



P3 CITY

FSSAI AUTHORISES FTL DALGATE FOR TESTING OF FOOD SAMPLES

In a significant development, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has authorised the Food Testing Laboratory (FTL) Dalgate, Srinagar to perform the testing/analysis

P6 THINK

VACCINE DISPARITY IN J&K: KASHMIR DISTRICTS LEFT BEHIND

Jammu and Kashmir's vaccination coverage has a huge disparity among the two divisions of Jammu and Kashmir. Districts in Kashmir have been hit more



P5 STATE

ADV KHAN REVIEWS COVID CONTAINMENT MEASURES IN SHOPAIN

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan Tuesday visited District Shopain and held a comprehensive and threadbare discussion in which the



Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.

— Albert Einstein

NEWS DIGEST**Leopard Injures Minor In Tangmarg**

SRINAGAR: A minor boy was attacked and injured by a leopard in Tangmarg area in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Wednesday. 5-year-old Inaam Ahmad Mir, son of Muzaffar Ahmad Mir was outside his house in Gulab Dajie village of Kunzar Tangmarg on Wednesday evening when a leopard appeared there and attacked him, reports said. However, the boy miraculously survived as the villagers spotted the ferocious beast and chased it away. According to the reports, the boy was evacuated to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Teen Falls Into Nallah, Feared Dead

SRINAGAR: A 14 year old boy was feared dead after he slipped into Shaliganga Nallah in Arigam village of central Kashmir's Budgam district on Wednesday. Local sources said that a 14 year old boy identified as Irfan Ahmed Bhat, a resident of Arigam fell down into a nallah near an under construction bridge. Police and locals are on job to retrieve the boy who is feared to be dead.

Bodies Of Two Missing Passengers Retrieved

BANIHAL: Bodies of two persons, who went missing along with four others after their car plunged into Chenab river along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway last month, were fished out from downstream in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, police said. The Sports Utility Vehicle was on its way to Bijoor with nine passengers -- all residents of Uttar Pradesh -- when its driver lost control over the vehicle near Douglipulli-Karol in Chanderkote area of Ramban district on May 19 and plunged into the river, they said. While one of the three rescued persons died, six others remained. **More On P6**

Vehicle Crushes Teen In Kupwara

SRINAGAR: A teenager on Wednesday was mowed down by a concrete mixer vehicle in Kalaroos area of Kupwara district. 16-year-old Talib Hussain of Kanipora was mowed down by a concrete mixer vehicle (ARGO-4500) in Madmado village of Kalaroos on Wednesday, reports said. The teenager, reports said, died on the spot. After completion of medico legal formalities, the body was handed over to his next of kin for last rites. Police registered a case under relevant sections of law in this regard. (KNT)

PAGD Comes Out Of Hibernation Mode

Pledge To Take Special Status Fight To Its Logical End**Press Trust Of India**

SRINAGAR: In its first meeting in six months, the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) on Wednesday said it has kept all its options open in the struggle for the restoration of special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

"We have not closed any options. We will discuss it as and when they (Centre) invite us (for talks)," PAGD chairman Farooq Abdullah told reporters after the meeting at the residence of PDP president Mehbooba Mufti here.

It was the first meeting of the alliance since December last year when it met to discuss the results of the District Development Council elections.

It was also the first meeting since the People's Conference led by Sajad Lone, who was the spokesman of the amalgam, quit the alliance earlier this year.

The PAGD, after Wednesday's



meeting, named veteran CPI(M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami as its spokesperson.

Asked about speculations about the further division of Jammu and Kashmir, Abdullah said the PAGD leaders were as much in the dark as the general public.

"We also heard about the rumours just like you do. We do not know but we are

steadfast and believe that Allah will protect us," the National Conference president said.

In response to a question, he said the political parties have challenged various steps taken by the Centre since August 5, 2019, and will continue to pursue the legal option.

Abdullah said the amalgam could not do **More On P6**

Apni Party Seeks Statehood Before Polls

The Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) on Wednesday demanded the restoration of statehood to the union territory before holding of assembly elections. JKAP provincial president and former minister Manjit Singh said the central government must fulfill its promise to the people of J-K which it made from the floor of Parliament. The time has come when assembly elections should be announced and before doing so, the government of India should restore statehood to J-K, Singh said addressing a party meeting convened to discuss the present political. **More On P6**

Srinagar Records Season's Hottest Day**Zaid Bin Shabir**

SRINAGAR: The summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday recorded the hottest day of the season with mercury touching a new high of 34.7 Degree Celsius, above normal by 6.8 degrees Celsius, officials said.

Deputy Director, Meteorological Department (MeT), Mukhtar Ahmed told Kashmir Observer that Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 34.7 degree Celsius on Wednesday making it the hottest day of the season so far.

"Today's temperature is the highest since June 05, 2018, when Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 35 degree Celsius," he said.

He said that the Indian Meteorological Department in Srinagar, which provides a representative data for the Valley and adjoining areas, on June 9 recorded a maximum temperature of 34.7 degree Celsius in Srinagar which is around 6.8 notches above the normal. Ahmed further said that from **More On P6**

LG Opens 500-Beded Covid Hospital In Khanmoh

Says Timely Decisions Lead To Better Management Of Patients**Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: In a major boost to healthcare infrastructure in the coronavirus hit Union Territory, the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday inaugurated a 500-bedded Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) hospital set up in just 17 days.

The 500-bedded hospital in Khonmoh area in the city

outskirts is centrally air-conditioned and has all the requisite modern facilities. The hospital has a capacity for 125 ICU beds, out of which 25 are reserved for children and 375 beds with 24-hour oxygen connectivity. 10 bedded Triage area has also been built in 100 sqm.

The Covid care facility will fully start its operations once the trial run of all the medical facilities is completed,

an official spokesperson said Wednesday.

"My deepest gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Home Minister Amit Shah, and the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for providing the necessary assistance and interventions in augmenting healthcare & medical facilities across J&K," the LG said, as per the official spokesperson after inaugurating the hospital. **More On P6**

1098 Cases, 17 Corona Deaths In J&K

One More Black Fungus Case Confirmed, Tally Rises To 18**Observer Monitoring Desk**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported 1098 new covid-19 cases while 17 more people succumbed to the virus in the last 24 hours, officials said on Wednesday.

They said that 324 of the cases were reported from Jammu division and 774 from Kashmir Valley, taking the total count to 303749.

Also, they said, ten deaths were reported from Kashmir

valley and seven from Jammu division, taking the overall toll to 4118.

Providing district-wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 254 cases,

Baramulla 54, Budgam 113, Pulwama 65, Kupwara 75, Anantnag 69, Bandipora 23, Ganderbal 41, Kulgam 64, Shopian 16, Jammu 97, Udhampur 22, Rajouri 46, Doda 41, Kathua 18, Samba 8, Kishtwar 10, Poonch 35, Ramban 37 and Reasi 10.

Moreover, they said, 3046 more COVID-19 patients have recovered—944 from Jammu Division and **More On P6**

Govt Cancels 11th, 12th Class Board Exams

Amid prevailing Covid scenario, the government on Wednesday cancelled all pending JKBOSE examinations for the session 2020-21 in Jammu and Kashmir. "In view of safety and well-being of students due to Covid pandemic, all pending JKBOSE Examinations session 2020-21 (Regular/Private) for final exams of class XI and XII across JKUT for which **More On P6**

Train Service To Remain Suspended Till June 16

Authorities on Wednesday extended the he train services between Baramulla and Banihal section till June 16. According to an order, the train services from Banihal-Baramulla were scheduled to resume from June 09, 2021. However, the order **More On P6**

Man-Eater Leopard Seen At Budgam DC Office**Agencies**

SRINAGAR: A leopard who mauled a 4-year-old girl to death was spotted on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday inside deputy commissioner's office complex in Central Kashmir's Budgam district.

Sources said that the leopard was spotted by locals and security forces **More On P6**

Central Law Benefits Not Reaching Land Owners In J&K: RTI Activist

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration continues to deprive the people in Union Territory of the benefits of central laws implemented after the abrogation of the erstwhile state's special status around two years ago, a senior activist said Wednesday.

Dr. Raja Muzaffar Bhat told Kashmir Observer Wednesday that after the revocation of Article-370 on August 5, 2019

by Modi led BJP government in New Delhi, three pro-people laws came into effect, including the right to fair compensation and transparency in land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement Act, 2013, forest rights Act and Scheduled Cases/Scheduled Tribe atrocities Act.

"However, on ground, these laws have not been implemented," he said.

Elaborating further, the noted RTI activist said **More On P6**

**Dr. Faheem Younus**

VP/ CCO/ Chief of Infectious Disease, University of MD UCH

If you've received the first dose of a COVID vaccine and are waiting for the 2nd dose, consider yourself UNVACCINATED

You CAN get infected. Keep wearing a mask and avoid poorly ventilated indoor gatherings until fully vaccinated

1-3 month is an ok interval between two doses

**Dr. Fiaz Fazli**

Sr. Consultant Surgeon and Expert Healthcare Hospital policy plans

Avoid marriages and other occasions; (till 50% r vaccinated Vaccine is like umbrella in rain which saves but with this umbrella we don't go out when there is storm

Avoid marriages & other occasions (festivals) till the storm of epidemic stops at least 50% of population is vaccinated.

**Dr. Swapnil Parikh**

Physician

I'm already fully vaccinated (transduction), but if I wasn't: Would I take Covaxin? yes Should you take covaxin if offered? yes, it's a potentially fatal mistake to refuse Is BB doing the scientific community and the nation a disservice by keeping P3 data secret? YES!!!



Kashmiri Teen Techie Going Global With 'Your Dream'

Zaid Bin Shabir

DUROO, SOPORE; When distressed dozens in his hometown were cursing the constant crippled life, a 13-year-old sensed a chance in the looming crisis. It was the fall of 2016, and the summer protests were reluctant to thaw in the valley. Amid the street curbs and chaos, Wasif Rashid Bhat decided to live by the classic Wall Street belief—'Invest in Distress'.

His ideology reflected Kashmir's drift towards a new form of entrepreneurship that was a juncture primed for innovative thoughts and minds.

The boy changed the worldview of his birthplace towards a high tech-universe, with just an earphone and an old model android device.

And shortly, this teenager boomed on to own a Digital and



IMEX marketing company and inscribed his name as "Kashmir's youngest entrepreneur".

Five years later, in the main town of Sopore, in a gleaming new building, that is mainly uninhabited, one office space is occupied by an

enterprise called "Your World", a digital and network marketing company whose mission is to "create an entrepreneurship infrastructure for a new progress movement of Kashmiri youth".

The CEO of the company has

lately been at his home in Duroo, a place of which he thinks has now grown unified and modernised by technology.

At 17, Wasif looks enthusiastic and exhilarated while making a telephonic deal.

"Can you believe it," Wasif softly speaks, "this earphone and mobile helped me to boom my career in 5 years!"

A splash of laughter overtakes his mood when Wasif calls his earphones and an old Samsung device as his business partners.

Outside his bedroom-cum-mini-office window, the busy streets of Sopore are once again tranquilized by the lockdown.

At peace with the growing silence outside, Wasif is presently known as the youngest profiting entrepreneur in Kashmir and is

being discussed among the high-profiles of this business.

It was his vigorous self that boomed Kashmir's tech industry soon after the 2016 seething summer. He did exactly what an entrepreneur giant usually does but at a very young age, "Polarisation and Homogenisation at any time, is the best time to invest".

Undoubtedly, Wasif's entrepreneur skills at such a bleak age have proved almost all of his deals a profitable encounter, but he still isn't satisfied.

"My larger aim isn't gaining a huge profit," he starts speaking about his future idea, "I wish to flip the entrepreneurship scene of Kashmir by letting more and more youngsters become a part of this campaign."

Maybe, this same motive has made Wasif a new **More On P6**



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KASHMIR
OBSERVER

Thursday| 10-06-2021

Scientists develop artificial intelligence algorithm to enhance efficacy of sleep disorder treatments

Agencies

In a new study, researchers from the University of Copenhagen's Department of Computer Science have collaborated with the Danish Center for Sleep Medicine at the Danish hospital Rigshospitalet to develop an artificial intelligence algorithm that can improve diagnoses, treatments, and our overall understanding of sleep disorders.

Difficulty sleeping, sleep apnea and narcolepsy are among a range of sleep disorders that thousands of Danes suffer from. Furthermore, it is estimated that sleep apnea is undiagnosed in as many as 200,000 Danes.

"The algorithm is extraordinarily precise. We completed various tests in which its performance rivalled that of the best doctors in the field, worldwide," states Mathias Perslev, a PhD at the Department of Computer Science and lead author of the study, recently published in the journal npj Digital Medicine (link).

Today's sleep disorder examinations typically begin with admittance to a sleep clinic. Here, a person's night sleep is monitored using various measuring instruments. A specialist in sleep disorders then reviews the 7-8 hours of measurements from the patient's overnight sleep.

The doctor manually divides these 7-8 hours of sleep into 30-second intervals, all of which must be categorized into different sleep phases, such as REM (rapid eye movement) sleep, light sleep, deep sleep, etc. It is a time-consuming job that the algorithm can perform in seconds.

