

PM reviews Agri, MSME sectors

NEW DELHI, May 2:

Amid coronavirus-induced lockdown, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today deliberated on ways to reform the Agriculture sector and strengthen Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) to make them more vibrant. He discussed ways to ensure greater access of farmers to institutional credit and freeing the agriculture sector of various restrictions with appropriate backing of laws.

Agriculture accounts for 15 per cent of India's gross domestic product and is a source of

(Contd on page 5 Col 3)

Lokpal member among 72 more die of Corona, 2411 new cases

NEW DELHI, May 2:

Lokpal member Justice (retired) Ajay Kumar Tripathi, who tested positive for COVID-19, died after suffering a cardiac arrest at the AIIMS T r a u m a Centre here today, official sources said.

Tripathi (62) breathed his last around 9 pm.

A former Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court,

(Contd on page 5 Col 7)

4 BLOs suspended

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, May 2: Taking serious note of the dereliction of duties in conducting the COVID-19 Swasthya Nidhi health audit, District Magistrate Kishtwar Rajinder Singh Tara today placed four Booth Level Officers (BLOs) under suspension.

The suspended BLOs are currently in Jammu and failed to resume their duties despite being informed well in time.

The suspended BLOs are Ratinder Kumar, teacher at UPS Swarabati, Sanjay Kumar, teacher at MS Janakpur, Sanjay Kumar, teacher at PS Bhardoo and Vijay Kumar, teacher at MS Dachan.

Moreover, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar has been appointed as enquiry officer in the matter and has been directed to submit the detailed factual report within 15 days positively.

4 militants killed in encounters

CO, Major, cop among 4 security men missing in Handwara operation

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, May 2: The troops today lost contact with their Commanding Officer and three other officers during an operation in Handwara area of Kupwara district where two militants were killed so far. In another operation in South Kashmir, security forces gunned down two more militants.

A senior officer said that they lost contact with

*Watch video on

Commanding Officer of a Rashtriya Rifles unit, Major, a soldier and Jammu and Kashmir Police officer during an operation against militants. He said that they were stuck in a house in Chanjimullah village of Handwara in Kupwara district where militants were also hiding.

The official said that they today lost contact with their four men during the operation that was launched yesterday in

Handwara area of the district Kupwara after inputs about presence of militants in the area.

Special Forces have been rushed to the area and they

He said that the fate of the four security men including Commanding Officer is not known. The official said that troops have launched room

The operation in Handwara forest was launched yesterday during which there was brief exchange of fire between militants and security forces at Waderbala. The militants fled after initial contact and security forces continued combing operation in the area and today a fresh contact was established at around 3 pm in Chanjimullah, 3 km away from Waderbala.

And two militants were killed in another firefight in South Kashmir's Pulwama district today.

The encounter started this morning when joint teams of security forces launched a cordon and a search operation in Dangerpora village of Pulwama following an input about the presence of militants.

The hiding militants opened fire on the security forces during the operation which was retaliated, leading to an encounter. Two militants were killed in the operation and arms and ammunition were recovered.



Army jawans in action during encounter in Handwara on Saturday. Another pic on page 5.

-Excelsior/Aabid Nabi

are conducting operation against the militants, who are believed to be four in number. The official said that two militants have been killed so far but no body has been recovered as the searches of the area are yet to be conducted.

intervention and they will eliminate the other two militants soon.

The officer said that the operation is taking time as their four men were also inside in the same area where fighting is going on.

Admn of both UTs asked to appoint CPIOs, furnish details

CIC to shortly take up 2nd appeals, pending cases of J&K, Ladakh

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, May 2: In a major development, Central Information Commission (CIC) has decided to start taking up 2nd appeals and pending cases of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh for disposal as per the provisions of the Central Right to Information Act, 2005.

Moreover, the Commission has dashed a communication to the administration of both the Union Territories laying stress on taking steps for strict compliance to each and every provision of the Act in order to ensure utmost transparency in the functioning of all their departments.

Highly placed sources told

Stress laid on strict compliance to RTI Act provisions

EXCELSIOR that the Central Information Commission in its recent meeting held under the chairmanship- of Central Information Commissioner Bimal Julka had detailed deliberations on implementation of Central RTI Act in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in the light of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act passed by the Parliament in the month of August 2019.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019 repealed the Jammu and Kashmir Right to Information Act, 2009 and made Central Act applicable to both the newly cre-

ated Union Territories.

Though on numerous occasions it was officially announced that all the pending 2nd appeals will be transferred to the Central Information Commission following extension of its jurisdiction over both the UTs yet the whole exercise took several months much to the disappointment of information seekers, RTI activists and others.

Finally, the Central Information Commission has decided to shortly start taking up 2nd appeals and pending cases of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh for disposal as per the provisions of the Central Right to Information

Act, 2005.

As per the sources, the Central Information Commission has written letter to the Chief Secretary of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Secretary of General Administration Department of Union Territory of Ladakh seeking list of Central Public Information Officers (CPIOs) so that hearings of 2nd appeals may be resumed by the Commission.

"Though following repeal of J&K Right to Information Act the Government of J&K UT started exercise of appointing Central Public Information

(Contd on page 5 Col 1)



Farmers work in their field on the outskirts of Jammu.

-Excelsior/Rakesh

Ladakh allows inhabitants to return home

Kashmiri man tests Corona +ve in Samba, Iran-retuned woman in Kargil

*Arrival from Lakhampur nearing 18,000

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, May 2: A Kashmiri man from Pulwama district today tested positive for COVID-19 in Samba district where he had returned recently taking tally of Jammu region to 61 and active cases to nine while an Iran-retuned female pilgrim in Kargil district in the Union Territory of Ladakh was also found Corona positive. Ladakh's tally has now gone up to 23.

The Union Territory of Ladakh today allowed movement of its inhabitants into the UT but with conditions that those travelling in 'regulated movement' will have to go 14-day home quarantine while others who reached without permission from the Nodal Officers will be treated as part of 'unregulated movement' and will have to undergo 14-day institutional quarantine.

Meanwhile, there was no let up in influx of the J&K inhabitants at Lakhampur with at least 3300 more people from Himachal Pradesh and Punjab entered the Union Territory today and were sent by the district administration either to

their respective district headquarters or in Kathua and Samba districts for administrative quarantine.

The Ladakh UT administration also transported its 355 stranded persons to Leh and Kargil districts from here.

* Pics on page 5

Video on

www.excelsiornews.com

A 60-year old Kashmiri man, a resident of village Sandipora in Pulwama district, who had another house at village Channi Kartholi in Sarore area of Bari Brahmana in Samba district

For full order, visit

www.excelsiornews.com

for winter stay, had returned from Pulwama by taking lift in a tanker on April 29 and was under administrative quarantine at a resort in Ghagwal, tested positive for COVID-19 today. Yesterday, two truck drivers from Samba, who had travel history to New Delhi and Mumbai, were tested Corona positive.

SSP Samba Shakti Pathak

and Additional SP Faisal Qureshi rushed to the quarantine centre and got the Corona positive patient shifted to the Chest Diseases Hospital Bakshi Nagar. He was asymptomatic.

Sources said the Corona positive person is a resident of Sandipora, Pulwama and his son is working in Police Department posted as a constable in DPL Pulwama. He was with his son and had returned to his second house in Samba taking lift in a tanker on April 29.

On his arrival, he was shifted to quarantine centre.

With this, Samba district's total cases have gone up to seven and active cases to three as four others have been treated and discharged.

The Microbiology Department of Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu under the supervision of HoD Dr Shashi S Sudan today conducted an all time high 698 Corona tests and only one of them was positive.

With today's positive case, total number of Corona positive cases in Jammu region have gone up to 61 and active cases to nine as 51 patients have recov-

(Contd on page 5 Col 1)

25 more positive in Kashmir, J&K tally 666

2 patients admitted in LD, Super-Specialty hospitals test +ve

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 2: Two patients admitted to two tertiary care hospitals of Kashmir were among 25 who tested positive today leading to concerns about the safety of hospital staff and functioning of these hospitals.

Those tested positive today

*Watch video on

www.excelsiornews.com

include 13 members of two families from Rainawari area of Srinagar taking the Jammu and Kashmir COVID-19 positive tally to 666.



A Health worker screens a woman at TRC Srinagar on Saturday.

-Excelsior/Shakeel

Among the fresh cases in the Valley, six were confirmed at Viral Diagnostic Lab of SKIMS Soura and include three each from Shopian and Baramulla

districts.

And 19 people tested positive for Coronavirus at Chest Disease Hospital Dalgate Lab and include 15 from Srinagar

and four from Anantnag district.

Those who tested positive include a woman admitted at maternity hospital Lal Ded in Srinagar and it led to panic as the woman had just delivered a baby.

Hospital Administration asked security guards, some doctors and nurses to go for quarantine while there samples have already been taken.

A pregnant woman, a resident of Achabal Anantnag was brought here in Lal Ded hospital during the intervening night of Thursday and Friday. Her samples were taken and she was admitted in Labour Room where

(Contd on page 5 Col 5)

Shopkeepers indulging in malpractices during lockdown, selling expired food products

Govind Sharma

JAMMU, May 2: Taking undue advantage of the lockdown, several shopkeepers are indulging in malpractices and deceiving the vulnerable customers by selling expired food products while Food Safety Officers who are responsible to check adulteration and ensure that safe and nutritious food is served to the customers, are no where in sight.

According to the reports coming in from peripheries of Jammu, several shopkeepers have stored expired food items including packaged juices, spices, cakes, biscuits, oil, ghee, etc and are selling them to innocent customers, particularly migrant labourers and illiterate people.

Food Safety Officers nowhere in sight

People from many rural areas also complained that the shopkeepers in their vicinity are selling rotten tamarind (imli), inferior quality soya chunks (nutree), and adulterated pulses with impunity as they know that no Food Safety Officer is going to inspect their stores during ongoing lockdown.

"I rarely go to purchase ration items to shops but as my father was sick few days back, I have to go to purchase some essential food items in a Karyana shop in my locality. I purchased several food items like pulses, rice, spices, oil and tamarind but when I checked mandatory declarations on the packets of the purchased food

items, I was shocked that the shopkeeper had given me the tamarind which was not fit for human consumption," said Ashish Magotra from Kot Bhalwal area.

He said it was clearly mentioned on the packet of tamarind: "This product is not for human consumption but for industrial and cleaning purposes" but the shopkeeper started arguments with me when I refused to take that. The shopkeeper said that he is selling that product for several years but nobody has complained ever and everybody is consuming this as no tamarind of other company is available in the market."

(Contd on page 5 Col 3)

Ajay Raina

JAMMU, May 2: Fresh rainfall in many parts of J&K has brought down temperature much to the respite of the people while as two women were killed when a cloudburst hit a remote village this evening in Kishtwar district.

Many places in Jammu and Kashmir experienced fresh rainfall today bringing down the temperature and providing respite to the people from the mercury which was rising continuously during the past some days. MeT spokesman has said that rainfall will continue for the few more days across Jammu and Kashmir. However, the vehicular movement on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway resumed after remaining suspended for about 28

Vehicular movement on NH restored after 28 hrs



Bodies of cloudburst victims lying near Batwari Nullah in district Kishtwar.

