam said.

India Women's Hockey Captain Rani, Six **Teammates Recover** From COVID-19

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Indian women's hockey captain Rani Rampal, her six team-mates and two support staff members have recovered from COVID-19 infection after spending two weeks in quarantine at the Sports Authority of India's (SAI) Centre in Bengaluru.

The six other India players are Savita Punia, Sharmila Devi, Rajani, Navjot Kaur, Navneet Kaur and Sushila while the two support staff are video analyst Amrutaprakash and scientific advisor Wayne Lombard.

All seven tested positive following the Indian women's hockey core group's return to the national camp in Bengaluru on April 24 after a 10-day break. All of them were asymptomatic. "Thank you everyone for the love and

mental support through messages/calls during the last two weeks. Me and my teammates and support staff are fully recovered from the COVID now," Rani said in a statement on her Twitter handle. "Feeling blessed to have u all as members

from our hockey fraternity/friends/fans. Special thanks to Hockey India SAi for taking our good care." Rani urged the countrymen to take pre-

cautions and extend all possible help to the needy in these difficult times. "Extremely sad to know about that so many people are losing their loved ones, my

prayers for them. Please help as much as u can in any way for your near and dear ones. "Let's fight this pandemic together. Stay safe, wear mask and follow all Covid19

guidelines strictly," she said.

Barca, Madrid, Juve Cling Onto Super League, **Denounce UEFA Threats**

Agencies

MADRID: The three remaining European Super League rebels stepped up their criticism of UEFA on Saturday, with Barcelona, Real Madrid and Juventus denouncing intolerable threats for their refusal to back down on the prospect of a breakaway competition.

The other nine clubs who formed the ill-fated Super League three weeks ago accepted a settlement on Friday to be fined by UEFA and stay within the open Champions League structure. "We regret to see that our friends

and founding partners of the Super League project have now found themselves in such inconsistent and contradictory position when signing a number of commitments to UEFA yesterday," Barcelona, Madrid and Juventus said in a joint statement.

"We have the duty to act in a responsible manner and persevere in the pursuit of adequate solutions, despite the unacceptable and ongoing pressures and threats received from UEFA." The trio risks being banned from

the Champions League as UEFA pursues a disciplinary process against them for not disavowing the Super League and being reintegrated into the existing system.

"The founding clubs have suffered, and continue to suffer, unacceptable third-party pressures, threats, and

offenses to abandon the project and therefore desist from their right and duty to provide solutions to the football ecosystem via concrete proposals and constructive dialogue," Barcelona, Madrid and Iuventus said. "This is intolerable under the rule

The Super League project imploded

after the English clubs Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, Manchester United, Manchester City and Tottenham backed out inside 48 hours last month after a backlash from the fans and British government.

The Premier League clubs along with Atletico Madrid, AC Milan and Inter Milan have officially signed up to a settlement with UEFA to participate only in the existing open European competitions and accepted giving up 5% of revenue for one season playing in Europe.

"We are fully aware of the diversity of reactions to the Super League initiative and, consequently, of the need to reflect on the reasons for some of them." the remaining Super League clubs said.

"We are ready to reconsider the proposed approach, as necessary. However, we would be highly irresponsible if, being aware of the needs and systemic crisis in the football sector, which led us to announce the Super League, we abandoned such mission to provide effective and sustainable answers to the existential questions that threaten the football industry.'

Neymar Signs Contract Extension Till 2025 With PSG

Agencies

PARIS: Neymar has signed a three-year contract extension with Paris Saint-Germain, keeping the Brazil star at the club until 2025. PSG announced the deal on Saturday, posting a video of Neymar wearing a jersey with 2025 on the back and saying "Ici c'est Paris" — 'This is Paris', a favourite chant of the fans.

Neymar also spoke to the club's website.

"I'm really pleased to continue my adventure at Paris Saint-Germain. I'm very happy in Paris, and proud to be part of this squad," he said.