"This project has allowed us to prove that these measurements can be very safely made using machine learning-- which has great significance. By saving many hours of work, many more patients can be assessed and diagnosed effectively," explains Poul Jennum, professor of neurophysiology and Head of the Danish Center for Sleep Medicine.

In the Capital Region of Denmark alone, more than 4,000 polysomnography tests -- known as PSG or sleep studies-- are conducted annually on patients with sleep apnea and more complicated sleeping disorders.

It takes 1.5-3 hours for a doctor to analyze a PSG study. Thus, in the Capital Region of Denmark alone, between 6,000 and 12,000 medical hours could be freed up by deploying the new algorithm.

By collecting data from a variety of sources, the researchers behind the algorithm have been able to ensure optimal functionality. In all, 20,000 nights of sleep from the United States and a host of European countries have been collected and used to train the algorithm.



We have collected sleep data from across continents, sleep clinics and patient groups. The fact that the algorithm works well under such diverse conditions is a breakthrough,"

explains Mathias Perslev and Christian Igel, who led the project on the computer science side, adding: "Achieving this kind of generalisation is one of the greatest challenges in medical data analysis."

They hope that the algorithm will serve to help doctors and researchers around the world to learn more about sleep disorders in the future.

"Just a few measurements taken by common clinical instruments are required for this algorithm. So, use of this software could be particularly relevant in developing countries where one may not have access to the latest equipment or an expert," says Mathias Perslev. The researchers are now working with Danish physicians to get the software and algorithm approved for clinical use.

This project has allowed us to prove that these measurements can be very safely made using machine learning-- which has great significance. By saving many hours of work, many more patients can be assessed and diagnosed effectively

'Game-based program boosts physical activity among diabetes patients'

Agencies

People with diabetes could be motivated toward increasing their physical activity by following game-based programs and routines, a new study suggested.

Findings from the study, conducted by a team from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, were published in the journal 'JAMA Network Open'.

By making a game out of getting their daily steps, the new research pointed to the possibility that people with diabetes could be nudged toward increasing their physical activity, with changes lasting for a full year.

Since many now use apps or other digital means to manage their diabetes, this program - which utilised tools like wearable step counters and electronic scales with personalised goals - could potentially be integrated to help individuals achieve greater success.

"Gamification is commonly used in wellness programs and smartphone apps, but often is not designed to incorporate insights on how people behave and have not been well-tested over longer periods," said the paper's lead author, Mitesh Patel, MD, the director of Penn Medicine's Nudge Unit.

Patel added, "In this one-year trial, we found that gamification

worked best to increase activity levels when it was designed using behavioral insights to encourage either competition with others or support from a family member or friend. This is encouraging and suggests that these interventions could be an effective way to build a lasting, new exercise habit for this population."

Roughly one in 10 Americans have diabetes. One way to get better control over the disease is for patients to increase their levels of physical activity. This makes their bodies "more sensitive" to insulin, a hormone that regulates blood sugar in the body. And that sensitivity makes their bodies less likely

to suffer dangerous spikes or crashes in blood sugar levels. Patel and his colleagues in the Nudge Unit have conducted several investigations into how "gamification" - the application of game-like concepts such as goals, competition, and levels - can increase physical activity levels.

In this study, like some of the past research, participants - who this time all had type 2 diabetes and were overweight or obese - were randomly broken out into four even groups. The first, a control group, received a wearable, electronic step counter and an electronic scale, both of which gave them feedback on their step counts and weight.

SAD DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of Haji Mohammad Syed Shah Dhar s/o Ghulam Hassan Shah Dhar of Bota Kadal on Wednesday 9th June, 2021. Ina Lilah-he Wa Inna Illaihe Rajioon. Fateha khwani will be held at 2.30 PM on 11th of June at ancestral graveyard Bota Kadal in accordance with all the SOPs.

Bereaved family
9622091153,
9906673835, 979611831,
9622269612

Office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer Anantnag.

Notice



Whereas joint application has been received by this office from Mr. Skinder Ahmad Khan S/o Ab Rashid Khan R/o Nussabadragund (Party no.1st) as transferor (seller) owner of the vehicle Alto 800 Bearing Regd.No. JK03E 0335 and Mrs. Shameema-Banoo W/o Ab Rashid Ganie R/o Watihall Qazigund Anantnag (Party no.2nd) as transferee (Purchaser) requesting for transfer of R/C and R/P of the above noted vehicle from party no.1st to 2nd.

Before the case is disposed off on its merits any body having any objection regarding the proposed transfer may file his objection within 07 days from the publication of this notice to the office of undersigned. No any representation /objection shall be entertained after stipulated period

rna

Assistant Regional Transport Officer Anantnag

Department of (AYUSH) Govt. of J & K District Anantnag. AYUSH Immune Booster Medicine Distributed at Village Poshkreeri Srigufwara from Govt. ISM Dispensary Poshkreeri Anantnag



On 09/06/2021 Following the Protocol of AYUSH Department Ministry of AYUSH Govt. of India and the Orders of Director ISM J&K Dr Mohan Singh just and by the guidelines of ADMO MADAM Dr. Nuzhat Bashir & District Nodal officer Ayush Dr. Mir Javaid Hussain sahib an awareness programme and distribution of immune booster medicines was organized at at Village Poshkreeri Srigufwara Anantnag from Govt. AYUSH Dispensary Poshkreeri Anantnag 225 beneficiaries received immunity boosting drugs also were briefed about importance of Ayush immunity boosters in enhancement of human immunity to combat Covid 19 panoramic along other importance preventive measures. mja

NOTICE

I intend to apply for contractor's card if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file the same in the office of the R&B division Khanbal Anantnag no objection shall be entertained after stipulated time.

Umer Rashid Mir
S/o Ab Rashid Mir
R/o Bijbehara
Anantnag

rna

از نیابت منجہا وہ با اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار منجہا وہ

مضمون درخواست منجہا:۔ خستہ تیلی، شیب محمد شیب، طاهر تیلی پیران غلام محمد تیلی ساکنہ و اکہا متعلقہ ناگ برادری وصول SC/OBC رولفٹ بذمہ و تیلی ڈاٹ 294-SRO

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول SC/OBC سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر بذمہ پیش کیا ہے

اس بارے میں غلط فہمی سے رپورٹ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاض ہے کہ ساکن کی ماں سرکاری ملازمہ اور پچھلے پندرہ سالوں سے مسلسل سکونت پر ہے اور ساکن کا کنڈیڈ بنڈیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنڈیڈ	عمر	رشتہ برادر	آمدنی
01	غلام محمد و ولدہ و باقی تیلی	70 سال	والدہ ساکنان	
02	جانہ زوجہ غلام محمد تیلی	67 سال	والدہ ساکنان	
03	خستہ تیلی پیر غلام محمد تیلی	33 سال	=	
04	شیب محمد شیب پیر غلام محمد تیلی	31 سال	=	
05	طاهر تیلی پیر غلام محمد تیلی	28 سال	=	

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی فرد کنڈیڈ موجود نہیں ہے۔ کنڈیڈ میں ایک فرد سرکاری ملازم ہے! نہیں ہے۔ کنڈیڈ پرانی سالانہ آمدنی 709788 روپیہ ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض مدعو جات پیش کرے۔ مینا گذرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ نائب تحصیلدار منجہا وہ

از نیابت سرکلر مگر ہامہ با اجلاس نائب تحصیلدار مگر ہامہ

مضمون درخواست منجہا:۔ نظیر احمد تیلی و لدہ شیب احمد تیلی ساکنہ پٹھ کھٹا تیلی پورہ کو لگام برادری وصول SC/OBC سرٹیفکیٹ

اشتیہار برادر آگاہی بر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول SC/OBC سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر بذمہ پیش کیا ہے۔ اس بارے میں غلط فہمی سے رپورٹ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاض ہے کہ ساکن کی ماں سرکاری ملازمہ اور پچھلے پندرہ سالوں سے مسلسل سکونت پر ہے اور ساکن کا کنڈیڈ بنڈیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنڈیڈ	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	نیش احمد تیلی و لدہ و باقی تیلی	62 سال	زنیائیر ملازم	22703
02	مصرہ بانو زوجہ شیب احمد تیلی	60 سال	گھریلو کام	
03	توحیدہ اختر دختر شیب احمد	27 سال	گھریلو کام	5000
04	آصفہ جان دختر شیب احمد	24 سال	زیر تعلیم	
05	نظیر احمد تیلی و لدہ شیب احمد	22 سال	زیر تعلیم	
06	عزیزہ و لدہ شیب احمد تیلی	18 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس طور کنڈیڈ چھ افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض مدعو جات پیش کرے۔ مینا گذرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ نائب تحصیلدار مگر ہامہ

از نیابت رنیر پورہ با اجلاس امتیاز احمد ڈار صاحب۔

مضمون درخواست منجہا:۔ غلام نبی ذار ولد علی محمد ڈار ساکنہ گوپا پورہ و کان تحصیل میں ضلع ناگ برادری وصول RBA سرٹیفکیٹ

اشتیہار برادر آگاہی بر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول RBA سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر بذمہ پیش کیا ہے۔ اس بارے میں غلط فہمی سے رپورٹ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاض ہے کہ ساکن کی ماں سرکاری ملازمہ اور پچھلے پندرہ سالوں سے مسلسل سکونت پر ہے اور ساکن کا کنڈیڈ بنڈیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنڈیڈ	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	منظور احمد خان و لدہ غلام نبی خان	45 سال	زمینداری	3000
02	حظیفہ زوجہ منظور احمد خان	44 سال	گھریلو کام	
03	ذابدہ اختر دختر منظور احمد خان	22 سال	گھریلو کام	
04	شازیہ دختر منظور احمد خان	20 سال	گھریلو کام	
05	عمر منظور و لدہ منظور احمد خان	18 سال	زیر تعلیم	

اس طور کنڈیڈ پانچ افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ اور ساکن کے کنڈیڈ میں کوئی سرکاری ملازم موجود نہیں ہے۔ ساکن کے کنڈیڈ پرانی سالانہ آمدنی آٹھ لاکھ سے کم ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض مدعو جات پیش کرے۔ مینا گذرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ نائب تحصیلدار رنیر پورہ

از نیابت رنیر پورہ با اجلاس امتیاز احمد ڈار صاحب۔

مضمون درخواست منجہا:۔ غلام نبی ذار ولد علی محمد ڈار ساکنہ گوپا پورہ و کان تحصیل میں ضلع ناگ برادری وصول RBA سرٹیفکیٹ

اشتیہار برادر آگاہی بر خاص و عام

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول RBA سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر بذمہ پیش کیا ہے۔ اس بارے میں غلط فہمی سے رپورٹ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاض ہے کہ ساکن کی ماں سرکاری ملازمہ اور پچھلے پندرہ سالوں سے مسلسل سکونت پر ہے اور ساکن کا کنڈیڈ بنڈیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنڈیڈ	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	غلام نبی ذار ولد علی محمد ڈار	57 سال	ضعیف العمر	
02	محمد شفیع ذار ولد علی محمد ڈار	55 سال	زمینداری	
03	حبیبہ بیگم دختر علی محمد	60 سال	گھریلو کام	
04	حمودہ بیگم دختر علی محمد	62 سال	گھریلو کام	

اس طور کنڈیڈ چار افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ اور ساکن کے کنڈیڈ میں کوئی سرکاری ملازم موجود نہیں ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض مدعو جات پیش کرے۔ مینا گذرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ نائب تحصیلدار رنیر پورہ

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Kupwara
QUOTATION

For & on behalf of L.G Governor of Jammu and Kashmir U T, the Executive Engineer R&B Division kupwara invites sealed quotations affixed with Rs 2/- revenue stamp from registered dealers for supply of below mentioned items.

S. No	Item Descriptio	Quantity
01	Cannon Photostat Machine Toner	15 Nos
02	Drum unit Photostat Machine	02 No
03	Drum Cylinder Photostat Machine	05 No
04	Scanner Dimensions (623x400x133 mm) 300 DPI, A3	05 No
05	HP Laser Jet Cartridge 12-A (camp section, Drawing branch section establishment section and all three Sub Divisions)	20 Nos
06	Laptops like Acer's Aspire E5-571G, HP's Pavilion 15 and Toshiba's Satellite L50-B Count to the insipron's rivals	04 No
07	HP Laser Jet Cartridge 12A	05 Nos
08	HP Laser Jet Cartridge 88-A	04 Nos
09	Duracell (Small size	50 Nos
10	Mouse Paid	10 Nos
11	All In One Core i-5 10Th Gen, 8GB Ram 1 TB Hard Disk Window Based with UPS	03 Nos
12	Wireless type keyboard / Mouse	05 No
13	HP Lasser jet Printer Mode 1020 Plus	03 Nos

The quotation shall reach to the office of the Executive Engineer, R&B Division Kupwara by or before 14-06-2021 upto 2 pm and will be opened on the same date or some other date convenient to the undersigned. The quotationer shall quote the rate including vat and all other taxes octroi charges loads and lifts carriages to deliver the machine in the divisional office. The successful quotationer has to supply the item within three days from the date of supply order. The Executive Engineer (Undersigned) have the right to reject the quotation without assigning any reasons The quotation has to deposit Rs 1500/- as earnest money in the shape of CDR/FDR which should be appended with he quotation In case of the last date of receipt of quotation to be a holiday, the same shall be received on the next working day upto 2PM

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor J&K (UT)

No: 1409-10
DT27-05-2021

Sd/-
Executive Engineer R&B Division Kupwara

DIPK-2671/21

Covid Positive Recovery Rate Touches 94 Percent In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar Wednesday said that the recovery rate of Covid-19 positive cases has touched 94 percent in the district and Covid positivity rate has also dipped to below 6 percent.