-Excelsior/Tilak Raj

hours.

"The highway was closed yesterday at 9:30 am due to

shooting stones at Cafeteria

Morh and Panthyal areas in district Ramban. Around 700 trucks

Chaos at Parimpora Fruit Mandi as Admn tries to regulate functioning

Irfan Tramboob

SRINAGAR, May 2: After remaining functional throughout the lockdown, chaos prevailed at Parimpora Fruit Mandi as the administration has now started regulating its functioning to prevent spread of Coronavirus.

Being one of the biggest Mandi in Jammu and Kashmir, hundreds of trucks full of essentials reach there every day. However, the administration has set a minimum time slot from 8 am to 12 in noon for all the activities in the market.

A long queue of trucks loaded with fruit and vegetables were queuing up outside the market on By-pass since last night and were allowed inside the market at 8 am. However,

'Fruit, vegetable prices may shoot up'



A view of Parimpora Fruit Mandi in Srinagar on Saturday.

-Excelsior/Shakeel

the retailers who buy fruits and vegetables from the market were not allowed to go inside with

their load carriers. Only people with proper gear on foot were

(Contd on page 5 Col 5)

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WEATHER

JAMMU : Possibility of light rain/ Thundershowers.	
TEMPERATURE	
Max:	34.3 Degree C
Min:	24.8 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY	
RH-4 (Morning):	45.0 per cent
RH-11 (Evening):	54.0 per cent
Sunset on Sunday:	07.02 p.m.
Sunrise on Monday:	05.31 a.m.
SRINAGAR: Possibility of light rain/ Thundershowers.	
TEMPERATURE	
Max:	23.9 Degree C
Min:	11.8 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY	
RH-4 (Morning):	37.0 per cent
RH-11 (Evening):	59.0 per cent
LEH: TEMPERATURE	
Max:	22.3 Degree C
Min:	11.1 Degree C


OBITUARIES

TENTH DAY KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved mother **Smt. Dulari Kak** Wife of Sh. Pushkar Nath Kak originally resident of Karan Nagar Srinagar at present Flat No.-202, Defense Personnel Group Housing Society Sector 45, Faridabad on 27-4-2020.

TENTH DAY KRIYA will be performed at Muradnagar UP on 5-5-2020 (Tuesday) at 6.00 A.M.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Mr Pushkar Nath Kak -**Husband** (M: 7289032124)
Sons and Daughters-in-law
Mr Ramesh Kak & Mrs Kusum Kak
(Mobile: 9810564074)
Mr Anil Kak & Mrs Neelam Kak (Mobile: 9650454889)
Daughters and Sons-in-law
Dr Rajni Channa & Dr. Anil Channa (New Zealand)
Mrs Meera Koul & Mr Ashok Koul (Mobile: 9868052635)
Grand Children and Great Grand Children



SMT. DULARI KAK

TENTH DAY KRIYA/ OBI TUARY

With profound grief & sorrow, we regret to inform the sad & untimely demise of our beloved **Smt. Lalita Saraf** W/o Lt. Sh. Somnath Saraf on 26-04-2020 presently at Khajuria Mohl. Paloura, Jammu originally R/o Bagh Jogi Lanker, Rainawari Srinagar.

Tenth Day Kriya will be performed on 05.05.2020 (Tuesday) at 8.30 AM at Muthi Ghat near Education Department Office.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sister-in-law & Brother-in-law
Smt. Sheela Ji W/o Sh. P.N. Kaul
Smt. Tosha Ji W/o Lt. Sh. G.L. Saraf
Smt. Usha Ji W/o Lt. Sh. P.L. Saraf
Smt. Shama Ji W/o Lt. Sh. T.K. Saraf
Smt. Bimla Ji W/o Sh. R.K. Saraf
Smt. Dulari Ji W/o Lt. Sh. S.S. Trisal
Smt. Kishni Ji W/o Sh. R.K. Razdan
Sister-in-law & Brother
Smt. Shanta Ji W/o Lt. Sh. B.K. Dewani
Sister & Brother-in-law
Smt. Phooja Ji W/o Lt. Sh. H.L. Kaul
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Sh. Satish Saraf & Smt. Anita Saraf
Sh. Ashwani Saraf & Smt. Nettoo Saraf



Smt. Lalita Saraf


Daughter & Son-in-law
Lt. Smt. Sushma Saraf W/o Sh. Jagmohan Saraf
Smt. Chetna Shishoo W/o Sh. Diwaker Shishoo
Smt. Kalpana Koul W/o Sh. Rakesh Koul
Grand Children: Shagun, Shubam, Jimmy, Anmol, Shriya, Riya, Khushi, Simran, Rohan.
Mobile No: 9622077890, 9622077901
R.S.V.P.: All nears and dears

TENTH DAY/KRIYA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved father **Sh. Mansa Ram Janjua** (Sr. Cong leader J&K) resident House No. EP-3 Shaheed Chowk, Jammu.

TENTH DAY will be performed on 5-5-2020 (Tuesday) at 10.00 A.M. and **KRIYA** will be performed on 6-5-2020 (Wednesday) at 10.00 A.M. our residence. Due to prevailing COVID-19 Pandemic no gathering will take place considering the safety of our near and dear ones as paramount.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Daughters-in-law & Sons
Smt. Ranjna & Sh. Anil Janjua
Smt. Shalini & Sh. Sunil Janjua
Daughters & Son-in-law
Smt. Kamini & Sh. Surinder Kapoor
Smt. Rajnee & Sh. Rajesh Bawal



SH. MANSARA RAM JANJUA
(SR. CONG LEADER J&K)


TENTH DAY KRIYA/ DAHIM DOH

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, WE REGRET TO INFORM THE SAD AND UNTIMELY DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED FATHER **SH. BRIJ NATH GANJU** S/O LATE SH. SRIKANT GANJU, PRESENTLY AT DP-208 MAURYA ENCLAVE, PITAMPURA, DELHI-34 ON 27TH APRIL 2020.

TENTH DAY KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON WEDNESDAY 6TH MAY, 2020 AT SECTOR 18 ROHINI NEAR BADLI BUS DEPOT, AT 7 AM.

DUE TO PREVAILING COVID-19 PANDEMIC NO GATHERING/ ASSEMBLY WILL TAKE PLACE CONSIDERING THE SAFETY OF OUR NEAR & DEAR ONES AS PARAMOUNT.

GRIEF STRICKEN
SMT. PYARI GANJU - (WIFE)
SMT. PUSHPA GANJU - (BHAABI)
SUNIL GANJU AND SONI GANJU - (SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW)
KIRAN BAKSHI AND VINOD BAKSHI (DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW)
KARANJAL AND SHUBHAM GANJU, AMOL AND ANU BAKSHI (GRANDCHILDRENS)
GANJUS, KAKS, BAKSHIS, MOTAS, KAULS, MATTOOS
MOB: 9810258078, 9112731312



SH. BRIJ NATH GANJU

TENTH DAY/KRIYA/RASAM PAGRI


With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our beloved **Dr Puran Chand Dogra** R/o H.No.126 Panjirthi on 25-4-2020.

Tenth Day will be performed at our residence on 4-5-2020 at 10.00 am.

Kriya will be performed on 5-5-2020 at 11 am.

Rasam Pagri will be performed on 6-5-2020 at 5 pm at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sons and Daughter-in-laws
Sh Santosh Kumar & Smt Ranjana Sharma
Sh Rajesh Sharma & Khema
Daughters & Son-in-laws
Smt Suman & Sh Subash Sharma
Smt Sudha & Sh Ashok Sharma
Smt Madhu & Sh Vijay Sharma
Grand Children:
Priti & Raghu, Hitani & Pallvi
Vasutam & Neelash



Dr Puran Chand Dogra


Great Grand Son: Shashvat
9419197618, 9419686821

MASVAR/VAHARVAR

One year has passed since you left for heavenly abode, but your memories are still fresh as ever. Your absence in family has created a big void in our lives. We miss you always and pray God for eternal peace to your noble soul.

THE MASVAR/VAHARVAR of our beloved mother **Smt. Prabha Jee Jad/Bhat** will be performed on 3rd May & 4th May at our residence H. No. 118 'A'/JMC No-1007 Jawahar Nagar Lane Talab Tillo, Jammu originally resident of Nazuk Mohalla, Anantnag, Kashmir.

MISSED & REMEMBERED BY:
Jad & Bhat Parivar of Anantnag
Phone No: 9419644604, 9419872378, 9582686112



SMT. PRABHA JEE JAD/BHAT


REMEMBRANCE

MASVAR/VAHARWAR
ON 2ND & 3RD MAY, 2020

One year has passed, since you left us for heavenly abode. Your life was a blessing for us, your memory a treasure, you are loved beyond words and missed by all of us beyond measure.

We pray God for eternal peace of your noble soul.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh B.K. Handoo & Rani
Rajinder & Arti Handoo
Vinod & Kaki Ji Handoo
Ramesh & Nimi Handoo
Raj Kumar & Usha Handoo
Sanjay & Neerja Handoo

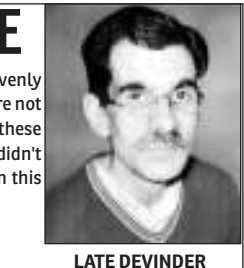


Mrs Veena Pandita (Bhena)

REMEMBRANCE

5 Years have passed since you left for heavenly abode. Our heart still can't accept that you are not with us anymore. You were our strength. In these five years, there's not a single day that we didn't miss you. It's not easy for us to move on from this pain. That was the hardest day of our life.

Deeply Remembered by...
Sunita Bamzai (Wife)
Tapasya Bamzai..Tishee (Daughter)




LATE DEVINDER BAMZAI

REMEMBRANCE

A beautiful soul leaves behind a trail of loving memories. Mrs Veena Pandita (Bhena) — Epitome of beauty and strength. Today it is one year, you left us. We miss you more than words could ever say, our dearest Veena. Keep spreading your sparkle in the celestial skies. You live in our hearts forever.

Ever Loving By
Tej Pandita - Husband (KEN Retd)
Vijay Pandita & Purnima - Brother-in-law / Sister-in-law
Shilpa & Shifali - Daughters
Dr. Pooja & Karan Raina - Daughter & Son-in-law
Arjun Pandita - Son
Panditas & Handoos
Mobile: 9419189393, 7889622513, 9419188826



Smt Veena Pandita

TENTH DAY/UTHALA

With profound grief we would like to share that **Smt Anju Gupta** W/o Sh Ram Lal Gupta left us for her heavenly abode on 25th April. Join us in our Prayers as we remember her with love and wish.

Tenth Day will be performed on Monday 4th May 2020 at 10 am at our residence H.No. 518 Janipur Colony near Govt. Quarters.