"These are things that make me believe even more in this great project. I have grown as a person here, as a human being and as a player, too. So I am very happy to extend my contract and I hope to win many more tro-The 29-year-old phies here." Neymar would have been out of contract next June, along with striker Kylian Mbappe — who has yet to re-sign and has been linked with a move to Spanish giant Real Madrid.

Neymar has scored 85 goals in 112 games since joining PSG from Barcelona for a world record 222 million euros (\$270 million) four years ago along with Mbappe, who joined for 180 million euros (\$219 million) from Monaco.

But Neymar has failed to de-



liver on the biggest stage so far, losing his temper and berating a failing to score in seven straight knockout games of the Champions League — the trophy the ambitious club desperately wants

PSG lost the final last year to Bayern Munich and was beaten in both semifinal legs this season by Manchester City, with Neymar teammate in the home leg.

He has also been riddled with foot and leg muscle injuries since his arrival, and has never played

in one season. If he plays in PSG's remaining three matches — starting away to Rennes on Sunday — he will have

more than 20 of 38 league games

appeared in just 70 out of a pos-

Neymar has also had suspensions, missing five games after getting two red cards this cam-

The 22-year-old Mbappe is PSG's top scorer with 37 goals in 43 games, including a leagueleading 25.

US Urges Its Citizens To Return Home From India Through Available Flights

Agenceis

WASHINGTON: The US, which has urged its citizens not to travel to India due to an unprecedented surge in the COVID-19 cases there, on Friday encouraged those in the country to book their tickets to return home through currently available flights.

The United Airlines and Air India are continuing to operate numerous direct flights weekly from India to the US, a State Department health alert said.

Additional flight options remain available on Air France, Lufthansa, and Qatar Airways via transfers in Paris, Frankfurt, and Doha.

US citizens who wish to depart India are encouraged to book tickets through the airlines, the health alert said.

It is mandatory for anyone travelling to the US (2 years and older) to take a COVID-19 test no more than 3 days before travel and show a negative result to the airline before boarding the flight, it said.

The passengers should be prepared to show documentation of recovery from COVID-19 (proof of a recent positive viral test and a letter from a healthcare provider or a public health official stating clearance for travel).

Travellers are encouraged to

follow post-travel guidance once in the US, it said.

The US this week reissued its travel advisory on India, urging its citizens not to travel to the country due to an unprecedented surge in the COVID-19 cases

"Do not travel to India due to COVID-19. Exercise increased caution due to crime and terrorism," the State Department said on Wednesday in its latest travel advisory that looked identical to the one issued on

Both the travel advisories have been marked "Level 4" which is the highest warning level.

On April 28, the Department approved the voluntary departure of family members of US government employees.

On May 5, the Department approved the voluntary departure of non-emergency US government

"US citizens who wish to depart India should take advantage of available commercial transportation options," it said.

Last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a Level 4 Travel Health Notice for India due to COVID-19, indicating a very high level of COVID-19 in the country.

Over 9 Lakh Patients On Oxygen Support Across India: Health Minister

NEW DELHI: While 1,70,841 COV-ID patients across the country are on ventilator, as many as 9,02,291 patients are on oxygen support, Union Health Minister Vardhan said on Saturday.

In his virtual address at the 25th meeting of the Group of Ministers (GoM) to discuss the pandemic situation, the minister said that 1.34 percent of COVID caseload was in ICU, 0.39 percent of cases were on ventilators and 3.70 percent COVID patients were on oxygen support.

He said that across the country, the number of patients in ICU beds is 4,88,861 while 1,70,841 patients were on ventilators and 9,02,291 patients were on oxygen support.

The meeting was attended by Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar, Minister of Civil Aviation Hardeep S Puri, Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Chemical and Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya and Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs Nityanand Rai.

Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State, Health and Familv Welfare and Dr Vinod K Paul. Member (Health), NITI Aayog



were present virtually.

Mr Paul gave a detailed report on the work of the Empowered Group-1 and highlighted the various efforts made towards ramping up hospital infrastructure for effective clinical management of hospitalized patients.

Giridhar Aramane, Secretary, Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways (Chair, EG-2) presented the current scenario of Liquid Medical Oxygen Production, Allocation and Supply.