Giving details, the DC said that Srinagar has recorded 94 percent recovery rate and

there are about 2824 active Covid positive cases against 13500 cases in mid May in the district.

Regarding strengthening of healthcare infrastructure to fight Covid-19 pandemic, the DC said that the commissioning of 500-bedded COVID Hospital at Khonmoh, Srinagar, which was inaugurated today by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has increased Covid bed capacity besides upgraded healthcare



facilities in the district to tackle

any exigent situation.

He further said that work on 5 Model Primary Health Centers termed as STAR PHCs at different locations in the district has started to ensure decentralized healthcare facilities with equal and fair access to the patients.

Regarding relaxation in Covid-19 lockdown, the DC said business establishments have been allowed to carry out their activities on alternate basis

with strict adherence to Covid-19 Appropriate Behaviour. He said strict adherence to Covid-19 SOPs is must at this stage to improve parameters and to prevent further spread of Covid-19 infection.

He said protection of precious human lives is priority and no laxity on Covid-19 SOPs will be tolerated and action as per law will be taken against Covid-19 lockdown violators.

Four LAWDA Officials Suspended For Not Reporting Illegal Constructions

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (JK-LAWDA) on Wednesday suspended its four officials for non-reporting of illegal constructions in their respective areas and has ordered an enquiry into the matter.

The enquiry officer has been asked to submit the factual report within a period of 15-days.

According to an Order No. 61-LDA of 2021 dated 09.06.2021, pending enquiry regarding illegal construction coming up in the areas including Saidakadal, Ashaibagh and northern Foreshore Road (Lashkari Mohalla), LAWDA has ordered suspension of four employees for dereliction of duties who failed to report illegal constructions going on to their higher officials in their respective jurisdictions.

The suspended employees

have been attached with head office J&K LDA and an enquiry to furnish the factual report in this regard within 15-days has also been ordered.

The VC LAWDA, Dr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat emphasised upon field staff to ensure zero tolerance on part of illegal constructions. The Enforcement officer has been asked to keep a strong vigil over the area so that illegal constructions should not come up.

The VC urged the field staff to take strong cognisance of violations and report it to higher officials instantly and also initiate action then and there. Besides, the violators will be dealt strictly as per law.

He also reiterated his appeal to the people living in the jurisdiction of Dal and Nigeen Lakes to refrain from indulging in illegal construction and any sort of encroachment.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESIDENT DR FAROOQ ABDULLAH and Peoples Democratic Party President Mehbooba Mufti walking in the lawns of the laters' house at Gupkar in Srinagar, ahead of the PAGD meeting. KO Photo Abid Bhat

KU Gets Rs 10 Cr Grant To Promote Interdisciplinary Research

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Centre for Interdisciplinary Research and Innovations (CIRI) at the University of Kashmir has received a mega Rs 10 Crore DBT-BUILDER grant for promotion of interdisciplinary research and education at the varsity.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Talat Ahmad said the Department of Biotechnology-Boost to University Interdisciplinary Life Science Departments for Education and Research (BUILDER) programme would go a long way in promoting quality interdisciplinary education and research at the university as envisioned under the flagship National Education Policy-2020.

Congratulating Dr Altaf Bhat, Coordinator CIRI and BUILDER team including Dr Ajaz Wani, Dr Ashraf Dar, Dr Abdul Wajid, Dr Rafiq Mir and Dr Javaid Bhat for the achievement, Prof Talat said the project is aimed at addressing local scientific problems through interdisciplinary approaches and establishing high-end research facilities. He appreciated the efforts of the CIRI in promoting interdisciplinary education and research in a big way.

Coordinator CIRI Dr Altaf Bhat said the University has established CIRI, a brainchild of Prof Talat Ahmad, in 2019 with an objective to attract brilliant, talented and well-trained young scientists from abroad through prestigious fellowships like Ramanujan, Ramalingamswami and Wellcome trust-DBT India Alliance across various disciplines.

"It is an initiative to convert brain-drain into brain-gain. We have scientists at the CIRI who



have returned from top universities in USA and Europe, like Harvard University, Max Planck Institute Germany, University of Cambridge, University of Edinburgh," he said.

Dr Bhat said the establishment of CIRI is a first such initiative where scientists across disciplines would be working under one roof.

The establishment of the centre has received a lot of appreciation in scientific circles and many national and international faculties have shown willingness to be associated with it as adjunct faculties, he said.

He said the Centre is developing a competitive research ecosystem by promoting cutting-edge interdisciplinary research and plans to integrate various disciplines in the university for collaborative research to serve as a model to inspire youth to take up research as a career.

Dr Bhat said apart from an advanced instrumentation facility, an interdisciplinary teaching and research programmes will be introduced in the Centre under the DBT-BUILDER program to build trained and skilled human resource.

I&FC Inferno Guts Department Records

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two government vehicles as well as some records including the service books of employees were damaged after a massive fire broke out in Irrigation and Flood Control's (I&FC) division office here in Gogjibagh area of Srinagar.

Officials said that fire broke out in the building, housing I&FC division office at Gigjibagh area.

They said some departmental records including the service books of employees were damaged in the blaze, adding that two government vehicles bearing registration number JK01-1504 and JKD-6484 were also damaged in the blaze.

The investigation into the matter has been taken up, they said—(KNO)

FSSAI Authorises FTL Dalgate For Testing Of Food Samples

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a significant development, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has authorised the Food Testing Laboratory (FTL) Dalgate, Srinagar to perform the testing/analysis of food samples with immediate effect, as mandated under the provisions of Food Safety & Standards Act 2006.

In the month of December 2020, the apex authority had among other Food Laboratories of various States de-notified the FTL Srinagar for the want of NABL accreditation, a primary criteria under FSS Act, 2006 for authorisation of food testing and analysis. Subsequently, enforcement food samples of Kashmir Division were referred to Food Laboratory Jammu for analysis.

It was made incumbent upon all the State Governments to seek NABL certification of all the Laboratories which have been de-notified before seeking their re-notification under section 43 of the Act.

Recently, National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), a constituent board of Quality Council of India (QCI), granted accreditation in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025:2017 to FTL, Dalgate in the discipline of chemical testing for quality assurance.

Pursuant to NABL accreditation, the FSSAI has notified/ au-



thorized FTL Srinagar as primary Laboratory under Section 43(1) of FSSA2006 for analyzing all the food samples (including legal samples)with immediate effect.

The Department of Food & Drugs Administration, J&K is on date equipped with two Analytical Food Testing Laboratories situated at Jammu and Srinagar both these Labs are now accredited by NABL (National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration of Laboratories) to conduct the analysis of food articles and ingredients.

Furthermore, both the laboratories are augmented with high end equipment like FTIR, LC-MS, LC-MSMS, GC-MS MS and ICP-MS to meet the highest standards of testing/precision with regard to detection and quantification of adulterants, toxins and contaminants.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner FDA today reviewed the working of food testing laboratories and other food safety measures in a meeting held here.

The Deputy Commissioner Food Safety Kashmir, Drug Analyst Kashmir, Administrative officer DFCO, Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Srinagar, Food

Analyst Kashmir and other senior Officers of the Department participated in the meeting.

It was impressed upon the technical experts of the laboratories that all high end equipment shall be put in operation for testing of heavy metals, antibiotic residue, pesticide residue, naturally occurring contaminants/toxins and other adulterants in food samples to assure that the food products conforms to the prescribed legal standards mandated under the Act and are safe to consume.

The Department with a view to instill the confidence and trust among the consumers, has put in place the services of Mobile Food Testing Laboratories for on-spot testing of food items.

The Commissioner FDA has appealed to the consumers to come forward and play an active role in identifying the lapses on the part of FBOs or the enforcement staff so that corrective measures as envisaged under the Act are taken.

The consumers may file a complaint with regard to the quality/sale of food either through email: complaintsfdajk@gmail.com or contact us on mobile No: 9596089227/7006773447.

Further the consumers can also seek onspot testing of food samples by the mobile food testing vans for which the Deputy Commissioner Food safety of the respective Divisions can be contacted on these 9796201517/ 7006351401 numbers.

World Environment Week: SP College Organises Extension Lecture Series

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: To mark the celebration of World Environment Week (WED-2021) themed 'Ecosystem Restoration', the UG and PG departments of Environmental Sciences, S.P. College, Srinagar organized Extension Lecture series.

During the proceedings, a third session of invited talks of celebrations was marked by an online invited talk on 'Ecosystem Degradation, Climate Change and Animal Health' by Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Biosciences, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.

He discussed in length about the multiple factors, such as, impact of different types of pollution on various ecosystems, population explosion and water scarcity, anthropogenic activities, deforestation and CO2 emis-

sions, consequences of climate change on ecosystem stability including animal health.

He highlighted the globalisation, urbanisation, climate change, natural disasters, and armed conflicts as main areas of concern for ecosystem degradation and various mitigation strategies were suggested thereof.

The program was live streamed on digital platforms and was attended by more than 100 participants from various colleges of Kashmir.

The Head Department of Environment and Water Management, who was also the coordinator of the program, Dr. Humaira Qadri stressed upon the importance of awareness lectures and programs in sensitisation of the young generation for conservation of the natural resources and ensured that the college shall be continuing with these awareness

series to mark the environmental week rather environmental year.

In an earlier lecture delivered by Dr. Rinku Verma on 'COVID 19 pandemic and ecosystem restoration' on 7th of June, 2021, the speaker highlighted the herbal remedies for COVID-19.

The Principal of the College, Dr. Khurshed Ahmad Khan, stressed on the importance of ecosystem restoration for a better and brighter future and suggested that students can make a huge difference in making the conservation programs a success.

Dr. Moonisa Aslam Dervesh (Faculty, Department of Environmental Science, conducted the proceedings of the lectures).

The vote of thanks for the invited lecture series (WED-2021) was delivered by Dr. Gowhar Hamid Dar, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Science (Incharge, Invited talks, WED-2021).

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
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



This Day in History

- 1190-Third Crusade: Holy Roman Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa drowns while crossing the Saleph River (modern Turkey) leading an army to Jerusalem
- 1358 - French Jacquerie peasant leader Guillaume Cale captured at the Battle of Mello
- 1538 - Catholic German monarchy signs League of Neuremberg
- 1539 - Council of Trent: Paul III sends out letters to his bishops, delaying the Council due to war and the difficulty bishops had traveling to Venice. 1538- Catholic German monarchy sign League of Neuremberg
- 1605 - False Dimitri I, an impostor, crowned Russian tsar (rules 1605-1606)
- 1610 - Thomas West, Baron de La Mar, is appointed governor of Virginia
- 1610 -1st Dutch settlers arrive (from NJ), to colonize Manhattan Island
- 1619 - Thirty Years' War: Battle of Záblatí, a turning point in the Bohemian Revolt.
- 1624- Netherlands & France sign anti-Spanish Treaty of Compiègne
- 1760- NY passes 1st effective law regulating practice of medicine
- 1786- A landslide dam on the Dadu River caused by earthquake ten days earlier collapses, killing 100,000 in the Sichuan province of China
- 1801-Tripoli declares war on US for refusing tribute
- 1902- Patent for window envelope granted to H F Callahan
- 1907- France and Japan sign an agreement to maintain the independence and integrity of China, equality for all nations in trading with China, and the status quo in the Far East
- 1915- British/French troops conquer German colony of Cameroon
- 1916-Great Arab Revolt begins against ruling Ottoman turks
- 1931- Norway occupies East Greenland
- 1934-USSR & Romania re-establish diplomatic relations
- 1940- Italy declares war on France & Britain during WW II
- 1940-Norway surrenders to Nazis
- 1940- Canada declares war on Italy.
- 1943- FDR becomes 1st US president to visit a foreign country during wartime
- 1955- 1st separation of virus into component parts reported
- 1967 Israel, Syria, Jordan, Iraq & Egypt end "6-Day War" with UN help
- 1977- Apple Computer ships its first Apple II computers
- 1977- International LabourOrganisation and United Nations meet to discuss apartheid in South Africa and potential actions to prevent further violence and state repression.

From KO Archives

Militant Escape Case

Police Hunting For Ex-MLA

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - A National Conference leader and former legislator allegedly involved in facilitating a militant commander in crossing the international border to Pakistan, is absconding.

The police have conducted raids at several places to seek the cx-MLA. Gul Rafiqi, who represented the Hom-Shalibug constituency, but have failed to trace him.

The raids were conducted at Rafiqi's residence as well as at the homes of some of his relatives, the KNS said.

Policemen in plain clothes scoured the MLA hostels in Jammu as well as Srinagar, but

failed to turn up any clues about the ex-legislators whereabouts. Rafiqi's mobile phone, too is not functioning for the past there days.

According to sources Rafiqi may be trying to obtain anticipatory bail. He has disappeared despite being informed that he should present himself before the police, which is now raiding his habitual haunts and using its network of informers to track him down.