UTHALA will be performed on Friday 8th May, 2020 at 4 pm at our residence H.No.518 Janipur Colony near Govt. Quarters.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sh Ram Lal Gupta - Husband
Son & Daughter-in-law
Sahil & Shefali Gupta
Shubam Gupta
Grand Son: Saransh Gupta
Sister & Brother-in-law
Smt Champa & Sh Vishwamitar Gupta
Smt Rani & Sh Mohan Lal Gupta
Smt Urmilla & Sh Vijay Gupta



Smt Anju Gupta


Brother & Sister-in-law
Sh Tilak Raj & Smt Neelam Gupta
Sh Vinay & Smt Sonia Gupta
Sh Mohinder & Smt Sheetal Gupta
Mobile No. 9797495464, 7006465032

UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of our beloved **Sh. Tilak Raj Sawhney** S/o Late Sh. Amar Nath Sawhney R/o 5/203 Indira-Vihar Patoli Chowk, Janipur, Jammu on 22nd of April 2020.

KRIYA will be performed at 12.00 Noon and **UTHALA** at 5 P.M. on 4th May, 2020 (Monday) at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Smt. Nirmal Sawhney - **Wife**
Daughter-in-law & Son
Smt. Bhawna & Pankaj Sawhney
Daughter & Son-in-law
Smt. Nidhi & Anil Pandohi
Smt. Neera & Late Sh. Brij Mohan Sawhney - **Bhabi & Brother**
Smt. Savitri Gandotra - **Mother-in-law**
Smt. Raj Sawhney - **Chachi**
Smt. Tarawanti Uppal - **Sister**
Grand Children: Aarushi, Sameeha, Ashwin & Shalin
Contact No: 9419187800, 9419142400




Sh. Tilak Raj Sawhney

OBITUARY

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW, IT IS TO INFORM THAT OUR BELOVED MOTHER **SMT SOMAWATI KAMPASI** W/O LT. SH SOM NATH KAMPASI OF BAN MOHALLA SRINAGAR LEFT FOR HEAVENLY ABODE ON 01-05-2020.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Son & Daughter-in-law
Gan Ji Kampasi & Sheela Ji (9906934148)
Santosh Sumbly (W/o Lt. R.K. Sumbly) - **Daughter** (7889780129)
Samast Kampasi Parivar
Samast Sumbly Parivar
Samast Kak Parivar
Address: H.No. 51/B Tirath Nagar, Talab Tillo, Jammu



SMT SOMAWATI KAMPASI

CONDOLANCE

J&K Dental Council extends deepest sympathies to Dr. Rakesh K. Gupta (Member DCI, J&KDC) and his family on the sad demise of his sister **Smt. Shashi Gupta**. May her soul is at peace and May God gives the family strength to bear the great pain.

On behalf of Jammu & Kashmir Dental Council

BHOG AND ANTIM ARDAS

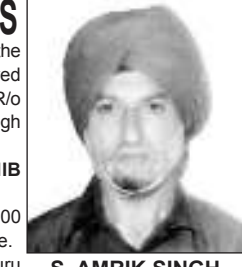
With profound grief & sorrow, we inform the sad and untimely demise of our beloved **S. Amrik Singh (B.S.F)** S/o S. Sher Singh R/o Simbal Camp W. No. 1, Barti Mohan Singh near Gurudwara (Tekri) R.S. Pura, Jammu.

ARAMBH SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB 2-5-2020 at 9.00 A.M. at our residence.

BHOG SHRI AKHAND PATH SAHIB 9.00 A.M. on Monday 4-5-2020 at our residence.

ANTIM ARDAS 10.30 A.M. followed by Guru Ka Langer.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sdn. Parkash Kour-Wife
S. Charanjit Singh (Situ)-**Son**
(Hockey Coach, J&K Police)
S. Inderal Singh (Pankaj)-**Son**
Contact No: 9419118847, 9906110075



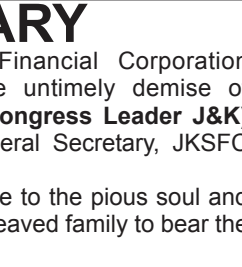
S. AMRIK SINGH (B.S.F.)

OBITUARY

Jammu and Kashmir State Financial Corporation Employees Union condole the untimely demise of **Sh. Mansa Ram Janjua (Sr. Congress Leader J&K)** father of Sh. Sunil Janjua General Secretary, JKSCF Employees Union.

May Almighty grant eternal peace to the pious soul and give strength, courage to the bereaved family to bear the loss.

J&KSFC EMPLOYEES UNION




Sh Mansa Ram Janjua
(Sr. Congress Leader J&K)

BARKHI

It's already been a year and we can't believe you're gone. We still miss you every day and every single second spent together. You are no longer in our lives to share, but in our hearts, you're always there. We pray to God for the eternal peace of your noble soul.

The barkhi will be performed on 3 May, 2020 i.e. Sunday at 10 a.m. at our residence, Ward no. 1, House No. 268, Subash Nagar, Udhampur.

DEEPLY MISSED BY:
Smt. Ved Rani Gupta (Wife)
Son & Daughter-in-law
Mr. Rajeev Gupta and Mrs. Arti Gupta
Ms. Diksha Gupta (Grand-Daughter)
Mr. Akshat Gupta (Grand-Son)
All nears & dears
Mob: 9906111367, 7889526395

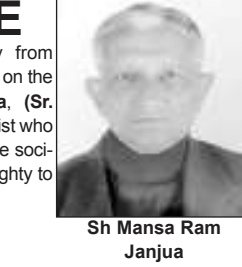


Late Sh. Saroop Chand Gupta

CONDOLANCE

We, Sh. Dewan Chand Dogra's family from Mahanpur express our heartfelt condolence on the sad demise of **Sh Mansa Ram Janjua, (Sr. Congress Leader J&K)** a renowned Socialist who sacrificed his whole life for the welfare of the society and for the needy people. We pray, Almighty to bestow eternal peace to the departed soul.

Dewan Chand Dogra's family MAHANPUR
Mob. 9419624105



Sh Mansa Ram Janjua
(Sr. Congress Leader J&K)

CHOUBARSI

Four years have passed since you left us but your sweet memories and blessings are always with us. We feel your presence around us everywhere and miss you deeply.

ChoubarSI of our beloved **Late Sh. Sham Lal Sharma** will be performed on 3rd May 2020 at our residence H.No.242, sec.6 Nanak Nagar Jammu.

Deeply Remembered By:
Smt Sharmila Sharma (Wife)
Daughter-in-law and Son
Pooja and Ashwani Sharma
Daughter-in-law and Son
Manisha and Nittu Sharma
Grand Son - Shivansh, Kavish
Grand Daughter - Nirja



Late Sh. Sham Lal Sharma

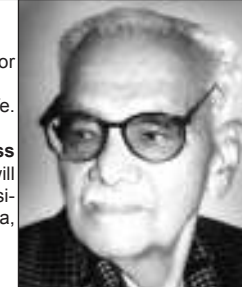
Sham and Sons Caterers
Nanak Nagar Jammu
7889694317, 9906023334, 9858210187

BARKHI

One year have passed since you left for your heavenly abode. Your absence has created a void in our life. We miss you every moment.

Barkhi (1 Year) of Sh Bhishan Dass Dogra S/o Late Sh Pt Prem Nath Dogra will be performed on 3rd May 2020 at our residence R/o H.No. 247, Narania Mohalla, Kacchi Chawni.

DEEPLY REMEMBERED BY:-
Smt Satya Devi - **Wife**
Son & Daughter-in-Law
Sh Naresh Dogra & Smt Sanjita Dogra
(BJP Mahila Morcha President Jammu & Kashmir UT)



Sh Bhishan Dass Dogra

Daughters & Sons-in-Law
Anju Sharma W/o Late Sh Kuldeep Sharma
Anuradha Sharma W/o Sh Rajinder Sharma
Rajnee Shrikul W/o Sh Ashok Shrikul
Namrata Pathak W/o Sh Anil Pathak
Meenakshi Puri W/o Sh Raj Kumar Puri
Anchal Sharma W/o Sh Ajay Sharma
Paras Dogra, Harsh Dogra, Om Dogra - **Grand Sons**
Ph No. 9469676298, 9419191089

BARKHI

Barkhi of Lt. Smt Raj Kumari W/o Lt. Shri Haripal Gupta R/o Ward No. 6, Galli Gurdwara, R.S Pura will be performed at 12 Noon at our residence on 4-05-20 (Monday).

Grief Stricken
Son and Daughter-in-Law
Mr Sanjeev Gupta and Mrs Arti Gupta
Daughters and Sons-in-Law
Mrs Ritu Bala and Mr Ashwani Gupta
Mrs. Rinku Bala and Mr Vrander Gupta
Mrs Shweta Gupta and Mr Ajay Gupta
Grand Children
Madhav Gupta
Suyasha Gupta




Lt. Smt Raj Kumari

GUPTA FAMILY
Contact No.:- 9796015028, 6005469242

REMEMBRANCE

One year has passed, since you left us for heavenly abode. Your life was a blessing for us, your memory a treasure, you are loved beyond words and missed by all of us beyond measure. We pray God for eternal peace of your noble soul.

GRIEF STRICKEN
Sons & Daughter-in-laws
S. Tarandeep Singh Wazir & Sdn. Rajmeet Kour
S. Kawardeep Singh Wazir & Sdn. Mandeep Kour
Daughter & Son-in-law
Sdn. Avneet Kour & S. Harpreet Singh
Devars & Devarnis
Sdn & S. Tejpal Singh Wazir
Sdn. & S. Jasvinder Singh Wazir
Sdn. & S. Sarabjeet Singh Wazir
Sdn. & S. Vikramjeet Singh Wazir



Late Sdn. Gobind Kour Wazir


Sdn & S. Babir Singh (Beer)-**Brother**
Sdn. Rajinder Kour (Jogi)-**Sister**
94191-44685, 9906220413

TENTH DAY

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of **Comrade Sh. Varinder Singh Manhas** S/o Late Sh. Harbans Lal Manhas R/o Mohalla Dalpatian, Jammu.

Tenth Day will be performed on Sunday 3rd of May at 11AM at our residence.

GRIEF STRICKEN:
Smt. Santosh Chauhan (Rtd. ZEO) -**Wife**
Daughters & Sons-in-law
Dr. Seema and Dr. Rajesh Atri
Dr. Monika and Dr. Narinder Katal
Dr. Shivangi and Dr. Roopav Nargotra
Sister-in-law and Brother
Smt. Chander Prabha and Sh. Rakesh Manhas
Sister-in-law and Brother-in-law
Smt. Vijay and Sh. Partap Singh Kanwar
Grandchildren
Vasu, Nipunika, Ekaj, Saiansh, Angel
And Chouhan Family



Comrade Sh. Varinder Singh Manhas

Contacts:
9419116241, 9055089021

10TH DAY/KRIYA/UTHALA

WITH PROFOUND GRIEF AND SORROW WE INFORM THE SAD DEMISE OF OUR BELOVED AND RESPECTED MOTHER **SMT. KAUSHALYA SARAF** W/O LT. SH. DHARAM PAL SARAF R/O 87/8, POONCH ROAD, MANDA, AKHNOOR WHO LEFT FOR THE HEAVENLY ABODE ON 25-04-2020.

10TH DAY WILL BE PERFORMED ON 04-05-2020 (MONDAY) AT 11:00 A.M. AT OUR RESIDENCE.