Mr Aramane stated that the production of Liquid Medical Oxy-

gen (LMO) has been maximized to meet the present demand of CO-VID patients.

The domestic production has increased to more than 9400 MT/ day, the health ministry quoted him, adding that he also enumerated steps to import LMO, the status of establishment of PSA oxygen plants through the support of PMCARES fund with the support of DRDO and CSIR, enhancement of tanker availability, the functioning of the web portal and mobile application for Real-Time Tracking of LMO Tankers.

Anti-Inflammatory Drug Ibuprofen Does Not Worsen Covid Symptoms: Study

Agenceis

PARIS: Taking anti-inflammatory drugs like ibuprofen does not increase the risk of developing a severe form of Covid-19 or of dying from it, according to a new study, the largest so far on this class of medicines. At the start of the coronavirus pandemic there was concern over the potential effects of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), which are used to treat everything from minor pain to chronic arthritis and cardiovascular disease.

But observational research published Saturday in the medical journal Lancet Rheumatology, based on 72,000 hospitalised patients, found that the drugs "do not increase the mortality or severity" of Covid-19.

The authors recommended that doctors should continue to prescribe NSAIDs as they have in the past.

"When the pandemic began over a year ago, we needed to be sure that these common medications would not lead to worse outcomes in people with Covid-19." lead author Ewen Harrison, a professor at the University of Edinburgh, said in a press release.

"We now have clear evidence that NSAIDs are safe to use in patients with Covid-19, which should provide reassurance to both clinicians and patients that they can continue to be used in the same way as before the pan-

demic began. The NSAID family of anti-inflammatory drugs includes those widely used by the general public like ibuprofen -- an active substance in common drugs, such as

Nurofen or Advil -- or ketoprofen. Concerns over the drugs emerged at the start of the Covid pandemic and centred on suspicions that they can worsen infections, especially bacterial.

In March 2020, for example, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended that people suffering Covid-19 symptoms avoid selfmedicating with ibuprofen, after French officials warned that antiinflammatory drugs could worsen effects of the virus.

The new research examined data on 72,000 Covid patients admitted to 255 health centres in England, Scotland and Wales between January and August 2020.

Of these, 4.211 had taken NSAIDs before hospitalisation.

The study found that the proportion of death was similar regardless of whether patients had taken the drugs or not -- 30.4 percent for those who had and 31.3 percent for those who had not

Wake Up From Slumber, Mitigate COVID Challenges: IMA to Health Ministry

Agenceis

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Saturday slammed the Union Health Ministry, saying it is "astonished to see the extreme lethargy and inappropriate actions" from the department in combating the agonizing crisis caused by the devastating second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Noting that the collective consciousness, proactive cognizance, and requests made by the IMA and other professional learned colleagues are put into the "dustbin", the association said the decisions are taken "without realizing the ground realities"

In the last 20 days, an IMA state-

ment said, the association has been insisting on the need for complete, well- planned pre-announced national lockdown rather than few states declaring lockdown ranging for 10 days to 15 days - so as to getting breathing time for the health care infrastructure to recoup and replenish both the material and manpower.

"Lockdown will break the chain of devastating spread," said the IMA, a national voluntary organisation of Doctors of Modern Scientific System of Medicine in India.

However, it said, the Central government had refused to implement the lockdown resulting in mounting of new patients beyond four lakhs every day and the number of moderate to severe cases are increasing to nearly 40 per cent. Mentioning that "sporadic night curfews have not done any good",

the IMA stressed: "Life is precious than the economy." "Wake up from slumber and respond to mitigate the growing challenges in co-

vid pandemic," the IMA said. The equitable, accessible, and affordable vaccination for all above 18 years were demanded by the IMA based on scientific facts from April 6 onward and after persistent call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with

started from May 1, it said. "It is unfortunate, the ministry has failed to make the necessary required roadmap and ensure vaccine

his innovative qualities assured the

nation, the vaccination drive was

stock, resulting in the majority of the places where vaccination could not be rolled out for people above 18 years," the IMA said.

'When the Prime minister notification is not implemented scrupulously, who is to be blamed?'