A senior police officer told the KNS that a high level investigation was on in the matter of the escape of a divisional commander of the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen from the valley.

Three persons, including the Ex-MLA's then secretary, Farooq Ahmad Bhat, personal Security Officer Kewal Singh and driver Shyam are already in custody.

Rafiqi allegedly, helped the Hizb divisional commander, MhammadAmin Baba, escape from the Valley by taking him, to Amritsar in his own official vehicle accompanied by two personal security officers.

Baba, who had reportedly managed to get a passport on fictitious Srinagar address, was allegedly escorted to Wagah border on May 2 this year where from he crossed over to Pakistan

Sources said the case cae to light when the police were investigating a mine-blast in Anantnag and arrested a suspect Javaid Ahmad. Hizb commander Baba was also a suspect and when the police questioned Javaid about him they learnt that Baba had recently crossed over to Pakistan via Amrtisar. When asked about the allegations against Rafiqi, National Conference President Omar Abdullah was quoted by news agencies as having said "if there is anything against him (Rafiqi), the law will take its course. We want an impartial probe in the matter." He however said that the Mufti Saveed government had done nothing when militants were arrested from a minister's house. "He still remains minister. Where is the justice," he questioned.

(Kashmir Observer, 10 June, 2005)

KASHMIR OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Outreach to Taliban

India has for the first time opened channels of communication with Afghan Taliban factions, including one of its leaders Mullah Baradar, media reports have said. This is happening against the backdrop of the ongoing drawdown of US forces from Afghanistan. This is a significant shift from India's position of engaging with the Afghan Taliban. New Delhi had, instead, chosen to throw its lot with the Afghan government. But the shifting reality in Kabul has persuaded New Delhi to re-adjust its policy towards the country.

Taliban is already on record to have said that they have won the war and America has lost. Even when the US is on the way out, the Taliban continues to make headway in its military campaign. On Tuesday, the militia overran yet another district in the war-torn, showing its growing military dominance in the country. This makes the prospect of a durable peace in the region a challenging prospect.

There's, however, hope that a sustained Taliban-Afghan government engagement would lead to some kind of settlement. If the talks hold and are carried to their logical conclusion, it could be a matter of time before the Taliban will take over the country in a power sharing arrangement with the other groups.

This will have huge geopolitical implications for the region. A Taliban dominated government will drastically alter the policies of the Afghan government. And India might be at a disadvantage here considering it has opposed the Taliban from day one. The outreach to the militia could be an attempt to insure against a Taliban takeover in Kabul.

But it is the impact on the geopolitics of the region that would be profound. Kabul could continue to be the site of the great game and the violence unless all regional countries cooperate to bring peace to the country. As underlined earlier by the US president Joe Biden himself, eventually the stability in Afghanistan will have to be the responsibility of the regional powers. And it is unlikely to happen if the regional powers pursue their disparate interests as far as their approach to the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

The US will also need to make some subtle adjustment in its Afghanistan policy to make it work in the long term. In its current form, the policy almost entirely neglects the regional geo-politics, prevailing issues and the contending interests of the neighbouring countries like India and Pakistan which also keep the conflict going in Kabul. So rather than an exclusively Afghanistan-centric policy, the US also needs a broader regional approach to work for an integrated solution to the conflicts and the competing interests that in turn fuel the war.

O T H E R O P I N O N

A necessary Reversion

The Centre has announced a much-needed course correction in India's vaccination policy with Prime Minister Narendra Modi taking the podium to announce that the month-old decision to leave States to procure vaccines on their own for their 18-44 population would be ending in two weeks. States were allowed to procure 25% of the vaccines manufactured and the Centre 50%, a policy that the Supreme Court termed "irrational and arbitrary". The Court's comments have had a salutary effect. From June 21, the Centre will be procuring 75% and States will no longer have to pay vaccine companies for the same. Vaccines will continue to be free for all those who choose to get their shot at government centres. The 25% vaccines that were allotted to private hospitals will continue too, though the service charges that they charge will be capped at 150. This ceiling price on vaccines in hospitals will bring predictability and be hugely beneficial to citizens. The Centre, which controlled all supply of vaccines and had negotiated prices and orders with Bharat Biotech and the Serum Institute saw itself desperately short of supply right in the middle of India's deadly second wave. The hospital emergencies worsened the Centre's panic and so it chose a path that no country had undertaken, of devolving the responsibility of buying vaccines to States. Health has traditionally been within the purview of States, and it stands to reason that they would invariably have to deal with the challenges that vaccination throws up. This includes vaccine hesitancy, the problem of transportation, the availability of trained personnel and the existing capacity at health-care sites. Faced with the intensity of the second wave, States demanded more vaccines and autonomy in deciding how to administer them. What resulted were frequent public spats, with the Centre blaming States for inefficiently using available stocks and yet demanding more.

Though there are substantial numbers of senior citizens yet to be vaccinated, particularly with a second dose, it is clear that the foreseeable demand will be in the sub-45 category. The Government appears more confident of getting a steady stream of supply from Bharat Biotech and the Serum Institute and, in a bold move, has ordered 30 crore doses of an untested vaccine from the Hyderabad-based Biological E. Assuming that a third wave is not in the vicinity, these changes in total could be the beginning of a smoother, more efficient vaccine roll-out. Mr. Modi's announcement was preceded by a truculent defence of himself and his government and passing on blame to a variety of actors, including governments before 2014, for India's very real shortcomings on vaccination. However, the path to positive change is often meandering, and surviving the pandemic and being wiser from mistakes must be the spirit in which these policy changes are adopted.

The Hindu



Vaccine Disparity in J&K: Kashmir Districts Left behind

Considering the huge disparity in vaccination in two divisions of J&K, accessibility to vaccine allocation data seems the need of the hour

Haris Rashid

If there is equitable distribution of vaccines among all the districts of the Jammu and Kashmir UT, then it can be concluded that the people in Kashmir are for sure vaccine-hesitant. However, to come to this conclusion, people would need proper information on how the vaccine allocation is being done

Jammu and Kashmir's vaccination coverage has a huge disparity among the two divisions of Jammu and Kashmir. Districts in Kashmir have been hit more hard by the Covid pandemic than the districts in the Jammu division. However, in terms of vaccination, the Jammu division has vaccinated more people than the Kashmir division. This should be a cause of concern. It shows that some of the worst-hit districts have still had a discouraging rate of people getting vaccinated.

Consider Jammu district (as of 06 June 2021, 8:16 PM) which has test positivity (%) of 14.55, case fatality rate (%) of 2.12 and infection rate of 0.27. It has administered a total number of 502,981 first doses while fully vaccinating 9.21% of the population. While Srinagar district with test positivity (%) of 16.71, case fatality rate (%) of 1.19 and infection rate of 0.47 has administered 238,565 first doses (which is less than half that of Jammu) and fully vaccinated its 6.19% population. As of 06 June

2021, Jammu district has inoculated 100% of its above 45 population while Srinagar district has inoculated just 47.72% of its population in the same category. In terms of the percentage of the fully vaccinated population, there are seven districts from the Jammu division that figure among the top ten performing districts among all the districts in the UT. Among the five districts of the UT that have less than 3% fully vaccinated population, four are from Kashmir while only one is from Jammu.

Since vaccination is considered the key to controlling the pandemic, there is a need for transparency in vaccine allocation. District-wise allocation of vaccines should be made available to the public. The allocation should not be made randomly but scientifically based on a formula that takes into consideration among all other factors the people's vulnerability and severity of the pandemic in a particular district.

While the district-wise information on the number of vaccines administered is available on a

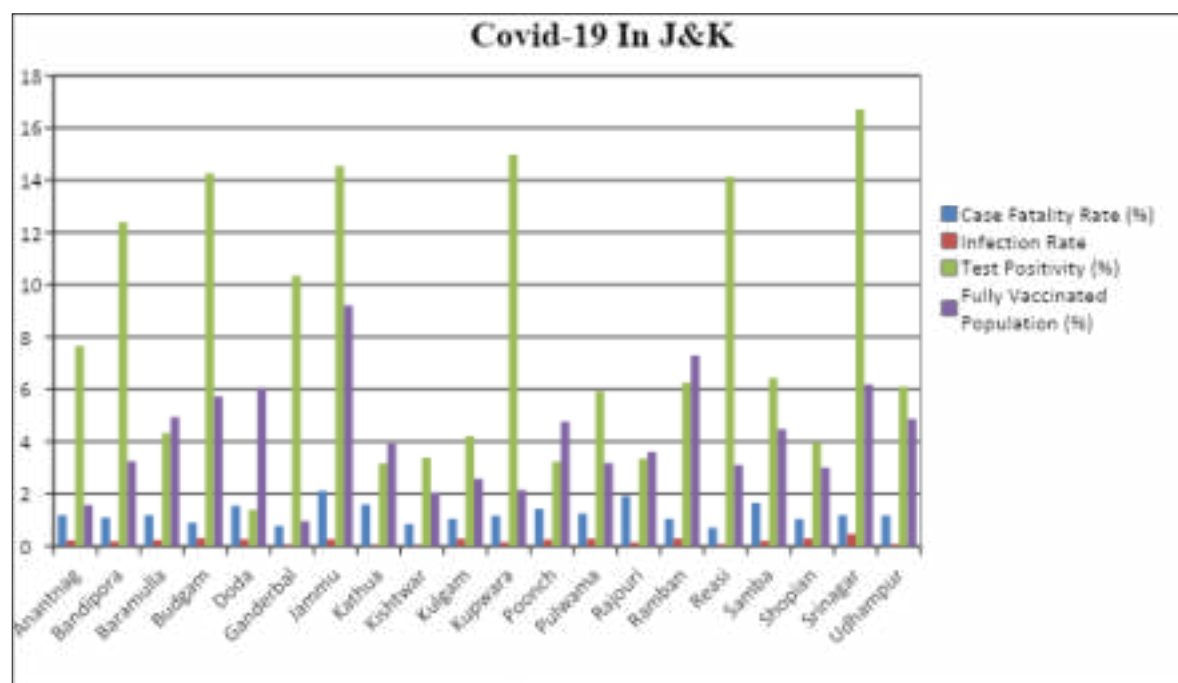
real-time basis on CoWin portal and the Jammu and Kashmir government also updates its citizens every day, however, there is no information available in the public domain regarding the allocation. It is often alleged that people in the Kashmir division have vaccine hesitancy and therefore have been left behind in the vaccination process. In this view, the information on vaccine allocation becomes more important. If there is equitable distribution of vaccines among all the districts of the Jammu and Kashmir UT, then it can be concluded that the people in Kashmir are for sure vaccine-hesitant. However, to come to this conclusion, people would need proper information on how the vaccine allocation is being done. It can further help doctors, experts and related organizations and activists to diagnose the problem and act accordingly.

When Jammu and Kashmir was in the midst of a deadly second wave, vaccination came to halt for over a week or more. In fact, on 16th May, zero-vaccination was recorded in Kashmir. Even when vaccination started opening up gradually, slots for the age group 18-45 remained largely unavailable. It was only recently that vaccination has sped up to some extent.

Since there have been several predictions about a third wave and the fact that the pandemic is a matter of life and death, the government must become as much transparent as possible, at least, with regards to the vaccination. Only a transparent government that provides its citizens all the information on how it is controlling the pandemic can overcome the pandemic.

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

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e-Content for children with special needs

It is encouraging to note that the Union Education Ministry has issued guidelines for developing e-Content for Children With Special Needs (CWSN). According to the report "Guidelines for the Development of e-Content for Children with Disabilities," e-Content for CWSN

should be designed using the four concepts of perceivable, operable, intelligible, and robustness. Text, tables, graphs, graphics, audios, and videos would all be compliant with national and international accessibility requirements. Furthermore, content distribution platforms and

reading platforms/devices on which information is viewed and interacted with must meet technical criteria, with reasonable pedagogical concessions proposed to satisfy CWSN's special needs. It is hoped that this project would provide appropriate learning content for CWSN based on their

unique needs and assist educational institutions in achieving the goals of inclusive education outlined in the New Education Policy 2020.

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Your Immune Clock

Annie Curtis

It's still not fully understood why sleep improves vaccine response, but it might be because of how our body clock directly controls immune cell function and location during sleep. So for example, it sends the immune cells to our lymph nodes while we sleep to learn about what infections were encountered during the day, and to build a "memory" of this

When microorganisms – such as bacteria or viruses – infect us, our immune system jumps into action. It's highly trained to sense and eliminate infections and clear up any damage caused by them.

It's typically assumed our immune systems work the exact same way regardless of whether an infection occurs during the day or at night. But research spanning over half a century now shows our bodies actually respond differently at day and night. The reason for this is our body clock, and the fact that each cell in the body, including our immune cells, can tell what time of day it is.

Our body clock has evolved over millions of years to help us survive. Every cell in the body has a collection of proteins that indicate the time depending on their levels. Knowing whether it's day or night means our body can adjust its functions and behaviours (such as when we want to eat) to the correct time.

Our body clock does this by generating 24 hour rhythms (also termed circadian rhythms) in how cells function. For example, our body clock ensures that we only produce melatonin as night falls, as this chemical makes us tired – signalling it's time for sleep.

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immune system is composed of many different types of immune cells that are continually patrolling the body looking for evidence of infection or damage. But it is our body clock that determines where those cells are located at particular times of the day.