KRIYA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 06-05-2020 (WEDNESDAY) AT 12 NOON AT OUR RESIDENCE.

UTHALA WILL BE PERFORMED ON 06-05-2020 (WEDNESDAY) AT 5:00PM AT JIA POTA MANDIR, AKHNOOR.

GRIEF STRICKEN
SH. SATYA PAL SARAF - **BROTHER-IN-LAW (JETH)**
SMT. VEENA SARAF - **W/O LT. SH. RAJINDER PAL SARAF (GANDH)**
SMT. ANITA & SH. SUBASHI SARAF (DAUGHTER-IN-LAW & SON)
SMT. REJU & SH. ASHWANI MARWAH (DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW)
GRAND CHILDREN
CHETAN, NITIN & AMRIT (GRAND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW)
NIDHI & KUMAR SAMBHAV GUPTA (GRAND SON-IN-LAW)
SUGANDHA & SUNIL VERMA (GRAND SON-IN-LAW)
GRAND CHILDREN
AJAY, RAGHAV, RADHIKA, SHIVYA, AKSHITA, AKSHAT
GREAT GRAND CHILDREN
TAVISHA, ADHYA & ATHARV
9803573227, 9797430430, 9419664713, 8803691861



SMT. KAUSHALYA SARAF

UTHALA

With profound grief and sorrow, we inform the Sad demise of our beloved **Smt. Suman Gupta** on 1 May, 2020.

UTHALA will be performed at 4pm onward on Monday, 4th May 2020 at our residence House No. 353, Sector-7, opposite Ambika Super Shoppee Channi Himmat Jammu.

Grief Stricken :-
Smt. Gian Devi (Mother-in-law)
Sh. Vimal Choudhary (Husband, 9795888920)
Deepika & Rohit Thakur (Daughters & Son-in-law)
(9586860074, 8178506492)
Malvi Choudhary (9796824074)



Smt. Suman Gupta

3RD DEATH ANNIVERSARY

SHRI. B.N. BHAN

"The saddest moment is when the person who gave you the best memories, becomes a memory"

Fondly Remembered by
Bhan's & Pandita's Family
3rd Death Anniversary on 03-05-2020




Shri. B.N. Bhan

CONDOLANCE

Comrade Virender Singh my school-mate and life time friend, left this world so early. Always smiling and out and out to help others. May God grant peace to his soul strength to his family to bear the loss.

Loveleen & R K Chadha
Pari Mahal Kunjwani JAMMU

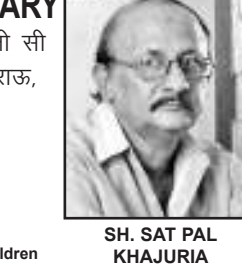


COMRADE VIRENDER SINGH

12TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

तेरे न होने से जिन्दगी में बस इतनी सी कमी रहती है, मैं चाहे लाख मुस्कुराऊँ, इन आँखों में नमी रहती है।

DEEPLY MISSED BY:
Mrs. Anita Khajuria - **Wife**
Sons & Daughters-in-law
Mr. Amit & Rajni Khajuria
Mr. Sanchit & Sonia Khajuria
Daughter & Son-in-law
Mrs. Isha & Sumnder Negi
Parisha, Mahima, Namya, Lavanya - **Grand Children**
M.No: 9070455278, 9796689426

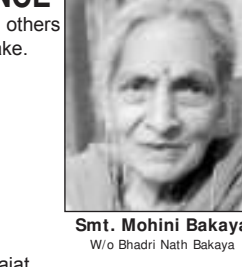


SH. SAT PAL KHAJURIA

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

Mother is she who can take place of all others but whose place no one else can take.

MISS YOU MOTHER
Sharika & Kakajee Kothidar
Raj Kumari & Sunil Mattoo
Indu & Anoop Koul
Girja & Kuldeep Qanoongo
Grand Children
Apoorva & Karan Koul
Diksha & Ashish Kothidar
Shalin, Karishma, Arjun, Shriyan, Rajat



Smt. Mohini Bakaya
W/o Bhadri Nath Bakaya

FOR ALL ADVERTISEMENT RELATED QUERIES, SCAN THE CODE



MOURNING

Daddy, how heartbroken we are and how much we miss you. We can't explain in words but our tears do.

LOVE YOU TITI DADDY, REST IN PEACE IN DEEP GRIEF:
Veena & Raj Nath Safaya (Daughter & Son-in-Law)
Neeru & Sachinji (Granddaughter & Grandson-in-law)
Meenu & Ramanji (Granddaughter & Grandson-in-law)
Anil & Neetaakshi (Grandson & Granddaughter-in-law)
Kartik, Krishna & Shiva (Great Grandchildren)
9596858285, 8082693533



SHRI HIRA LAL THAPLOO
Retd Dy Labour Commissioner (K&S)
Left heavenly abode on 28th Apr 2020

MISCELLANEOUS

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* Term & Condition Apply
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Hansraj Pharmacy, 8, Resham Ghar Colony, Near Super Speciality Hospital, Jammu

2nd installment of Rs 500 from tomorrow: FM

NEW DELHI, May 2:

Women Jan Dhan bank account holders will start getting the second installment of Rs 500 from Monday in line with the announcement made by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in March.

To help the poor tide over the COVID-19 crisis, the Government had on March 26 said ex-gratia payment of Rs 500 would be credited to women Jan Dhan account holders for the next three months, starting from April.

"Instalment of Rs.500 for the month of May has been sent to the bank A/c's of PMJDY women beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package.

"Beneficiaries are requested to follow the schedule shared below to visit banks & CSPs. Money can also be withdrawn via ATMs & BCs," Financial Services Secretary Debasish Panda said in a tweet on Saturday.

The transfer has been staggered over a period of five days to avoid rush at the bank branches. This will help in ensuring social distancing and avoid overcrowding in banks, he said.

As per the schedule, women account holders under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) having account number with last digit as 0 and 1 will get the money in their account on May 4, while accounts ending with 2 or 3 can approach the bank on May 5. On May 6, beneficiaries with account numbers ending with 4 or 5 can collect their money, while accounts ending with 6 or 7 may withdraw on May 8.

The last tranche would be remitted on May 11 for account numbers ending with 8 or 9, the tweet said.

In case of emergency, one can withdraw the money immediately. However, for orderly disbursal, one must follow the banks' payment plan, it said. Beneficiaries may withdraw any day at their convenience after May 11, it added. (PTI)

LOST

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9419142296, 9622020966
Home Delivery available

HOME SERVICE DOOR TO DOOR GENTS & LADIES

DEALS IN: HAIR CUTTING, SHAVING, THREADING, MASSAGE, BABY CUTTING, NAIL CUTTING, MUNDAN
VERY SPECI AL MALI SH HEAD MASSAGE
MOB: 8713969624 (VIJAY KUMAR)
LOCATION: CHANNI, TRIKUTA NAGAR, GANDHI NAGAR, NANAK NAGAR ETC.

WASHING

Sofa, Carpet, Car Seat, Office Chair etc.
Call for Machine Wash at A-1, Dust Care Centre
Mob.: 9906900695, 9697233551, 9018137277
Home to Home Service

PLACEMENT

REQUIRED

Pharmacist for Marketing for Chemist Shop having minimum 3 years of experience in the field and has a valid license of Medical Wholesale

Contact :
7006202884
9906362434

Would hear urgent matters via video conference : CAT

NEW DELHI, May 2:

The Central Administrative Tribunal, that adjudicates service matters of Central Government employees, has said that its benches in the red and orange zones would hear urgent matters via video conference and asked participants to be properly dressed, according to a Personnel Ministry statement issued today.

As regards the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) benches that are in Red and Orange zones, the cases of urgent nature can be filed through electronic mail service (e-mail) by contacting the registrar of the concerned bench, who in turn shall furnish the e-mail id to the intending advocate or party, it said.

"If the Registry is satisfied that the OA (original application or petition) is otherwise in order and needs to be dealt with urgently, the head of department (HoD) of the bench shall be informed of the same.

"The HoD in turn shall decide whether or not to take up the case. If it is proposed to hear the case, it shall be done through CISCO WEBEX online video conferencing facility," the statement said.

The details thereof shall be worked out by the HoD of the benches in consultation with the registry of the principal bench, it said.

"It shall be ensured that

CS discusses modalities for movement of stranded students, migrant labourers

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 2: Chief Secretary, BVR Subrahmanyam today held video conference interaction with the Deputy Commissioners to discuss the action plan for allowing students and migrant labourers stranded in different parts of the country.



Chief Secretary chairing a meeting at Jammu on Saturday.

Financial Commissioner, Health, Principal Secretary, Home, Principal Secretary, Planning, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Commissioner Secretary, Labour, Commissioner Secretary, PHE, MD NHM, MD SIDCO attended the meeting. Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, all Deputy Commissioners, and SSPs participated in the interaction through video conference.

While deliberating on the issue, it was informed that in the first phase, the students and migrant labour from Punjab and Himachal Pradesh will be allowed and then the process will be initiated for

students/migrant labour stuck in rest of the States.

Chief Secretary said that standard protocols for receiving such people have been developed and guidelines have also been issued in this regard. "All those who will enter the UT without prior permission will be compulsorily sent to institutional quarantine in Lakhnampur, Kathua for 21 days", the Chief Secretary emphasized.

Keeping in view the risk of transmission of the virus, it was decided that 100 % testing of all such people will be done to ensure their and others' safety. All the Deputy Commissioners were asked to coordinate with

opened and guidelines have also been issued in this regard. "All those who will enter the UT without prior permission will be compulsorily sent to institutional quarantine in Lakhnampur, Kathua for 21 days", the Chief Secretary emphasized.

Keeping in view the risk of transmission of the virus, it was decided that 100 % testing of all such people will be done to ensure their and others' safety. All the Deputy Commissioners were asked to coordinate with

Children highlight COVID-19 prevention

tips as JKLSA initiates 'Activity KaroNa'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 2: Jammu and Kashmir State Legal Services Authority (JKLSA), in collaboration with Directorates of School Education Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, held many creative activities under the banner 'Activity Karo Na' to engage the children in constructive activities during the lockdown period.

The JKLSA initiative to set up the creative activity forum for youngsters has drawn an enthusiastic response. The initiative is being carried out under the patronage of Chief Justice Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Justice Gita Mittal and Executive Chairman JKLSA, Justice Rajesh Bindal. The participants, especially children through their artistic instincts have highlighted the need for maintaining social distance and adhering to prevention measures like regular hand-washing to curb the transmission of deadly Coronavirus.

15 shops, petrol pump sealed, 2 vehicles seized

Excelsior Correspondent

BARAMULLA, May 2: Acting tough against all such elements who are violating the prescribed health norms and guidelines pertaining to COVID-19 pandemic, Deputy

*** Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com**

Commissioner Baramulla Dr G N Itoo today sealed about 15 shops and seized two vehicles for indulging in lockdown and other related violations.

DC also sealed a petrol pump for fuelling such vehicles who were playing on the roads without valid movement passes.

DC acted against such miscreants during inspection to several locations of the district in order to take review of the

MCU Finance Committee members resign

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, May 2: Alleging being sidelined, five Councillors of Municipal Council Udhampur have resigned from the Finance Committee of the MCU.