Considering differential Covid vaccine pricing system as "unhumanistic", the IMA said the people of the age group between 18 and 45 years are forbidden to get the free vaccination from the central share of 50 per cent and they are placed under the mercy of the state governments.

"The jeopardy of private practitioners and states to negotiate with manufacturers for pricing and stock resulted in exorbitant price rise and vaccine shortage."

Giving example of eradication of smallpox and polio in 1997 and 2014, the IMA said it could only happen by adopting the universal free vaccination and not by differential pricing system.When Rs 35,000 crore were allotted in the budget, the IMA said, with which the maximum required 200 crore vaccine dozes are purchasable.

"Why the central government is shedding its responsibility?," asked the IMA, adding "unless the government comes out and implements with willingness and steadfastness for equitable distribution, we will not be able the achieve the goal".

Today for the last seven days, the IMA said, "no vaccine is available in small and medium private hospitals".

Chinese Rocket To Tumble Back To Earth In Uncontrolled Re-Entry

Agenceis

BEIJING: A large segment of a Chinese rocket is expected to make an uncontrolled re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere over the weekend, but Beijing has downplayed fears of damage on the ground and said the risk is very low. A Long March-5B rocket launched the first module of China's new space station into Earth's orbit on April 29.

Its 18-tonne main segment is now in freefall and experts have said it is difficult to say precisely where and when it will re-enter the atmosphere. Russian space agency Roscosmos predicted the rocket will re-enter after 2330 GMT Saturday

south of Indonesia over the Timor Sea The Pentagon gave a time of around 2300 GMT Saturday with a window of nine hours either side. Chinese authorities have said most of the rocket components will likely be destroyed as it descends.

"The probability of causing harm... on the ground is extremely low," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told reporters on Friday.

Although there has been fevered speculation over exactly where the rocket -- or parts of it -- will land, there is a good chance any debris that does not burn up will just splash down into the ocean, given that the planet is 70 percent water.



Shri Manoj Sinha Lieutenant Governor

Only have medicines under doctor's prescription

Remdesivir is NOT to be used in patients who are NOT on oxygen support or in home settings

Don't use Oxygen without supervision of medical

ATTENTION ID-19 POSITIVE CASES

UNDER HOME ISOLATION 24X7 Consultation Helplines are available



If you develop any below mentioned symptoms:



Difficulty in Breathing



Dip in oxygen saturation (< 90 %)



Persistent pain/ pressure in the chest



Slurred Speech / seizures



in any limb or face



Weakness or numbness Bluish discoloration of lips/face

Triage Hospital Details

SKIMS-JVC, Bemina 7006617821 NIT Hazratbal 9419006991

COVID Positive cases are strongly requested NOT to arrive directly at below mentioned Hospitals. without first going to Triage Hospitals

*SKIMS, Soura * Chest Disease Hospital *SMHS Hospital * Kashmir Nursing Home *PHC Chanapora *JLNM Hospital

For periphery areas and district other than Srinagar the triage point shall be the concerned District Hospital / New GMCs (Baramulla/ Anantnag). Admission of such patientsfrom these districts to SKIMS Soura / GMC Srinagar shall be strictly on referral basis only.

For any sort of query including medical advice 24x7 Divisional Control Room- Kashmir

For local / any other query regarding RAT/ RTPCR COVID testing, Covid Care Centres,

0194-2440283/ 2430581/ 2452052 / 2457313 / 2457312

Availability of Pulse Oxi Meter etc.

Districtwise Control Room No.s

S No.	District	Contact Number	S No.	District	Contact Number						
1	Bandipora	01957-225322	6	Pulwama	01933-240912 01933-240412						
2	Ganderbal	0194-2416244	7	Kulgam	01931-260388						
3	Budgam	01951-255237	8	Baramulla	01952-351261 7889534245						
4	Kupwara	01955-253658 9419268121	9	Srinagar	0194-2457552 0194-2457543						
5	Shopian	01933-260825	10	Anantnag	01932-222255						

For Free Ambulance Service please call Toll Free No. 108



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