Broadly speaking, our immune cells migrate into tissues during the day and then circulate around the body at night. This circadian rhythm of immune cells may have evolved so that immune cells are directly located in tissues at a time when we are more likely to be infected, primed for attack.

At night, our immune cells circulate around the body and stop off at our lymph nodes. Here, they build up memory of what was encountered during the day – including any infections. This ensures they can respond better to the infection the next time they encounter it.

Given the body clock's control over our immune system, it's hardly surprising to learn that some research has shown that the time we're infected with a virus – such as influenza or hepatitis – can impact how sick we become. The exact timing is likely to differ depending on the virus in question.

Other research has also shown that the time we take our medicines can affect how well they work – but again, this depends on the drug in question. For example, since we make cholesterol when we sleep, taking a short-acting statin (a cholesterol-lowering drug) just before bedtime provides the most benefit. It's also been shown that time of day impacts how well certain types of immune cells work.

Body clocks and vaccines

There's also an increasing body of evidence showing vaccines – which create an immune "memory" of a particular pathogen – are impacted by our body clock, and the time of day that a vaccine is administered.

For example, a 2016 randomised trial of over 250 adults aged 65 and older showed having



the influenza vaccine in the morning (between 9am and 11am) resulted in a greater antibody response compared to those vaccinated in the afternoon (between 3pm and 5pm).

More recently, people in the mid-twenties who were immunised with the BCG (tuberculosis) vaccine between 8am and 9am had an enhanced immune response compared to those vaccinated between noon and 1pm. So for certain vaccines, there's evidence that early morning vaccination may provide a more robust response.

One reason for seeing improved immune response to vaccines in the morning may be due to the way our body clock controls sleep. In fact, studies have found that sufficient sleep after vaccination for hepatitis A improves the immune response by increasing the number of vaccine-specific immune cells which provide long term immunity compared to those who had restricted sleep following vaccination.

It's still not fully understood why sleep improves vaccine response, but it might be because of how our body clock directly controls immune cell function and location during sleep. So for example, it sends the immune cells to our lymph nodes while we sleep to learn about what infections were encountered during the day, and to build a "memory" of this.

Of course this raises the question of how this might all relate to the current pandemic and worldwide vaccination programmes. How our immune body clock works might be important in terms of whether we develop COVID-19. Intriguingly, the receptor which allows the COVID virus, SARS-CoV-2, to gain entry into our cells is under control of our body clock.

In fact, there are higher levels of this receptor on the cells which line our airways at distinct times of day. This could mean we're more likely to get COVID-19 at certain times of the day, but further research will be needed to determine whether this is the case.

Whether the time of day we're vaccinated against COVID-19 impacts immune response remains to be answered. Given the high effectiveness of many COVID-19 vaccines (with both Pfizer and Moderna reporting over 90% efficacy) and the urgency with which we need to vaccinate, people should be vaccinated at whatever time of day is possible for them.

But current and future vaccines which do not have such high efficacy rates – such as the flu vaccine – or if they're used in people with poorer immune response (such as older adults), using a more precise "timed" approach may ensure better immune response.

Loopholes in G7 tax rules on Big Tech

A win-win for everyone — just don't tell that to Big Tech's motherlands who miss out on what they deem revenues that should've been theirs.

This is where things get murky: Who will be taxed and what criteria will be used for determining such? The G7 hadn't laid out any details on this — only the 'largest and most profitable companies', they said — which leaves more questions than answers. Even critics have pointed out that the rate sets the 'bar so low that companies can just step over it'. True. There are so many other countries imposing much higher, sometimes sky-high, corporate taxes



Technology companies have thrived because of innovation and creativity. Unfortunately, those two nouns can also be used to describe how they could, apparently, dodge their tax obligations. One of the most basic rules of business is that expenses must be kept at a minimum, taxes being a big part of those calculations. Remember: Tax evasion is different from tax avoidance, the latter using legal means or being — here goes those words again — innova-

tive and creative to steer clear of having to pay dues under tax codes. It's not entirely Big Tech's fault they've decided to flee elsewhere to conduct a major part of their business. After all, countries considered as tax havens use this same dynamic to become an attractive investment hub: Come set up shop here, enjoy our sights and we'll keep you happy with our low tax rates. A win-win for everyone — just don't tell that to Big Tech's motherlands who miss out on what they deem revenues

that should've been theirs, a hard catch despite some of the most stringent tax laws in a number of these advanced economies.

The G7's landmark move to rein in these practices will cast a wider net, considering the proposed 15 per cent minimum corporate tax rate that will be uniform at a global level. The biggest global levy shakeup in years has ramifications for all involved: Ireland, the go-to haven for big companies with a budget-friendly corporate tax rate of 12.5 per cent, has already estimated that its coffers would lose 2 billion a year if G7 plans come into fruition. Amazon and Google have already welcomed the move, while Facebook is apparently resigned to paying more tax. Apple, the richest, has yet to respond. For the mightiest and the wealthiest, a 15 per cent rate is still chump change.

But this is where things get murky: Who will be taxed and what criteria will be used for determining such? The G7 hadn't laid out any details on this — only the 'largest and most profitable companies', they said — which leaves more questions than answers. Even critics have pointed out that the rate sets the 'bar so low that companies can just step over it'. True. There are so many other countries imposing much higher, sometimes sky-high, corporate taxes. Global alliances have already wasted many years trying to come up with a suitable Big Tech tax regime; they should've at least come up with a solid stand, some rules and, maybe, a higher tax rate proposal. In a rather lacking proposal, all they may have done is give Big Tech more time to do what they do best — be even more innovative and creative to prepare for a new 'taxing' world.

Govt Issues Guidelines On COVID In Children; Suggests Rational Use Of CT Scan; Remdesivir Not Recommended

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The government has come out with comprehensive guidelines for the management of COVID-19 among children in which Remdesivir has not been recommended and rational use of HRCT imaging has been suggested.

The guidelines issued by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) under the health ministry also said that steroids are harmful in asymptomatic and mild cases of infection. The DGHS recommended steroids only in hospitalised moderately severe and critically ill COVID-19 cases under strict supervision.

"Steroids should be used at the right time, in the right dose and for the right duration. Self-medication of steroids must be avoided," it said.

The guidelines also said Remdesivir (an emergency use authorization drug) is not recommended in children.

"There is lack of sufficient safety and efficacy data with respect to Remdesivir in children below 18 years of age," the guidelines said. The guidelines suggested rational use of High-resolution CT (HRCT) for seeing the extent

and nature of lung involvement in patients with COVID-19.

"However, any additional information gained from HRCT scan of the chest often has little impact on treatment decisions, which are based almost entirely on clinical severity and physiological impairment.

"Therefore, treating physicians should be highly selective in ordering HRCT imaging of the chest in COVID-19 patients," the guidelines said. They said COVID-19 is a viral infection, and antimicrobials have no role in the prevention or treatment of uncomplicated COVID-19 infection

For asymptomatic and mild cases, the guidelines said antimicrobials are not recommended for therapy or prophylaxis while for moderate and severe cases antimicrobials should not be prescribed unless there is clinical suspicion of a superadded infection.

Hospital admission increases the risk of healthcare-associated infections with multidrug-resistant organisms.

For asymptomatic infection among children, the guidelines recommended no specific medication and promoted COVID-appropriate behaviour (mask,

strict hand hygiene, physical distancing) and suggested giving nutritious diet.

The guidelines said that for mild infection paracetamol 10-15mg/kg/dose may be given every 4-6 hours for fever and throat soothing agents and warm saline gargles in older children and adolescents have been recommended for cough.

In case of moderate infection, the guidelines suggested initiating immediate oxygen therapy.

"Corticosteroids are not required in all children with moderate illness; they may be administered in rapidly progressive disease and anticoagulants may also be indicated," the guidelines said.

For severe COVID-19 among children, the guidelines said if Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) develops, necessary management to be initiated.

"In case shock develops, necessary management should be initiated. Antimicrobials to be administered if there is evidence/strong suspicion of superadded bacterial infection. May need organ support in case of organ dysfunction, e.g. renal replacement therapy," it said.

Draft Delhi Master Plan 2041 Envisions Cyclist, Pedestrian-Friendly City

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: From minimising points of conflict between motorised vehicles and pedestrians or cyclists to making subways and foot over bridges safe, the draft Delhi Master Plan (MPD) 2041 envisions a city that will promote cycling and walking.

The draft MPD 2041 has been made available on the website of the Delhi Development Authority and public suggestions and objections have been invited, a senior DDA official said on Wednesday. The draft said, "Delhi's high active travel potential needs to be leveraged and enhanced for people to choose active travel not only as an affordable mobility option but also as one that is comfortable, safe and accrues health and environmental benefits to the individual and the city."

The document delineated that the implementation of strategies for promoting active travel (walking and cycling) shall facilitate increased access to green and safe mobility.

According to the draft, the provision of barrier-free and continuous non-motorised transport network infrastructure such as footpaths, cycling tracks, etc., for providing

shorter and comfortable routes, should be included as part of the design of all new road infrastructure and for the improvement of the existing roads.

"Points of conflict of pedestrians or cyclists with motorised vehicles shall be minimised through infrastructure provisions as per the patterns of active travel characteristics. Pedestrian and bicycle crossings shall be at grade as far as possible. Carriageways shall incorporate traffic calming elements," the draft said.

Subways or foot over bridges should be cross-programmed through commercial activity, public art, street performances etc., to ensure a safe and vibrant environment, it added.

The draft also said active travel shall be promoted by designing an urban environment where more people choose it as a preferred means for both destination travel i.e., to work, school, place of worship, stores, theatres, public transit etc., as well as recreational travel.

"Streets shall be designed to ensure equitable distribution of road space and safe mobility for users of all ages and abilities, prioritise barrier-free movement for pedestrians and cyclists, and provision of enabling

infrastructure to create an ecosystem for active travel," it said.

Existing streets shall be incrementally retrofitted to serve pedestrians and cyclists better. Pedestrian walkways or footpaths shall be provided mandatorily in new development areas, according to the draft.

Installation of pedestrian signals shall be preferred over grade-separated crossings to ensure ease of use for pedestrians, wheelchair users, and cyclists. Pelican crossing system shall be installed near schools and other major pedestrian crossings, especially for children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Provision of street furniture i.e. benches and other seating, garbage bins, signage, public utilities, e.g. restrooms, child care rooms, changing rooms and drinking water spouts at regular intervals, etc, should be there, the draft stated. Improved shading during the day and illumination during the night for the safety of pedestrians and cyclists should also be provided.

Active travel areas shall be identified by the concerned agencies around high activity nodes in the city and "Walk Plans" prepared and implemented in these areas to improve pedestrian and cycling

infrastructure, the draft said.

"Walk Plans" shall be made for at least an area within a radius of 400 500 metres (5-10 minutes walking distance) around any specific destination node, such as a heritage precinct, a market, existing residential colonies etc., it said.

Certain corridors shall be identified and developed as cycling highways facilitating long-distance active travel across the city, it added. The master plan also proposes green mobility corridors, exclusive pedestrian and cycling pathways along natural drains and river Yamuna as city-level dedicated corridors.

Battery-operated e-bikes and other green mobility options may be encouraged, it said.

Energy generating tiles may be used for footpaths and paved areas. The energy, coupled with solar energy, can be used to power street lights as well as provide charging points for mobiles and other electronic gadgets near seating or resting spots, it added.

State-of-the-art surveillance technology can be employed to ensure the safety of pedestrians and cyclists, adherence to traffic rules and prevention of vandalism of street furniture, the draft said.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

PAGD Comes

much politically due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

"We are going through this pandemic and it is a deadly disease. Hundreds of thousands have died due to it. We have to be very careful (and) not contribute in its spread, he added.

Asked if he would resign from Parliament in case the Centre went ahead with further division of the union territory as rumoured, an angry Abdullah said, "No".

"We have to fight this fire by staying inside Parliament. My father, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, was offered Saudi citizenship by King Faisal when he came to know that he (National Conference founder) would be arrested on his return to India. But Sheikh sahib refused, saying he has to fight the fire by staying in the fire," the NC leader claimed.

Tarigami said the debate about whether the politicians from Kashmir should go to Parliament or not should stop now.

"We want to assure the people that the PAGD will use every opportunity -- even the weakest opportunity -- to resist for the people. I also want to assure the people...Never ever misunderstand us, be it people of Jammu, Kashmir or Ladakh. We shall always be on the side of the people," he added.

The PAGD is an alliance of several mainstream political parties in Jammu and Kashmir. It was formed last year to work towards restoring the special status of J-K, which was abrogated by the Centre on August 5, 2019.

1098 Cases

2102 from Kashmir. A total of 279779 people have recovered, leaving the active positive cases to 19852-- 7516 in Jammu and 12336 in Kashmir, they said.

Also, one new confirmed case of mucormycosis (black fungus) has been reported today, bringing the cumulative number of confirmed

cases to 18 in J&K, they said.

Govt Cancels 11th

examination/results are awaited, are cancelled," tweeted office of the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

"The detailed procedure for publishing results along with a scheme of marking will be completed by JKBOSE shortly, it further said.

Pertinently, the decision has come a week into Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement to cancel the CBSE Class 12 board examinations.