All the five Councillors have submitted their resignation as members of the Finance Committee to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Municipal Council Udhampur. Out of these five Councillors, three are from Panthers Party and rest each from Congress and BJP.

The resigning Councillors alleged that they were not being taken into confidence in connection with financial affairs of the MCU by the President Dr

MULBPA for reconsideration of order freezing DA of pensioners

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 2: Municipal and Urban Local Bodies Pensioners Association (MULBPA) Jammu and Kashmir in a telephonic meeting has expressed anguish over the Central Government's order 24-04-2020 with regard to freezing of DA instalments of Govt Employees/ Pensioners due on 1st January 2020, 1st July 2020 and 1st January 2021 in view of Coronavirus pandemic.

The meeting was attended by Senior Vice President of the Union, S. Attar Singh; General Secretary, BD Verma; Secretary, JI Sharma and Organising Secretary, Shiv Kumar Sharma.

Expressing dismay over the decision, the members of the

implementation of lockdown and other related health advisories issued for containing COVID-19 pandemic. DC also inspected some designated vegetable and other commodities sales outlets to take the appraisal of the situation in the wake of prevailing circumstances.

On the occasion, DC took a brief review of the situation especially the vehicular movement on National Highway during which he deliberated on implementing all the related advisories in letter and spirit. DC also inspects several movement passes to check their authenticity. He directed the concerned authorities to properly look whether genuine passes are being carried by the individuals.

Jogeshwar Gupta for which they were assigned by the house of Councillors. They further claimed that many times President MCU was requested to call a meeting of Finance Committee to discuss financial affairs of MCU but the latter deliberately avoided the same.

The Councillors, who submitted their resignation from Finance Committee, includes Sunil Proach, Jagdish Kumar and Darshan Kumar from Panthers Party, Prity Khajuria from Congress and Vikas Kumar from BJP.

It may be recalled that earlier, Councillor Vikram Salathia, who was Chairman of the Finance Committee, had also resigned from the post by leveling similar allegations.

Union pointed out that the Central Govt should have reduced the number of Ministers in the Centre and the State/UT Governments to pool money for combating Coronavirus pandemic as the Ministers were big burden on the Government exchequer, rather than freezing DA instalments of poor pensioners and employees. The members demanded reconsideration of the order by the Finance Ministry, Govt of India, headed by Nirmala Sitharaman in the better interest of the employees and pensioners.

The members also suggested another option of collecting a lump sum amount from the employees and pensioners to be gladly payable, rather than freezing their due DA instalments.

the Health Department so that medical teams are deployed for the collection of samples.

It will be a difficult task for everyone, so coordinated efforts

are required from all, the Chief Secretary said adding that Nodal Officers have been appointed by the UT Government for ensuring smooth entry and movement of people.

Chief Secretary also reviewed quarantine facilities in the districts and directed the DCs to create additional quarantine facilities at the village level by utilizing all available infrastructures and involving panchayat members. Sarpanches and Anganwadi workers should be involved in ensuring effective implementation of quarantine at such facilities, he added.

To arrive at an exact number of the students/migrant labour stranded in different parts of the country, the Chief Secretary said that data is being compiled and will be shared with the districts so that all necessary arrangements are made for their stay.

Both the Divisional Commissioners were asked to ensure that proper computerized record of all people returning back is maintained and a system is evolved so that the entire exercise is carried out smoothly.

He asked for strong coordination among DCs, SSPs, and Traffic Police for movement in a smooth and regulated manner.

DGP sanctions special welfare relief for NoKs of deceased personnel

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 2: Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh has sanctioned welfare relief of Rs 20 lakh each for legal heirs of HC Joginder Ram and Constable Ranjeet Singh who expired due to illness while in service.

Rs 5 lakh each has also been sanctioned in favour of NoKs of the deceased SPO Pawan Kumar and SPO Feroz Chand who expired due to illness during the course of their engagement.

As per the PHQ order, welfare relief has been sanctioned for the legal heirs of police personnel/NoKs of deceased SPOs out of Contributory Police Welfare Fund.

Pertinent to mention that Rs 27.95 crore and Rs 3.18 crore special welfare relief has been sanctioned and disbursed among legal heirs of 153 Police Personnel and 80 NoKs of deceased SPOs respectively during the last financial year.

Div Com reviews preparedness for testing of returning people

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 2: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Pandurang K Pole today chaired a high level meeting to review preparedness and other arrangements of COVID-19 Sampling and Testing for stranded persons, who are returning to valley (Returnee-People) from different states of the country, in coming days.

Threadbare discussion was held on contact sampling, supply of VTM kits, intelligible bunching of samples, round the clock pool testing, Specific Reporting Formats, deployment of teams, logistic arrangements, transportation, ambulances, deputation of additional staff for sample tracing besides, other measures.

The Divisional Commissioner, issued directions to all Deputy Commissioners to identify suitable buildings which have basic amenities in their respective districts so that hassle-free Sampling of Returnee-People should be done there. Returnee-People will be escorted by police parties in SRTC vehicles from Tunnel up to their respective districts.

He directed the health institutions to deploy two sampling teams at each district while six teams should remain in reserve mode besides, ambulances should also be stationed there. Data should be maintained by concerned officers on spot and Samples sent to testing labs at an earliest. Separate teams should be pressed into services for sample tracing purpose.

Lone rues closure of Agri Sub-Sale Centers

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 2: Jammu and Kashmir, National Conference (NC) senior leader, and Member of Parliament from Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency, Muhammad Akbar Lone today expressed dismay over closure of Sub-Sale Centers of the Department of Agriculture at different locations in Kashmir division saying the measure will cause inconvenience to the farmers and affect the annual agriculture produce.

While expressing dismay over the impulsive measure of closing down the designated plant protection/ sub-sale centers/ seasonal seed outlets, Lone said, "These centers were established during the NC led Government to ensure that farmers living in rural and other hilly areas get easy access to fertilizers, pesticides and other wide ranging commodities indispensable to agriculture and horticulture activity. The idea behind the measure was to ensure availability of all essential agricultural prerequisites to farmers, who previously had to travel to nearest towns or Srinagar city to buy seeds, pesticides and other wide ranging commodities".

He said such multipurpose centers in the rural areas used to help the farmers in cutting farming input costs. It also had a positive impact on the annual yield. Setting up of such centers was part of concerted efforts towards making all the agriculture relat-

ed schemes available at the door steps of farmers as well as making the villages self reliant.

The action taken by the Agriculture Department by closing the centers is inappropriate and callous, Lone said while seeking immediate roll back of the order. "The measure is blind to the day to day issues faced by the farmers in remote areas. Moreover multi-utility sub-sale centers like these could have been effectively used by the Government to reach out to farmers to ensure that they don't have to undergo trepidation in view of prevailing lockdown following COVID-19 crisis. The inappropriate move has been taken whimsically without keeping in view the arduous topography of Kashmir. How can the poor farmers from remote hilly areas going to purchase necessary prerequisites for farming in view of prevailing lockdown? The dim-witted measure undertaken by the concerned department has put farmers across Kashmir division in a tight spot. There is no other source, poor farmers could buy from. The step will indeed affect the annual yield and push the farmers, already affected by weather and tumultuous situation, towards impoverishment, he added.

He further said, "I therefore urge the Government to roll back the order immediately, otherwise the resultant impact of such a measure will show in terms of annual agriculture yield."

Lockdown puts Jammu business to heavy losses

Sanjeev K. Sharma

JAMMU, May 2: The ongoing nationwide lockdown triggered by the deadly COVID-19 pandemic has pushed the business sector of Jammu to unprecedented losses forcing the business community to demand help from the Government in the form of some waivers etc.

Businessmen, from industrialists to shopkeepers, when contacted, talked about the losses suffered by them in the ongoing lockdown.

"After the August 5 developments, the Jammu industry suffered immense losses as our money got blocked in Kashmir because much of our supply goes to Kashmir," said Lalit Mahajan—president Bari Brahmana Industrial Association (BBIA).

He said while the industries of Jammu were finding a way-out for those losses, COVID-19 made its entry.

"Now as most of our industries are shut yet we are being asked to pay wages to the workers," Mahajan said adding that only recently some industrial units have resumed functioning with one-third of workers as per the guidelines of authorities concerned.

"Under these circumstances we demand that the Government should give immediate relief package to the industrial sector so that wages to the workers can be paid," he said.

The BBIA president further said that the Government should ensure interest waiver for three months to the industries.

"We also demand that industrial sector should be allowed to pay tariff for the actual power consumption and not the fixed power tariff," he maintained adding that the power department is deferring tariff for some months for the industrial sector "which makes no sense as it will be a problem for the MSME sector."

Mahajan also informed that SIDBI has given soft loans on 5 per cent interests to the startups and the same should be extended to the entire MSME sector.

When contacted Deepak Singh Katoch, General Manager of Mango Group of Hotels said the complete nationwide lockdown due to Coronavirus pandemic has almost crushed the hotel business.

"The ongoing lockdown was unavoidable to fight Coronavirus pandemic but the Government should now extend a helping hand to the hotel sector to meet the losses as being an integral part of the tourism industry, the hotel sector also employs thousands of people in different positions from waiters to top executives thereby reducing a considerable amount of unemployment," he said.

"The Government should announce a financial package for hotel sector along with waiving off the power tariff and taxes for the period the lockdown remains there," Katoch further said.

Shoul Batengoo residents allege bungling in ration distribution

Excelsior Correspondent

ANANTNAG, May 2: Amid the spread of COVID-19 which has already added to the woes of people, the residents of Shoul Batengoo in district Anantnag today alleged bungling in the distribution of ration by the concerned department.

They said that while the Government has announced a free ration of 5 kgs but they

*** Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com**

were given just 4 kgs. They also alleged that the concerned person of the department has marked the ration for the month of May as received.

"We don't know why, but he gave us one kgs short of what was to be actually given and what is ironical here is that, while we have not collected the ration for the month of May, he has marked the same as received on our ration cards," said Muhammad Ashraf, a local resident.

What has alerted the residents is that they have found less number of their family members against those who are registered. Some have got 5 instead of 8 members registered on their ration cards.

"I have 8 members, but on the card, there were only 5, then I went to the concerned and they got it corrected," said Abdul Rahim, another resident

The bungling do not stop here, the residents are charged Rs 10 extra every month on the pretext of rent for the shop



J&K Bank CMD, RK Chhibber and industry leaders during a video conference at Jammu.

PHDCCI hosts webinar on impact of COVID-19

Will stand with business community in all eventualities: J&K Bank CMD

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 2: Terming J&K Bank as an institution of vital and systematic significance to the economy of entire region, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of the Bank, Rajesh Kumar Chhibber, reiterated bank's resolve to provide all possible support to the trade and industry of J&K.

Speaking during a video conference organized by the Jammu Region Chapter of PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry on the subject "Emerging Scenario and Impact of COVID-19 in J&K and Economic Measures to counter it", Chhibber stated that due to COVID-19 crisis industries all over world are in distress.

Chhibber stated that the bank was fully conscious about the conditions prevailing in the UT and assured that the J&K Bank was always ready to support and extend all support in this regard and that is the only reason, he had constituted the fact finding teams headed by the Directors

and Executive Presidents in Kashmir vis-à-vis Jammu to visualize the problems of various sectors of economy including Tourism, Hospitality, Manufacturing and dealing with different trades.

"Every possible help would be provided to the business community to overcome their losses besides projecting of issues at appropriate levels which directly does not pertain to bank," asserted Chhibber, who was the chief guest and keynote speaker of the conference.

Director J&K Bank Vikram Gujral, PHDCCI (National) vice president Pardeep Multani, former (National) president PHDCCI Anil Khaitan, Director Mallika Verma, PHDCCI 's Jammu Region Chapter chairman Rakesh Wazir, co-chairman Rahul Sahai, former chairman Vikrant Kuthiala, J&K Banks Executive Presidents Arun Gandotra, Sunil Gupta, Ghulam Nabi Teli, Zonal Heads, president BBIA Lalit Mahajan, ICAI J&K chapter chairman Lalit

Gupta, besides the heads of various associations and business tycoons from all over J&K participated in the conference.

In his welcome address, Rakesh Wazir put forward the problems faced by the industries and service industry in particular in J&K during lockdown. As a breather to the tourism industry, he suggested for extension of moratorium period of all term loans including the projects which are under execution whose repayment is not started as yet along with interest waiver for one year.

He also requested for providing working capital to the hotels. He further said that bank should give 6 months of expenses to the hotels & restaurants for survival and converted into 3 year soft loan with 6 months moratorium. He said that hotels on the pattern of SIDBI be provided with soft loans @5% which it give to start ups.

Other industry leaders also projected their problems and demands.

34 Jr Staff Nurses engaged under SRO 24 terminated

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 2: Government Medical College (GMC), Anantnag today terminated the services of all the 34 Junior Staff Nurses engaged on academic arrangement basis, with immediate effect while GMC Baramulla cancelled extension order of its Staff Nurses appointed under SRO 24.

"Consequent upon the appointment Order number 113 GMCA of 2020 dated 04/04/2020 and in supersession of Order number 101 GMCA of 2020 dated 09/03/2020 and subsequent joining of Junior Staff Nurses appointed on regular/permanent basis through JKSSRB, the services of 34 Junior Staff Nurses, engaged on academic arrangement basis vide this office Order number 10 GMCA of 2019 dated 09/03/2019, Order number 19 GMCA of 2019 dated 01/04/2019 and 31 GMCA of 2019 dated 03/06/2019 are hereby terminated with immediate effect," an order issued by GMC Anantnag read.

According to the order, the terminated Junior Staff Nurses

are Aatif Farooq, Muzamil Yousuf, Mahnaz Mushtaq, Irfan Hassan, Samera Altaf, Iram Bashir, Ishrat Bashir, Iqra Zeenat, Sabahat Khurshid, Zahida Farooq, Shugufta Siraj, Firdous Akhtar, Prince Mohd Hussain, Uzma Rashid, Samiya Jan, Irfan Zahoar, Nusrata Bashir, Safina Mushtaq, Zahida Basher, Shaista Akhtar, Shahida Yaseen Mir, Ruhee Rehman, Shubebena Jan, Sajaid Nazir, Heenaza Javid, Sumaria Yousuf, Nuzhat Rashid, Nusrat Jan, Munisa Manzoor, S Saima Mehraj, Nuzhat Naseer, Masarat Shaheen, Humaira Hamed and Nabidha Majid.

Meanwhile, GMC Baramulla cancelled extension order of its Staff Nurses appointed under SRO 24 of 2019 dated 10-01-2019. "The extension order of Staff Nurses which was issued by this office under Order number 52 GMCB of 2020 dated 06-04-2020 and Order number 60 GMCB of 2020 dated 30-04-2020 stand cancelled. The services of Staff Nurses mentioned in these orders are therefore withdrawn with effect from 03-05-2020," said an order issued by GMC Baramulla.

IJU cautions against misuse of DMA against media

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 2: The Indian Journalists Union (IJU) has cautioned the Central and State Governments from misusing the Disaster Management Act (DMA) 2005 to gag press freedom and intimidate journalists.

Marking World Press Freedom Day (May 3), the IJU said media persons are tirelessly working under extraordinary conditions to report on COVID-19 and must also be seen as frontline soldiers aiding the Governments to meet the challenges of the pandemic.

Making a note of recent reported cases of harassment of journalists under the DMA and particularly its sections 51 and 54, the IJU said the nodal Ministry of Information & Broadcasting should issue an advisory to states to refrain from misusing the Act against journalists. It pointed out that Andaman DGP had invoked these sections to arrest a journalist, accusing him of spreading fake news about the administration's efforts to contain COVID-19 in the Island.

It said further a journalist in UP is being interrogated by the

Youth drowns in Ans river

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, May 2: A youth drowned while taking bath in Ans river, here today in tehsil Chassana of Reasi district.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Qayoom, age around 28 years, son of Mir Mohd of Barla, Gota, tehsil Chassana. As per information, he was taking bath in Ans river and drowned leading to his death on the spot.

On being informed, a Police party from Police Station Chassana reached the spot and

with the help of some locals, fished out the dead body, which was later shifted to hospital for



Locals fishing out body of the youth who drowned in Ans river.

postmortem and other legal formalities.

Relief Package

Not only by experts in Economics and Finances, even the proverbial rustics hold the view that to repair the damage caused to economy on account of the pandemic of COVID-19 and to get it back on rails, we needed to work hard-est, at least twice as much as we were doing before the lockdown or in normal circumstances. In a country where wheels of commerce, industry, trade, rail-ways, transport, civil aviation etc needed constant greasing in order to ensure they moved not only uninhibitedly but fast as well, should come to terms in respect of how heavily have we lost by applying abrupt brakes for nearly one and a half months in the shape of a lockdown which again is now extend-ed till May 17 though with added relaxations. We need to repair the damage gradually and the process has started now though in one way or the other, some sort of relief and succour were provid-ed to certain categories side by side the enforcing of the lockdown which had no other soft alternative. There is hardly any category of business , trade and commerce that is not hit as also the persons man-ning them, owning them or associated with them as workers, employees, agents, providing petty retail-ing facilities etc.

It is heartening that the UT Government of Jam-mu and Kashmir, sensitive to the difficulties and hardships faced by various segments on account of lockdown, has come out with a relief package of Rs.350 crore in favour of eight categories of per-sons . Since in one go, covering additional deserv-ing categories cannot administratively as also due to other factors be possible which could definitely follow the present package, patience, forbearance and co-operation could be the only alternative for expectedly some very brief time. Administrative Council has very recently taken a decision to this effect to provide relief, at the outset, to eight cate-gories which include construction workers, house-boat and Shikara owners registered with Tourism Department , tourist guides, Ponywalas, Palkiwalas, Pithuwalas registered with the concerned depart-ments, active flower growers, Self Help Groups under Umeed scheme etc.

Unless we are sensitive and alive to the suffer-ings of the people with low to moderate means, dai-ly wage earners etc, no relief or welfare measures could be worth their name. Accordingly , street ven-dors, Rehriwalas, Thelawalas, Phadiwalas regis-tered with JMC and SMC etc too are included. It may be recalled that construction workers have already been paid for one month through DBT. Busi-ness Support Category, Women Entrepreneurs, Handloom and Handicrafts too are covered under the decision of relief package which is in the shape of both upfront now and later more , amount of relief. What about those whose licences, permits etc for various purposes have expired and needed extension and renewals, too has been taken care of by the Administrative Council by extending the validity of such existing licences up to June 30. The same holds good about fixed component of power charges in respect of the concerned establishments and institutions which too stand deferred to June 30. The problem faced by those whose bills with the Government are pending for payment for quite some time is sought to be looked in by a committee formed for the purpose. The composition of the committee having representation on it from different concerned departments is indicative of resolution of the prob-lems speedily that otherwise come in between the bills and their clearance.

The other side of the problem is that the Govern-ment too is suffering on account of tremendous drop in revenue as taxes, Government dues, fees and other forms of revenue are not received and most of them have caused to be lost like excise duty etc while expenditures have surged. However, a bal-ance has to be struck and ways and means found from out of the present position having sprouted due to totally unexpected and unimagined crisis threat-ening the very lives of the people.

Why should Private Medical services be reticent?

How can private hospitals and nursing homes etc afford to disregard Government guide-lines in respect of allowing and ensuring uninterrupted emergency health services to patients especially when the country is passing through the worst crisis and lot more is dependent on our hospitals, nursing homes, medical institu-tions - small and of whatever size. Reports are that most of such medical centres in the UT are refus-ing to entertain and treat the patients even those with serious complications and requiring urgent medical care.

These are abnormal moments, where we are supposed to contribute in whatever form we can instead of being choosy. Strongly, when there are normal conditions, then patients of every hue are welcome and accepted but when there is present-ly a virtual health emergency prevailing in the coun-try in fighting the dreaded corona virus, some pri-vate hospitals and nursing homes should adopt such an unethical approach. It is high time the man-agement of these private institutions reviewed their uncalled for stand and followed at least Government guidelines and provided treatment to deserving crit-ical patients . Difficult times usually pass on and nor-mal ones return but it must be seen who contributes what and responds in which manner in an hour of difficulty.

Advocate Pranav Kohli

The Administrative Tri-bunals find its source or origin in the Constitution of India under Part XIV-A Article 323 A & 323 B, which was insert-ed by Constitution (42nd Amend-ment) Amendment Act, 1976. The Administrative tribunal Act, 1985 came to be established in the year 1985 by the Parliament while exercising the powers under Article 323A. The Act received the assent of the Presi-dent on 27th of February 1985 and was enforced on 1st Novem-ber 1985. Prior to the establish-ment of the Central Administra-tive Tribunal with five benches, writ petitions were filed in the Supreme Court and various High Courts challenging the constitu-tional validity of Article 323-A and provisions of the Act. The principal contention was that the writ jurisdiction of the Supreme Court under article 32 and that of the High Courts under article 226 could not be taken away even by constitutional amendment. Ref-erence may be given to judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme court in L. Chandra kumar's case in this regard.

The administrative tribunal deals with the adjudication and resolution of the disputes pertain-ing to recruitment and conditions of service etc. of the employees appointed to (i) Public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union; or (iii) any State; or (iii) of any local author-ity under the control of the Gov-ernment of India; or (iv) any cor-poration owned or controlled by the Government.

There are three kinds of Administrative tribunals (i) Cen-tral Administrative Tribunal; (ii)

Brig Anil Gupta

As the end of 41-day nation-wide lockdown is nearing there are different voices and opinions emerging across the nation depending upon one's means of livelihood, place of res-idence and surprisingly the polit-ical affiliation. The prevailing scenario reminds one of the days spent at National Defence Acad-emy as a young cadet and bud-ding officer of the Indian Armed Forces. National Defence Acad-emy, the premier tri-service insti-tution in the world is located at Khadakwasla, near Pune. In short, it is popularly known as NDA.