Train Service

reads that the Inspector General of Kashmir (IGP) Kashmir through PCR Kashmir has demanded further cancellation of train operation over Baramulla-Banihal-Baramulla section from 10-06-21 to 16-06-21.

Apni Party Seeks

situation and organisational issues here.

He said holding of assembly elections is a must to restore the confidence of the people of the UT.

An elected government is answerable to the people and the bureaucracy has no such accountability. Therefore, they do work as per their wishes and it has made the people suffer and the developmental projects to delay, the JKAP leader said.

He alleged that the officials have failed to perform on the ground and it has attracted displeasure of the people who avoid going to the government offices for their work as no one listens to them.

The civil secretariat which used to be flooded with the people from all parts of J-K wears a deserted look. The developmental works have stopped, and unemployment has increased, he said.

The meeting discussed the COVID-19 situation and demanded relief for the traders and transporters who suffered financial losses due to coronavirus-induced lockdown, a party statement said. (PTI)

Srinagar Records

past few days, there has been no western disturbance hitting the Union Territory due to

which J&K has witnessed deficient rainfall.

"It is because of this that there has been a sharp increase in the day temperature," he said, adding "The low wind speed and plenty of sun over the last four days have also soared the temperature across the valley."

The Valley has been witnessing severe heat waves and scorching humidity for the last four days. On Tuesday, the mercury settled at 34.3 degree Celsius yesterday, even as a relief from the scorching heat in expected in next two days.

"From June 11, we are all set to witness a drop-down in the soaring temperatures as the sporadic rainfall and much cooler winds are expected across Kashmir," Ahmed said.

"The temperature from June 11 till June 14, is expected to be below 20 degree celsius that will help to bring relief from the severe heat wave and humidity," he added.

Pertinently, the MeT department has also issued heat wave advisories requesting people to stay hydrated and limit their outdoor exposure in order to stay safe from any kind of heat-illnesses such as heat-stroke and heat-exhaustiveness.

The soaring temperatures have not only irked the people in Kashmir but also in the winter capital of the UT, Jammu, where the maximum temperature recorded on June 9 was 42.7 degree celsius, marking it as the hottest day of the season so far.

"Today's maximum temperature in Jammu was recorded 42.7 degree celsius that is around 4 degree above the normal," The Deputy Director MeT said.

In the early forecast for this year's summer season, the MeT has predicted that the maximum temperature of the season will be recorded in the month of August where the heat index could reach as high as 35.5 degree celsius with much severe heat waves.

However, Ahmed says rain and thunderstorms in the upcoming days are likely to soar down the severe humid conditions and therefore will provide relief to the people.

LG Opens 500

The LG, he said, noted that it was only due to personal intervention of PM that J&K has witnessed such large scale capacity enhancement of the medical infrastructure.

Recently, the UT received 16 Medical Oxygen Generation Plants from Europe in a short span of three weeks, substantially enhancing the medical oxygen availability in the region.

According to the official spokesperson, the LG lauded the DRDO for playing a key role in India's fight against COVID-19 and acknowledged the hard work of DRDO officials, who have completed both the hospitals in a short span of time, adding 1000 additional beds to serve the people in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on UT Government's initiatives aiming towards transforming J&K's health system in view of Covid pandemic, Sinha, as per the official spokesperson remarked that the govt's strategy has been to implement a host of interventions in response to the evolving situations and then quantifying the impact of those initiatives in providing relief to the patients and strengthening the overall healthcare delivery system.

Sinha, he said observed that it is because of the collective efforts that J&K now has a greater capacity to treat all Covid-19 and other patients.

"Taking timely decisions to increase hospital capacity in response to the pandemic lead to better management of patients," he said, as per official spokesperson.

He further said that the LG also thanked and congratulated all the PRI representatives, government officers, health department, police and security forces for continuously working in this pandemic.

"With the active participation of all of you, we have handled the situation of Corona in J&K in a better way," Sinha said.

Meanwhile, the LG took a round of the various sections of the facility and enquired about the Covid care facilities to be extended to the patients including diagnostic facilities, medical

equipment, oxygen supply, doctors, paramedics and other healthcare facilities.

Adhering to the directions of the LG for developing specialized critical care for infants and children, the official spokesperson said, a 25-bedded Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) has been established in the facility.

"Pertinently, on May 30, the Lt Governor had visited the site of this DRDO's Covid hospital and passed specific direction for the early completion of the facility," he said.

Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Member of Parliament; Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lt Governor; Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Atal Dulloo, Financial Commissioner, Health & Medical Education Department; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor; Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Prof (Dr.) Samia Rashid, Principal GMC&AHs Srinagar; Mohammad Aijaz, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Rather, Director Health Services, Kashmir, and other concerned officers were present on the occasion, the official spokesperson said.

Dr. Anil Khurana, Chief Engineer R&D North; Amit Kumar Rai, Scientist & Project Manager; Ravindra Kumar, Scientist & Project Incharge; Jubair Ali, Scientist & Liaison Officer and other officials of DRDO were also present.

Man-Eater

inside DC office premises and they immediately called the wildlife officials, according to news agency KNO.

Meanwhile, an official of wildlife department said that a team of the department reached the spot within no time, however, they couldn't locate the leopard after search it for at least four hours.

He said that footprints of the leopard was the same as the one who was spotted at Ompora housing colony.

"Footprints were the same we found at Ompora housing colony and we have deployed the staff at every hotspot to eliminate this man-eater leopard," hee added.

Earlier on 3rd June, four-year-old girl was mauled to death by the leopard after she was taken away by the man-eater from her home in

Ompora Housing Colony in Budgam.

Central Law

that J&K's land acquisition Act 1934 came to an end when the special status of the erstwhile state was revoked. The law, he said, was replaced by right to fair compensation and transparency in land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement Act, 2013.

"The big difference between the new and the old law was the right to compensation. Under the Central law, affected parties, farmers and landowners were entitled for compensation three to four times higher than the market value if their properties were acquired for a project," Bhat said.

Besides it, Bhat said, the new law also have a provision of rehabilitation and resettlement which didn't exist in the J&K's land acquisition Act 1934.

He said under the J&K's land acquisition Act 1934, the government officials would grant compensation much below the market rates and at times they would see decide the compensation on the basis of circle rate and stamp rates.

"Why are not benefits of central law reaching the people of Jammu and Kashmir? Why is not a new notification being issued so that people avail the benefits of pro-people laws implemented after Article-370 revocation," he said.

Speaking about the delay in ambitious Srinagar ring road project, the notification of which was issued in 2017, Bhat said that the proposed project was meant to ease traffic congestion in the city and allow smooth flow of traffic for the convenience of the people.

"Under the Land acquisition act 1934, the land acquisition process has to be completed in a span of two years. And these provisions are also in central land acquisition Act. But contrary to the provisions, there was no progress in land acquisition case in the two years. Even 4 and half years have passed, there's no headway in this project," he said.

Dr Bhat further said that DC Budgam in

a written communication to the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir in May 2020 has himself agreed to the fact that notification for land acquisition (Srinagar ring road) issued in 2017 has lapsed due to efflux of time.

"He had advised the Div Com for orders to issue a fresh notification under the Central laws but the government did not pay any heed to that communication," he said.

Besides it, Dr Bhat also quoted three judgments by the courts to substantiate his claims in the cases of Ali Mohammad Akhoo, Abdul Salam Bhat and Ghulam Ahmed Paul versus the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

"In the third decision on June 4, the court asked the status quo to be maintained and the landlords not to be harassed," he said.

"Before that a judgement was delivered in the case of Abdul Salam Bhat in 2020. The court said that the land should not be forcibly acquired if the landowners have not been compensated," he added.

He further said that the landlords have never denied and are ready to give their lands for developmental projects.

"But justice should be done to them. They only want a new notification to be issued. If Article 370 was abrogated on the promise that the new laws will benefit the people, then why are not benefits of right to fair compensation Act reaching them," he added.

Kashmiri Teen

ideal for the juvenile generation of learning entrepreneurs in Kashmir.

Even though he still operates with the same earphone and mobile, he isn't the old Wasif anymore.

Time has changed and so has his lifestyle and status in society. He's currently employing more than 80 people--an amalgam of school and college students and a few graduates--in his "Your Dream" company.

"Entrepreneurship is not an elite endeavour," he exclaims with a smile."Anyone, with good communication skills, a sharp mind and social awareness, can become an entrepreneur at any point of life."

Now that Wasif is all of seventeen--a reasonable span of years for an entrepreneur--he can make bold decisions.

Few months back, he tried to move his business to the international standards and tried to earn himself a name among the world's young entrepreneurs. Even though the move didn't bring laurels for this teenager, he's still diligent in extending the scope of the company and earning it international recognition.

But since it's still a one-man show, he tried to associate his company with a few investors and partners with some reluctance.

"I don't want to associate my company with anyone else because then my ideology of a tech-future for Kashmir is looted against the reimbursement of profits," Wasif continues.

"To some extent, the market--and, in fact, the very notion of the market--has been created by the businessmen who exploit it."

In any case, Wasif's clients are buying his know-how and his reputation. They want him in person to finalise a profitable deal for them against his 3% share.

But for somebody like Wasif hailing from a conservative society, going this far in life was just an unimaginable happening at one point of time.

He was born in Sopore's Duroo village to a well-to-do family of Abdul Rashid Bhat, a man who Wasif marks as his ideal and supporter. Growing up in a family of fruit merchants, the boy was grooming to be a self-starter.

"I knew I was going to be a businessman but it was clear enough that I wouldn't be participating in my father's domain," Wasif says. "My aim was simple -- I had to do something else."

By the same token, it isn't difficult to say to what extent Wasif's father has reflected on the teenager and to what extent his fruit-trading skills have molded his son.

Such a model is the basis for Wasif's commercial-tech industry, habitually venture-backed and thus run to produce profit. And it shaped the entrepreneurial landscape into which the teen had started to evolve.

In 2015, since Wasif's parents were both working in the fields, he spent his afternoons after school in the orchard, doing homework or playing while breathing the fumes of a business launch.

That year, his father took him out of school and flew him around to meetings, to show him how the wealth of connections is made in business. Wasif was 12, going on to 13.

By mid-2016, Wasif had started to put his techie talents to profit by investing in the digital market but by then the clouds of uncertainty had started hovering over the valley. The internet blockade barring broadband services hammered the augmenting Digital-Market of Kashmir.

But unlike the techie giants, Wasif sensed an opportunity and immediately introduced "Your World" platform.

To begin with, he developed an online "Import-Export" portal that promised a profit for the dealer, buyer and Wasif. Online trading had started to emerge as a phenomenon. So he knew, with his entrepreneurial zeal, the investment would surely gain him some profit and a techie reputation.

The idea kept on booming and he was soon down to a couple of deals and was too busy making money to waste time in his family orchards. His decision of leaving his family business crystallized altogether when he discovered that he was making an average profit of half a lakh per month.

"When I told this to my parents, they gave me a rather strange look," he recalls.

Two years after his first IMEX venture, at 15, Wasif introduced many connections (both local and international) in 2018, that helped many young teenagers to understand the complexity of IMEX and Digital Marketing.

The two things had immediately benefited his idea: His father's business meetings and the young scientist award from NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), an independent agency of the U.S. federal government responsible for the civilian space program, as well as aeronautics and space research.

That year, he was once again operating with his old duo but going ahead wasn't that great at onset. An investment in a new marketing venture proved to be a loss.

"A disquieting aspect of a society like ours is that one of the most important criteria of each individual's behavior is the way other individuals are behaving," Wasif, who was lately bestowed with a United Nations award for his "Techie-Kashmir" dream, recalls that disturbing phase of his life.

"And in Kashmir, the mere publicizing of a successful entrepreneur's acts stimulates newbies to act in the same way. I did the same and suffered a loss."

But he doesn't really regret that loss.

It was soon after this loss that Wasif's idea migrated from screen and went towards the public. His company was now offering a more organic database of contacts searchable according to the person's profession.

"It was a tool for everything," Wasif says about his dream App. "I had the contacts of doctors, carpenters, grocery stores, butchers, masters--all stored at one relay station."

But, the interface was never introduced for the general public because of the unavailability of an investor.

"In near future, I'd be able to actually provide services that will be used by people all over the world and all these services would be set-up by Your Dream," Wasif says about what he envisages his company doing after a decade.

Bodies Of Two

untraced despite hectic search by rescuers consisting of specially trained army divers, police and local volunteers.

Two bodies were recovered from the river at Talwara in Reasi, who were later identified as Mohammad Afzan (26) and Mohammad Azim (24) of Bijnor (UP), a police official said.

He said the bodies of the deceased were handed over to their relatives for the last rites.

The search to find out the other four missing persons is still going on, the officialsaid.

DC Anantnag Asks Officers To Ensure Rehabilitation Of Covid Affected Children



Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr Piyush Singla Tuesday directed DCP, Dr. Farhat to identify all such children orphaned and also infected by Covid in a time bound manner with the spirit of leaving no eligible child behind.

Dr. Singla impressed upon Chairperson Child Welfare Committee, Tawheeda Makhdooni to immediately take steps for rehabilitation of these children which may include Adoption, Foster Care and Sponsorship etc besides preparing their Social Investigation Reports and Individual Care Plans.

The DC also passed directions for formulating rosters to provide psychological and counseling support to such children through special sessions.