In the late 1960s and early 70s, NDA was the most preferred destination of most of the High School pass outs in the country. For those like me who had dreamt of a career in the Armed Forces while in the Primary schools and had left our homes at the tender age of nine or ten years to join Sainik Schools, King Georges (later Military) Schools and Rashtriya Indian Military Col-lege (RIMC), joining NDA meant a dream come true. Incidentally, joining these Institutions exposed the young kids to their first ever All India Competition (A written exam followed by a viva) at the ages of just eight or nine. For oth-ers who didn't join these Schools having a crack at the UPSC writ-ten exam for NDA used to be a craze. Yes, literally a craze. In those days career options in India were very limited. Doctor/Engi-

neer, IAS/IPS, Teacher/Lawyer were the other popular choices but they involved very tough acade-mic regime after passing High School (Class 10) and long years of study before one could join the chosen profession. On the other hand within 4 to 4.5 years those joining NDA became Commis-sioned Officers of the Indian Armed Forces drawing a hand-some salary package apart from the thrill of wearing starched uni-forms with stars on the shoulders at the time one had barely fin-ished the teens. Most of us apart from other motives preferred to join the Armed Forces under a notion that it would mean an end of academic studies and we would be spared the cumbersome burden of reading books and passing exams. But after joining the respective services all our dreams were shattered when con-fronted with voluminous studies during various professional courses of training, for passing compulsory promotion exams (during our times one had to pass four exams Parts A, B, C and D before one could become a sub-stantive Major) which were mandatory not only for promo-tion but also retention in service. Incidentally, these exams proved Waterloo for many officers who were compulsorily discharged from the service at the pleasure of the President of India,

Administrative tribunal for a State; or (iii) Joint Administrative tribunal for two or more states. The basic object of the estab-lishment of the Administrative tribunal was to reduce the burden of various high courts, where there are large number of service matters are pending and provide a forum to deal exclusively with service matters in an expeditious manner.

Notwithstanding, the incor-poration of the Article 323-A w.e.f 1976, the erstwhile employ-ees of state of J&K were not cov-ered under the Administrative tri-bunal Act, 1985 for the reason that the 42nd amendment was not made applicable to the erstwhile State of J&K. It happened so because of the rigors of Article 370, as it required concurrence of the then State Government under Article 370 and also for the rea-son that not all of the provisions of the Constitution of India were made applicable to the state of J&K. Even the State Administra-tive Tribunal was also not consti-tuted in the State of J&K. There-fore, the employees of the erst-while state of J&K were not cov-ered under the Administrative tri-bunal Act, 1985.

However, the situation changed by Presidential order of 5th of August, 2019, when the Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Order, 2019 was issued. As we all know, the president rule was imposed in the State of J&K w.e.f June, 20, 2018 and in the interregnum period, the Constitution order of 2019 was introduced, which was in concu-rrence with the government of the J&K (Governor at that point of time). As per Clause 2 of this order, all the provisions of the Constitution, as amended from

time to time were made applica-ble to the State of J&K. Thus, for the first time, the rigor of Article 370 was diluted and the constitu-tion perse in its entirety was made applicable to the State of J&K. The natural corollary to this con-stitution order was that Article Part XIV A dealing with Tri-bunals (Articles 323 A & 323 B) became ipso facto applicable to the state of J&K.

Be that as it may, even with the Article 323 A being extended to the state of J&K, the employ-ees of the erstwhile state did not come under the purview of Administrative tribunal Act, 1985 for twin reasons, firstly, the J&K state employees continued to be the employees of the state Government and there was no Administrative tribunal for the state of J&K. Secondly, these employees were not the mem-bers of any All India Service of the Union or the body under the control of the Union. Thus, the only remedy or forum for these employees was the writ jurisdic-tion of the High court of J&K.

Thereafter the most impor-tant event in the history of J&K took place i.e. the coming in to force of the J&K Reorganiza-tion Act, 2019 which was pub-lished on 09-08-2019 in the offi-cial Gazette of India. In terms of section 4 of the Act, on and from the "appointed day", the erst-while state of J&K shall be the Union Territory of J&K. Date of Enforcement:- The Ministry of Home Affairs (Department of Jammu & Kashmir Affairs) issued S.O. 2889 (E) of 2019, dated 09-08-2019, And notified 31st day of October, 2019, as the appointed day for the purposes of the Act.

In terms of section 90 of the

Reorganization Act, the appro-priate legislature, the Central Government in the case of a UT will have the power to regulate the recruitment and conditions of service of the employees of the UT of J&K.

Section 95 makes all Central laws in Table 1 of the Fifth Schedule applicable to the UT of J&K. Table -1 of the Fifth Schedule contains the list of the Central Laws which have been made applicable to the UT of J&K and Ladhak, wherein, the Administrative Tribunal Act, 1985 has been made applicable with an amendment of Clause (b) of Sub-section (2) of section 1 shall be omitted (except to the state of J&K). Thus w.e.f the appointed day (31-10-2019), the Administrative tribunal Act, 1985 has been made applicable to the UT of J&K and shall gov-ern all its employees. The Ser-vice matters pertaining to recruitment, and conditions of service of these employees shall be adjudicated exclusively by the Administrative Tribunal.

The Ministry of Personal, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of personnel and Training) issued another notifi-cation dated 29th of April, 2020, whereby it has been notified that for the employees of UT of J&K and Ladhak, the jurisdic-tion will be with the Chandigarh bench. In other words, the serv-ice disputes which were earlier being filed in and heard by the High court of J&K will now be heard by the Chandigarh bench of the Administrative Tribunal. Nothing more nothing less.

An impression came to drawn by few and many that henceforth, the pending cases as also the fresh will have to be

pursued in the Chandigarh bench being located there, and the lawyers and litigants will have to travel to Chandigarh bench for pursuing their cases. Though there was no occasion of having this impression as the Notification dated 29th of April, 2020 only reiterates like earlier that Chandigarh bench shall have the jurisdiction to hear the service matters of employees of UT of J&K and Ladhak.

The next big question is as to whether the UT of J&K requires permanent bench or a circuit bench which will serve the need and / or fulfill the basic object of providing expeditious justice to the employees, the answer is certainly the former. Currently there are about 35,000 service matters which are pending in the J&K High Court and as per Section 29 of the Administrative Act, 1985, all the service cases shall stand transferred to the Chandigarh bench of the Tribunal. As per information, there are around 3000 service cases already pending in the Chandigarh Bench. There are only two benches each comprising of one judicial and one administrative member. Out of the four vacan-cies only 1 is filled and three are vacant. Meaning thereby, that there is not even one bench available to hear the cases. Needless to state that the compo-sition of Tribunals and Benches is stipulated in Section 5 of the Act of 1985. As per section (2) of Section 5, the bench shall con-sist of one Judicial Member and one Administrative member. Thus, a validly constituted bench is also not available in the Chandigarh Bench. Filling up of these vacancies is also of utmost

importance.

Another aspect of the matter is that the Chandigarh Bench also has the jurisdiction over three more states and one UT i.e. States of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh & the Union Territory of Chandigarh. Whether two Benches of CAT can bear the burden of these many cases of all these three states and UT's simultaneously? When the Chandigarh bench also holds the courts at Himachal State as a circuit bench.

Earlier also when the CAT bench of Chandigarh used to hold its sittings in the Jammu and Kashmir, it used to hold it not more than 2 -5 sittings in a period of one or two month. Even if the number of sittings is increased, unless the Bench holds the courts on regular basis, it shall not serve the purpose of provid-ing expeditious justice to the UT employees besides the dire requirement of the litigants and the lawyers who are seeking the disposal of their cases in a time bound manner. Therefore, in the fitness of the things, it is inevitable that the Central Gov-ernment and the local administra-tion shall make concerted efforts to set up a regular CAT bench for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir with allied infrastruc-ture and secretariat. The demand of setting up of regular bench appears to be absolutely genuine and the need of the hour. I believe the government and / or the peo-ple at the helm of the affairs will certainly take in to consideration these important practical aspects while deciding its further course of action.

(The author is former Vice President of the Jammu & Kashmir High Court Bar Association)
feedbackexcelsior@gmail.com

The Lockdown Fatigue

Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces and the sole authority to grant or withdraw commission. The training in NDA was spread over three years and was divided in six half-yearly terms referred to as "Spring" and "Winter" terms. The tough training regime included academic sub-jects including a foreign lan-guage, physical fitness, hobbies and outdoor training with emphasis on discipline. The offi-cial training regime was laced with the unofficial regime known as "Ragdh" (Punishments) which was the privilege and pre-rogative enjoyed by senior term-ers and appointment holders. This part of the training aimed at making us 'men from boys' and was meant for mental toughen-ing, building tolerance and developing unflinching cama-raderie. Thus, every cadet wished to finish the rigours of training, pass mandatory aca-demic tests, keep a clean disci-plinary record for the entire term and look forward for moving to next term with his batch mates (known as course mates). Any faltering anywhere could lead to the most dreaded "Relegation" which implied to repeat the term but along with the next junior course.

At the beginning of each term one enthusiastic cadet would

take upon himself to maintain a record of Days Left to Go Home (DLTG) which signified the end of term. It began with 180 and every one eagerly awaited for it to reach zero and hope-fully qualify for the next term till you reach the sixth term and finally passed out from NDA moving on to service specific institutions like the Indian Mil-itary Academy, Naval Academy, Indian Airforce Academy before realising the cherished dream of becoming a commissioned offi-cer. Before the end of each term, many cadets suffered from what was commonly known as "End of Term Fatigue." To overcome this the seniors used to increase the frequency and quantum of "Ragdh" and use to motivate us by saying, "When rape (not lit-erally) is inevitable better enjoy it." This kept most of us motivat-ed and egged us to carry on so that relegation is avoided. But there were few who were over-taken by fatigue, leading to slackening in their behaviour and performance which meant sure shot relegation. The after effect of it was realised only the next term which meant joining your junior batch, making new friends and above all spend addi-tional six months.

These days our nation is also going through a similar phase of

Lockdown Fatigue. The voices for lifting the lockdown have increased since Lockdown 2.0. Certain amount of social unrest is also being anticipated due to large number of stranded migrant labourers getting restless. Econ-omy is definitely on the down-ward trend and unlikely to pick up in the very near future. The government is faced with a very tough and difficult situation. But the tough get going when the going is tough and majority hopes that PM Modi will once again take a decision upholding the lofty ideal of "Nation First."

The situation is neither very grim nor very rosy. But the fact remains that we have still not succeeded to flatten the curve. There is no vaccine against Covid-19 as yet. Whatever suc-cess we have achieved so far is due to pro-active administration, self-discipline, social distancing and staying indoors. Can we afford to remove all these restric-tions and allow free mix of pop-ulation once again? Overtaken by fatigue, if we slacken we may have to repent later and may have to suffer endless lockdowns. Pragmatic thinking should be the order and not let emotions cloud our minds. In Army there is a popular saying "More you sweat in peace less you bleed in war," meaning sacrifices made during

the time when going is good pays rich dividends in the hours of cris-is. We should be prepared to fol-low the same.