He was speaking during a meeting of the District Level

Task Force (DLTF) for providing care and protection to children affected and infected by COVID-19 was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (District Magistrate, Chairman DLTF) Anantnag, Dr. Piyush Singla at DC Office here Tuesday.

The meeting discussed the modalities for compiling the details of all deaths caused due to Covid-19 and identification of children affected thereof, for their immediate care and protection in light of the latest guidelines issued by the Govt.

Dr. Farhat informed the chair that the identification process is being done on ground and 18 such children have been identified so far.

It was decided that MFM Bon Dialgam will serve as Covid Care Institution for female children while a facility at Vessu shall provide such care for male children as mandated by the government guidelines.

The DC said the Government has adopted a comprehensive approach, by creating a Special Cell in the Social Welfare Department to identify and support these families as a welfare measure.

Appropriate directions were issued to the concerned for identification and enrollment of prospective beneficiaries under the scheme in strict adherence to the scheme guidelines.

Focus On Gender Based Enterprises: Dr Sehrish To Field Workers

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Mission Director Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar Tuesday emphasised on the field workers of the Mission to focus more on developing gender based enterprises like setting up of low cost Sanitary Napkin units, which will not only improve the menstrual health of rural women folk but is also affordable to them. These remarks were made by her while chairing a review meeting of the Mission for district Jammu.

Dr Sehrish maintained that Umeed scheme is extensively based on capacity building and strengthening of community based institutions by federating women in hierarchal Community Based Organizations (CBOs). She exuded hope that it has a great potential to dovetail the individual efforts of these women to achieve bigger and substantial goals.

Further addressing the officials she said that JKRLM (Umeed) scheme has given a significant platform to the SHG members to access capital and the bank loans for enhancing the chances of their livelihood earning. She culminated that the scheme has produced role models for both men and women and encouraged them to come out of poverty and upscale their standards of living.

Dr Sehrish instructed the officials that funds released by the Mission to the CBOs should be ensured to be released to the SHG members immediately to be invested in their livelihood activities. She directed them to



upload the progress on the National MIS subsequently.

The MD also impressed upon the officers to undertake on priority the livelihood convergence with different departments and schemes especially in PMFME for augmentation of their livelihoods further. She called them to organize the SHGs having common agriculture related livelihoods into Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to make their returns attractive. They were asked to organize special drives for the SHG women for updating/correction of Aadhaar cards and ensure that the individual bank accounts are opened for all the women SHG members. She also stressed on Block Programme Managers to achieve the current fiscal targets nevertheless adopting strictly the COVID -19 appropriate behaviors and its associated SOPs.

Dr Sehrish advised the officials to further strengthen and promote enterprises for enhanced livelihoods both in farm and non- farm activities. She said the JKRLM is committed for promoting the livelihoods in rural areas and praised the increased role of women in skillfully steering the vocations established under JKRLM into profit-making enterprises.

Covid Curve Dips In Four Kashmir Districts

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Government on Tuesday said that the active cases have decreased drastically in the

four districts of Kashmir including Ganderbal, Pulwama, Kulgam and Anantnag. Deputy

Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal,

Krittika Jyotsna said that the active cases have drastically decreased in the district from the last four weeks. She said in the start-

ing of the current month total Active cases in the district were almost 1400 which have come to 741 till ending last week and among which 683 are in home isolation.

Presenting details about the tests done last week, she said 8000 tests were done including 5400 RAT tests and the positivity rate has also decreased in the district.

The DC said that field functionaries including Heath teams, Tehsildars, BDOs and officials of other departments are always available to the people to redress their grievances on spot. And to further enhance the grievance redressal mechanism, the district administration has designed nodal officers at the district level for all medical blocks of the district, she added.

While elaborating, she said that CPO and Dy. CEO have been designated for Block Ganderbal, Additional Deputy Commissioner and GM, DIC are designated for Kangan block, ADDC for Block Wakura and DFO, Sindh Forest Division for block Lar. She urged people to contact these respective nodal officers for redressal of grievances if they found any grievance is not redressed at the block level.

Deputy Commissioner

(DC) Pulwama, Baseer ul Haq Chowdhary said that the recovery rate of Covid-19 positive cases has touched 90 percent in the district.

Giving details, the DC said that Pulwama has recorded a 90 percent recovery rate and there are 1450 active cases in the district at present. He informed that the present positivity rate in the district is 5.7 percent while death rate has declined to 1.3 percent.

He further said 25000 tests were conducted in all containment zones and at other requisite locations last week, in which 8500 tests were conducted at newly established CCC's at all 190 Panchayat Halqas.

Choudhry said District Administration has initiated door to door surveillance in order to trace the vulnerable old age and senior citizen patients for their Testing and Vaccination. He also said that all emergency services at DH Pulwama will be resumed soon after complete fumigation of Hospital premises.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Piyush Singla said that the recovery rate for Covid patients has improved by a significant margin of about 17 percent from 70 to 87 percent during last week with positivity rate reducing to 3.5 percent from 7 percent and bed occupancy also decreasing substantially during the same period.

Speaking on the ongoing vaccination process, the DC said the inoculation drives have been intensified across the district and appealed to eligible people to get vaccinated at an earliest.

He also informed that the testing has been ramped up and the focus is on high contact areas like markets, mandies, main roads etc besides aggressive sampling is being followed in clusters/containment zones.

The DC cautioned the people not to get complacent over the improving situation and advised them to follow CAB strictly. Em-

phasising the importance of SOPs, he said they become even more important in the unlock phase when chances of exposure to virus increase adding appropriate fines are being imposed on the defaulters.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Dr Bilal Mohi Ud Din Bhat said the positivity rate has witnessed an enormous decline during the past one week in the district.

The DC said that the coordinated efforts with multi-pronged strategies have started bearing fruits with both positivity rate and bed occupancy witnessing decline at Kulgam. He said the recovery rate has also been increasing each passing day with 89 percent at present in the district.

He said there is a significant improvement in situation and economical activities have been partially resumed in the district, however, strict adherence to covid appropriate behaviour is imperative at this stage to prevent further spread of covid and no laxity from any one shall be tolerated.

With regard to vaccination, the DC stated that 74 percent of the population above 45 years of age have been vaccinated and within days the district will achieve a cent percent vaccination target in this age group.

He also added that vaccination for the 18 to 44 years age group will be started soon in the district.

With regard to availability of Oxygen in the district, the DC said that 1000 LPM Oxygen generation plant at District hospital is functioning properly and adequate bulk cylinders, concentrators are available in the district.

On Covid Care Centres (CCCs) established at Panchayat level, the DC said that they have strengthened these 5 bedded CCCs established in all panchayats with Oxygen concentrators and other requisite equipment besides primary COVID related drugs.

Adv Khan Reviews Covid Containment Measures In Shopain

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan Tuesday visited District Shopain and held a comprehensive and threadbare discussion in which the stakeholders comprising Fruit Growers Association, transporters, traders who in addition to putting forth their suggestions on Covid projected other demands with regard to their issues for early settlement.

Advisor said that the need of hour to get rid of the virus is the cooperation of people in breaking the chain of covid pandemic. He urged the DDCs, BDCs, Sarpanchs and Panchs to play a vital role by motivating the people to come forward and getting themselves vaccinated. Advisor emphasized upon the traders, transporters, fruit growers and others present on the occasion to follow the requisite advisories. He said

strict adherence to the measures, SOPs and guidelines issued from time to time hold the key to defeat the virus.

Advisor appreciated the district administration for achieving 100% coverage of vaccination of above 45 years of age group in the district and said that the people of Shopain have always cooperated the district administration in their endeavour to control the pandemic.

Baseer Khan stated that the Administration has sufficient stock of oxygen supply and other essential drugs and said that the people need not to pay any heed to the rumours. The Advisor said, there is no dearth of resources, whether it is oxygen, medical or any other resource. With the active intervention of Prime Minister and Lieutenant Governor, the UT has received 9 high quality oxygen plants from Frankfurt Germany in addition to that 9

more plants have been received just a few days back.

Advisor also emphasised to ensure that the economic activities relating to MGNREGA, Horticulture, Agriculture etc. goes on smoothly provided Covid appropriate behaviour is followed strictly.

While interacting with the DDCs, BDCs and other representatives, Advisor stressed upon them to play a vital role in tackling the situation that has arisen due to the covid-19 pandemic. He appealed them to step forward and aware the common masses about the importance of wearing mask and maintaining social distancing. He also appealed them to get their respective areas well sanitised and well fumigated.

Deputy Commissioner briefed about various initiatives that have been taken by the district administration to break the chain of Covid-19 pandemic.

Portion Of Jammu Circular Road Caves In, Four Vehicles Damaged

Observer News Service

JAMMU: At least four vehicles were damaged after a portion of Jammu's Circular road caved-in on Wednesday afternoon.

Reports said that the portion of Circular road, near the famous Peer Kho temple, caved-in, resulting in damage to four vehicles parked on the road.

Witnesses said the road was washed away last year in August after the region witnessed heavy monsoon rains but this time it caved-in even without a drop of rain.

Locals alleged substandard material has been used to repair

the road, resulting in its sudden collapse.

"As this road was reconstructed just 8 months ago, the concerned officials should carry out a probe into this matter," said a local.

He further added that its sheer callousness of administration and municipal officials playing with the lives of people. "It is a busy road, used by Kashmir bound travellers and people going to other parts of the city but administration has only installed steel sheets (tin sheets) at damaged portions and no civil work takes place for months," locals added.

Union Secretary Inspects Construction Work On Z-morh, Zojila Tunnels

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Union Secretary, Road Transport and Highways (RT&H), Giridhar Aramane, Tuesday visited the construction site of Z-Morh and Zojila tunnels at Sonamarg to have first-hand appraisal of the work progress made on these prestigious projects.

After on ground review of East and West Portals of Z-Morh tunnel, the Union Secretary chaired a brief meeting and reviewed the progress on the prestigious project with a detailed assessment of all vital aspects of the construction work.

The Union Secretary appreciated the forthcoming breakthrough of Z-Morh Escape tunnel which will enable controlled movement during winter season to Sonamarg. The

tunnel will facilitate the locals and tourists to access Sonamarg during winter season which remains completely cutoff during winters due to road passing active avalanche areas.

The secretary also visited the 32 Km Zojila project with a major tunnels of 14 KM for all weather connectivity of Kashmir with Ladakh. Ongoing works on Zojila Nilgrar portals and approach roads were also visited.

While inspecting the ongoing works of both the tunnel projects, the Secretary directed the officials of the executing agencies to expedite pace of works on the ambitious projects, so that targets are achieved within the stipulated time frame.

Earlier, blasting ceremony was also carried out by Union Secretary at Z-Morh tunnel.

DC Kupwara Inaugurates 50 Bed Covid Care Centre At AGS



Observer News Service

KUPWARA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Imam Din Tuesday inaugurated 50 bedded Covid Care Centre at Army Goodwill School (AGS) Wayane.

The Covid Care Centre will be administered by the joint efforts of Army and Health department

Kupwara.

On the occasion, the DC inspected various wards of the Covid Care Centre including Laboratory and Pharmacy units.

The DC on the occasion said that the establishment of such Covid Care facility is the need of the hour as the current situation of Covid pandemic demands. He said that the Covid Care Centre will prove an extraordinary facility for the Covid patients of Kupwara.

While congratulating the Army for such initiative, the DC assured necessary support for treatment of the Covid Patients of the district.

Rs 760.60 Cr District Plan Approved For Doda

Observer News Service

DODA: The District Planning Committee (DPC) Doda has approved an annual Plan of Rs 760.60 crore for the year 2021-22, here at a meeting.

The Plan includes UT component of Rs 1010.55 lakh, loan component Rs 2648.68 Lakh and Central share of Rs 58658.08 lakh, for giving impetus to developmental activities in the district.

It was given out that under

PRI grants, Rs 23.30 Lakh would be allocated per Panchayat, Rs 25 lakh per Block for Block Development Council and Rs 10 Crore grant to District Development Council that shall be made part of Capex budget in addition to other sectors.

During the meeting, the Chairman DDC exhorted the officers to take the development on a mission mode basis to extend the benefits of the same to the general public.

Residential House Guttred In Uri Fire Mishap

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: A residential house was gutted in a fire incident that broke out on Tuesday Evening in Zehanpora locality of Boniyar in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Locals said that the fire broke out at around 11:50 in the morning in Sheikh Mohalla locality of Zehanpora in Tehsil Boniyar.

They said that soon after the fire broke out locals reached the spot and tried to douse the flames and the fire was brought under control.

However, no loss of life or injury to anyone was reported in the incident.

Youth Electrocuted, Another Injured In Kulgam

Observer News Service

KULGAM: A youth was electrocuted to death while another was injured after they came in contact with a live wire in Shurat village of South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Wednesday afternoon.

Officials said that the duo came in contact with a live wire and were immediately rushed to GMC Anantnag, where one of them was declared dead on arrival.

They identified the deceased as Zakir Ahmad Khanday son of Shabir Ah Khanday and injured as Shavaaz Ahmad Dar son of Shabir Ahmad Dar, both residents of Shurat Kulgam.

Shopain Village PHC To Get OMS

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: To cater to the requirements of oxygen supply for multiple patients during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Tuk-roo Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Shopain district becomes the first in J&K to get multi-feed Oxygen Manifold System (OMS) technology.

The multi-feed Oxygen Manifold System using a multiway radial header fitted to a single cylinder. This MOM would enable one oxygen bottle to cater to the needs of multiple patients concurrently thus enabling critical care management to a larger number of patients with the existing limited resources.

The oxygen manifold system consists of a 24 Cylinder system catering 40 beds fully functional along with an ERC room which is fully equipped and functions round the clock.

Earlier, Covid patients from Shopain which is the hilly and far-flung district needed to travel long distances to reach a hospital, but now with this facility the Covid patients will be able to get oxygen at the nearest hospital.

SED Initiates Measures To End Rampant Adhocism

300 Vacancies Of Principals, 700 Of Head Masters To Be Filled Up Soon

SRINAGAR: The School Education Department, in its endeavour to ensure best possible education to children, has taken a slew of well planned measures to end rampant adhocism at all levels.

In this connection, a long pendency of regularization since 2007 of Incharge Principals and equals has been made by promotion of 1094 Incharge Principals from Senior Lecturers and 52 from In-charge Zonal Education Officers cadre. Besides, around 1,700 Lecturers have been promoted from Lecturers to Senior Lecturers.

Further, the School Education Department is in process of filling up around 300 vacancies of Principals and 700 vacancies of Head Masters in shortest pos-



sible span of time.

Besides, for all the vacancies of Lecturers, ZEOs and Head-masters necessary instructions have been issued to the concerned quarter.

Recently, the department has filled up all the vacant posts of Chief Education Officers and Principals DIET and during this annual transfer drive a measure

has been taken up to fill up all the posts of teaching staff in far flung areas and in the hard zones so that studies of students of these area will not suffer.

The department is committed and determined to fill up all reluctant vacancies by or before July 2021 so that an organized and efficient education curriculum is ensured for the students in the UT.

Students Enrolled In Foreign Universities Afraid Of Visa Cancellation Due To Covid-19 Vaccine Shortage

Agenceis

Many students, who are to travel abroad for studies, are worried about visa cancellations and getting stuck in India due to the Covid-19 vaccine shortage and timely administration of their second dose.

Shrikant, a Bachelor in Technology who took admission to the University of Florida in the United States, is one such student who is afraid that he might get stuck in India if the vaccine shortage continues as he struggled a lot to book the slot for the first dose.

He took his first dose of Covishield in mid-May and his second dose is due after 12 weeks. However, his session is scheduled to start by mid-August.

"I am living in dilemma. If I have taken the first dose of Covishield then there is no guarantee that I will get a second dose of the same vaccine in the US, neither the countries are permitting to take a mixed dose of vaccine," he told ANI.

Shrikant, a resident of Noida, who is preparing to study Masters in Computer Science in the US, has been granted F1 status by the university to carry his studies.

"Now my session is going to start in mid-August and I am worried that I might get stuck in India or face cancellation of Visa if I am not able to attend the session," said Shrikant.

Reportedly, Indian students who have received Covaxin or Russia's Sputnik V vaccine are being asked to inoculate again across several international institutes as both of these vaccines are yet to be approved by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Requesting for the assistance

of the government, he said, "We want relaxation from the government so that we can complete our higher studies in foreign countries."

Kashi Vishwanathan, his father said, "Last year we lost the session due to pandemic. This year also we are stuck due to vaccine issues. Last year we spent Rs 2.5 lakh for procedures of enrolment which was completely wasted. Now, this year again have spent such a huge amount."

The problem is that we have to deposit Rs 10 lakh for the first semester. If we deposit and my son is unable to make it to US for his first session then whole amount of money will be wasted." Many other parents like me are also in a state of absolute confusion, added his father.

On June 5 MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted that Indian students studying abroad but are stuck in India due to Covid-19 and related issues can get in touch with the OIA-II Division.

Soon messages were flooded by those students who have enrolled themselves in foreign universities. On student wrote, "Thank you for considering our problem sir. We Indian students are really depressed and are in immense pressure due to the travel restrictions imposed by German government. Please help us reach Germany sir."

We have our mandatory in physical presence exams this month end and July." Another student said, "Sir, thank you for considering our problem. We are more than 4000 students who are stuck here in India due to travel ban imposed by the German government. Please help us reach Germany, sir. We have our mandatory in presence exams this month-end and July."

Don't Share Data On Vaccine Stocks In Public: Centre Tells States

Agenceis

The Centre has written to the states and Union territories, advising them not to share the data of the Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) system on vaccine stocks and the temperature of vaccine storage at public forums, and stating that it is a "sensitive information and to be used only for programme improvement".

In a recent letter to the states, the Union health ministry said the Centre, with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), has rolled out the eVIN system under UIP, which is used to track the vaccine stock status and the temperature at all levels of vaccine storage, from national to the sub-district level.

In the letter, the health ministry said it was overwhelming to see that all the states are using the



system to update the stock and transactions of Covid vaccines on a daily basis.

"In this regard, please be advised that data and analytics generated by eVIN for inventory and temperature is owned by the Ministry of Health and not to be shared with any other organisation, partner agency, media agency, online

and offline public forums without the consent of the ministry.

"This is very sensitive information and to be used only for programme improvement," said the letter written by Pradeep Haldar, Advisor, Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) to all mission directors of the National Health Mission in all the states and Union territories.

What About Vaccines For Those Without IDs, Court Asks Centre, State

Agenceis

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Wednesday asked the Maharashtra and Union governments what steps they had taken to inform citizens about the Centre's SOPs on COVID-19 vaccination for people who do not possess one of the seven identity cards prescribed for the purpose.

A bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and G S Kulkarni also asked the Union government to inform the court of the steps taken to cover under its vaccination drive the people who were mentally ill and without a legal guardian and hence, not in a position to give informed consent for receiving the vaccine.

The bench was hearing a bunch of Public Interest Litigations (PILs) on ensuring greater access of the anti-COVID-19 vaccines to citizens, improved functioning of the CoWIN portal and other issues.

The petitioners informed the bench that the government had prescribed a list of seven recognised identity cards, including the Aadhaar and the PAN cards, for citizens to register for vaccination on the CoWIN portal.

While the Union government had issued detailed standard operating procedures (SOPs) for people who do not possess any of these



seven IDs, the responsibility of identifying such persons and ensuring they were vaccinated was given to officials at the state and district levels.

Besides, these SOPs were not known to everyone, the petitioners said.

They also said despite the ongoing drives, many people, particularly those in rural areas, were hesitant to take the vaccine.

The Union government's counsel, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Anil Singh, opposed the submission.

He said several people, who earlier made public statements against receiving the anti-COVID-19 vaccine, have now gone ahead and taken it themselves.

The bench, however, said the

government must continue creating greater awareness on the vaccine and its several SOPs on the same.

"What steps have you taken to educate the rural population about the importance of vaccination? The message about the vaccine's importance must reach every part of the country. Both the Centre and the state must widely publicise the vaccination benefits," the High Court said.

"What has the state and the Union (government) done to inform the public that the seven prescribed identity cards are not mandatory for vaccination?" it asked.

The HC directed the state's counsel, Gita Shastri, and ASG Singh to inform the court of the steps taken by June 17, the next date of hearing.

Fastly Blames Software Bug For Major Global Internet Outage



Agenceis

Fastly, the company behind a major global internet outage this week, says the incident was caused by a bug in its software that was triggered when one of its customers changed their settings.

Tuesday's outage raised questions about the reliance of the internet on a few infrastructure companies. Fastly's issue knocked out high traffic sites including news providers such as the Guardian and New York Times, as well as British government sites, Reddit and Amazon.com.

"This outage was broad and severe and we're truly sorry for the impact to our customers and everyone who relies on them," the company said in a blog post authored by Nick Rockwell, its senior engineering and infrastructure executive.

He said the problem should have been anticipated.

Fastly operates a group of servers strategically placed around the

world to help customers move and store content close to their end users quickly and safely.

The company post gave a timeline of events and promised to examine and explain why Fastly had failed to detect the software bug during its own testing process.

Fastly said the bug was in a software update shipped to customers on May 12 but was not triggered until one unidentified customer carried out settings changes that triggered the problem "which caused 85% of our network to return errors".

Fastly noticed the outage within a minute of it occurring at 09:47 GMT, and engineers worked out the cause at 10:27 GMT. Once they disabled the settings that triggered the problem, most of the company's network quickly recovered.

"Within 49 minutes, 95% of our network was operating as normal," the company said.

Its networks were fully recovered at 12:35 GMT and it began rolling out a permanent software fix at 17:25 GMT, Fastly said.

NEWS MAKERS

Man Arrested Over Slapping French President Martial Arts Enthusiast: Report

Agenceis

PARIS: The man alleged to have slapped French President Emmanuel Macron in the face ran a club for enthusiasts of medieval swordsmanship and had no previous criminal record, sources close to the investigation said on Wednesday.

A police source identified the suspect as 28-year-old Damien Tarel. He is under investigation for assault against a public official, the local prosecutor said.

Macron, who has been on a tour to take the pulse of the country after

the pandemic and less than a year before the next presidential election, was hit on Tuesday during a walkabout in southern France as he greeted a small crowd of onlookers.

Tarel, dressed in a khaki T-shirt, then shouted "Down with Macronia" and "Montjoie Saint Denis", the battle cry of the French army when the country was a monarchy. A source close to the investigation described him as someone who was "a bit lost, a bit geeky, a bit of a gamer".

Tarel and a second man were still in police custody on Wednesday, the source added.

Tea Vendor Sends Rs 100 To PM Modi To Get His Beard Shaved, Adds A Message

Agenceis

A tea vendor from Baramati in Maharashtra has sent a monetary order of Rs 100 to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking the latter to get his beard shaved, reported local media. In the last one and a half years, the unorganised sector has been hit hard because of the covid-induced lockdown.

Upset over this, Anil More, owner of a small tea stall opposite to a private hospital on Indapur

15 Days Special Casual Leave For Central Govt Employees Whose Parents Test Covid Positive

Agenceis

All central government employees will be able to get 15 days of special casual leave (SCL) in case their parents or any dependent family members test COVID-19 positive, according to an order issued by the personnel ministry.

"In case of active hospitalisation of any of the family members/parents even after 15 days of the expiry of SCL, the government servants may be granted leave of any kind due and admissible beyond 15 days of SCL till their discharge

be granted commuted leave/SCL/earned leave (EL) for a period up to 20 days starting from the time having tested positive, it said.

"In case of hospitalization beyond the 20th day from his testing COVID positive, he shall be granted commuted leave, on production of documentary proof of hospitalization," said the order issued to all central government ministries.

A government servant shall be granted special casual leave of 15 days in case a dependent family member or parents (whether dependent or not, living with him) are COVID-19 positive, it said.



from hospital," it said.

The ministry has come out with the detailed order on treatment, regularisation of hospitalization or quarantine period during COVID-19 pandemic after it received several queries related to it and keeping in view the "hardships faced by the government servants".

A government servant shall be granted commuted leave up to 20 days when he or she is COVID-19 positive and is in home isolation/quarantine, the order said.

In case of a government servant testing COVID-19 positive and is in home isolation and has also been hospitalised, he or she shall

In case the government servant comes into direct contact with a COVID-positive person and remains in home quarantine, "he shall be treated as on duty/work from home for a period of seven days", the ministry said in its order dated June 7.

It said that the period of quarantine spent by government servant, as a precautionary measure, residing in the containment zone "shall be treated as on duty/work from home till the containment zone is de-notified".

These orders shall be applicable with effect from March 25, 2020 until further orders.

Bitcoin Is Now Legal Currency In This Central American Country

Agenceis

San Salvador, El Salvador: The Congress of El Salvador has approved a law that will classify Bitcoin as legal tender in the Central American country, its president said, making it the world's first nation to adopt a cryptocurrency.

"The #BitcoinLaw has just been approved by a qualified majority" in the legislative assembly, President Nayib Bukele tweeted after the vote late Tuesday.

"History!" the president added. He said a majority of 62 out of 84 lawmakers approved the bill, which he proposed last week.

The law passed with the support

of Bukele's allies despite minority opposition parties -- who had criticised the speed of the vote -- refusing to back it.

Before the vote, Bukele said adopting the cryptocurrency would bring "financial inclusion, investment, tourism, innovation and economic development" to the country.

The Salvadoran leader has hailed bitcoin as "the fastest growing way to transfer" billions of dollars in remittances and to prevent millions from being lost to intermediaries.

Remittances from Salvadorans working overseas represent a major chunk of the economy -- equivalent to roughly 22 percent of Gross Domestic Product.

KASHMIR AUTOMOBILE CHAMBER OF INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE (KACIC)

AFFILIATED WITH FEDERATION CHAMBER OF INDUSTRIES KASHMIR
REGD. OFFICE: JAMKASH VEHICLEADES (KASHMIR) PVT. LTD. SRINAGAR-190014,
CONTACT NO: 0194-2432680, FAX: 0194-2435575

DR A K MEHTA (IAS)

Kashmir Automobile Chamber of Industries & Commerce (KACIC) would like to extend its warmest welcome and good wishes to Dr A K Mehta (IAS) on your well deserved placement as Chief Secretary, J&K.

PRESIDENT
IRFAN AHMAD NARWAROO
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