Oh, my countrymen let the Lockdown Fatigue not overtake you. Prepare yourself mentally, physically, emotionally and financially (difficult but can be achieved through better self-management) for difficult times ahead. For how long the difficult times would last is very difficult to predict at this stage. But take your minds back and you would realise that great nations have emerged stronger at the end of each adversity. Our nation is undoubtedly great and led by a great leader. Let's prepare for Lockdown 3.0, if needed in national interest. Leave the shape and contour of the lockdown to be decided by the national lead-ership.

"Om saha nav avatu I Saha nau bhunaktu I Saha viryam karavavahai I Tejassvi navadhitam astu ma vidhisavahai II"
"May we together be protect-ed."

"May we together be nour-ish-ed."

"May we work together with vigour."

"May our study be illuminat-ing."

"May we be free from discord."
Tattiriya Upanisad 2.1

(The author is a Jammu based veteran, political commentator and columnist)
feedbackexcelsior@gmail.com

Protecting freedom of press

Amogh Rohmetra

Republic of India is ranked 142 out of 180 countries in the freedom of press index, 2020 by 'Reporters Without Borders'. "By completely depriving the Kashmir Valley's 8 mil-lion inhabitants of Internet access, New Delhi also imposed the biggest electronic curfew in history" was one of the reasons for India to slip further for fourth consecutive year. The worrying part is, India is ranked behind countries like Afghanistan and Zimbabw. Is it the politics, politicians or press, responsible for a free press ranked so low in a vibrant democracy like ours?

"The President has proclaimed Emergency. There is nothing to panic about," one of the most iconic words in Indian independent history, when Indira Gandhi had announced the Emergency due to "internal disturbances". Within hours politicians and journalists were arrested, electricity of media houses was cut down and in 3 days Information and Broadcasting minister was forced into resignation. It was one of the darkest periods in history. "Accord-ing to the Home Ministry, in May of 1976, almost 7,000 journalists and media personnel were arrest-ed" as per Times Now News. Then congress Gov-ernment had set an example, how vital freedom of press is for any country. It was partly because there was absolute power with then Congress Govern-ment.

Prime Minister Modi is the first since Indira Gandhi, to have won two consecutive terms with absolute power or in other words, majority. So how has this Government, fared in terms of freedom of press? 3rd May is also the 'World Press Freedom Day'.

"There were 40 killings of journalists between 2014-19 (in India). Of these, 21 have been con-firmed as being related to their journalism" as per widely acknowledged report, 'Getting Away with Murders' by Geeta Seshu. Report also suggests that 198 Journalists were attacked, including 36 attacked in 2019 alone. The threatening part was a very low conviction rate in such cases. Since 2010, there have been over 30 cases of deaths of journal-ists due to their work. Convictions had been secured in only three of these cases till 2019.

As per Committee to Project Journalists (CPJ), India is in the list of 'worst records in prosecuting

those who murder journalists in direct retaliation for their work'. This data is a compilation of past one decade and it shows 17 unsolved such cases i.e. more than Afghanistan, Pakistan, Brazil and others.

Some of the notable cases of silencing the ris-ing voices are those of Gauri Lankesh and Shujaat Bukhari. Gauri Lankesh was a strong critic of Rig-ging politics and raised her voice through her Ben-galuru based Newspaper. Shujaat Bukhari was the first journalist in over a decade to be killed in the valley in 2018. While these were shot dead, Jagendra Singh was burnt alive in the state of U.P. Irfan Hussain, a senior cartoonist in the Outlook was kid-napped and murdered in UP. Shivraj Singh Raju, a journalist with a regional newspaper was beaten-up and then forced to drink liquor mixed with urine in Punjab as per Geeta Seshu's report.

Has media become too 'liberal' and thus asks wrong questions to the administration?

India had total of 121 internet shutdowns in 2019 as per 'Reporters Without Borders' and it also states that India uses the maximum shut

downs. Shutdowns are widely viewed as a source to silence the journalists. After the abrogation of sections of Article 370, it was little known what was going on in the Kashmir valley. Even though, deci-sion being right or wrong can always be debated. With communication gone, nothing could be report-ed for days and months. Only the Government's view was known for a long while.

Modi Government has been widely criticised for a recent trend of banning the news channel. In 2016, NDTV was banned by the Government for a day for its coverage on the Pathankot attack. "This is the first time ever that a news channel has been barred from broadcasting for breaching national security laws in the country" as per Hindustan Times. NDTV is widely seen as a critic of the Gov-ernment. This move was globally condemned by various independent bodies. Later the Government had put a hold on the ban but it was a message more than a mere action.

Last year, The Print reported, central Govern-ment had banned advertisements for three major newspapers, namely, Times of India, The Hindu and The Telegraph. Usually advertisements are based on readership but unusual exceptions were made this time. These measures were seen because these

publications were critical towards the Government and did not hesitate to cover issues like Rafale deal. It is not a very recent tool, as advertisements for Gujarat Samachar and Rajasthan Patrika were banned during the Congress regime as well. Finan-cial advantage was taken by the earlier Govern-ments too.

Apart from this, various senior journalists have reported high pressure while covering the critical news of the BJP Government, especially when Prime Minister Modi is mentioned. "From being told not to take Narendra Modi's name on my show or show his image on any programme critical of the Government to a sinister blacking out of my show, Masterstroke, what happened was nothing short of censorship" reported The Wire, story of senior ABP news journalist, Punya Prasun Bajpai who was forced to resign soon. After a night in his prime time show about Prime Minister Modi, where he showed how officials tried to manipulate the facts about a particular scheme, he said "On the following news night, ABP's satellite link started misbehav-ing during primetime. The disturbance continued for an hour so that viewers would be prevented from watching Masterstroke". He was often seen critical and active in bringing out facts against the Govern-ment before he was forced into resignation.

In another instance from ABP, Abhisar Sharma was put off air while he was live because he was taking name of Prime Minister and questioning him regarding an incident. This had upset the CEO and eventually he had to resign as reported by Newslandry. Hindustan Times editor Bobby Ghosh had to resign under similar suspected con-ditions earlier. There might be many more stories one suspects.

Anti Government reporting is usually tagged as anti- national. Thereafter media persons are harassed by various IT cells set up. Critical media houses have often seen fall in advertisement and BJP ministers boycott their events. These events cannot be only based on opposition and thus turn out to be a failure. Whereas favourable news chan-nels have often witnessed Prime Minister himself attending the event.

"They (reporters) have also been attacked by pro-Government political activists, as in Bangladesh, Philippines and India. India's Hindu

nationalist right is also an example of the extraor-dinary intolerance that religious extremists have shown towards journalists who don't share their views" has been reported in the 2020 report of Free-dom of Press Index.

Do we become anti-nationals by questioning the Government? Or these measures are used to send messages to the free press?

But sometimes it seems irresponsible media is equally responsible for our low ranking. It is so because a generation of journalists who are ready to compromise their principles. The growing prac-tice of yellow journalism has been seen with peo-ple trying to communalise every issue including the coronavirus. Such type of journalism has provoked new names for the press like 'Godi Media' or 'Pressstitute'.

Today people target media, as journalism has turned more about financial survival and voice of people is suppressed. Some editors every evening shout so loud that they try to silence the democra-cy more than people. Why is it so important to draw communal angle in everything whenever India as a whole country suffers?

But it is not only those agencies accountable for the plight; it is also we the readers. We need to boy-cott Yellow Journalism and move towards Journal-ism of truth and honesty. But does bad journalism actually affect us?

Ongoing crisis is one such example. Had Chi-na an absolute free press, it wouldn't have been pos-sible to hide the virus from the world for a long time. If it had been reported on time, world would have been better prepared and thus saving a myriad of people from getting affected.

Even though India is much better than these countries but we might be heading towards a threat-ening path. Press is considered as the fourth pillar of democracy and so comes a duty from the people and press as well. It is not a mere business but it is the loudest voice in a democracy. It has played a vital role in Regaining our freedom twice, The Inde-pendence and Emergency. We shouldn't see another such time ahead of us ever.

It is always important to reject the politics and journalism of hate and accept righteousness with ethics. Else only the worst crisis can teach the best of lessons.

feedbackexcelsior@gmail.com

(The views expressed by the authors are their personal)

From page 1

Kashmiri man tests Corona +ve in Samba, Iran-returned woman in Kargil

ered while there was one death. A woman, who had recently been airlifted to Kargil from Jaisalmer in Rajasthan and had earlier returning from pilgrimage in Iran, was today tested positive for COVID-19.

The 52-year old woman hailed from village Kaksar in Kargil district and was on 14-day institutional quarantine after being evacuated from Jaisalmer where she was stranded along with other pilgrims of Ladakh who had been airlifted from Iran. The woman had been in quarantine centre at Jaisalmer for over a month and was tested negative thrice there.

However, on her return, the authorities took her sample during institutional quarantine and she was tested positive for Coronavirus. She was asymptomatic and her condition was also normal.

Immediately thereafter, the woman was shifted from the quarantine centre and admitted in the COVID hospital at Kargil.

With this, Ladakh UT's total Corona cases have reached 23, 17 of whom have been treated and discharged leaving six active cases-two in Leh district and four



People wait in large numbers at Lakhanpur to board vehicles on Saturday.

touch with the respective Nodal Officers assigned for the States and register themselves on the 'Ladakh Connect App' at connect.ladakh.gov.in. Such stranded persons may form groups on their own or request the Nodal Officers to form groups for organizing their movement. Each group shouldn't be more than 25 people, who will be allowed to travel in a single bus following norms of social distancing and taking other safety/health precautions," the Government order said.

However, it added, the patients who are seriously ill or suffering from multiple diseases and can't travel by road must apply with the concerned Liaison Officer with medical certificate for transportation by air travel, which will be contingent on availability.

While facilitating movement of stranded persons, the Government will give priority to patients, elderly persons, minor students from Jammu to Leh and Kargil on Saturday.



Ladakh Nodal Officers including SP patients, elderly Gourav Mahajan supervising departure of persons, minor students from Jammu to Leh and Kargil on Saturday.

in Kargil. Condition of all six Corona positive cases in Ladakh is stable, sources said, adding that reports of 74 samples were received today and 73 of them were negative.

An official order issued by the UT of Ladakh said the stranded persons will be allowed to move towards Ladakh after prior permission of the Nodal Officers appointed for the purpose and all those entering without permission (of the Nodal Officers) will be subjected to institutional quarantine of 14 days at the entry point.

"Stranded persons desirous of travelling to Ladakh must get in

antime of 14 days on their arrival. The UT administration has asked the Nodal Officers to ensure that the passengers from Red Zones aren't mixed with passengers from Orange and Green Zones in the same bus. However, in case, there is any mix-up, all passengers of such bus will have to undergo institutional quarantine for 14 days.

However, all the passengers travelling in regulated movement and not coming from Red Zone will be allowed to go home with 14-day quarantine.

"The UT Nodal Officer will also regulate outward movement of stranded persons from Ladakh to their own States. The stranded migrant workers desirous of moving outside Ladakh can approach the Nodal Officer through the Deputy Commissioners of Leh or Kargil depending on their location. The Nodal Officer will inform the destination State and J&K of such movement in advance," the order said.

It added that the respective Deputy Commissioners of Leh and Kargil will be responsible for transit, receiving, quarantining and putting in place the

Shopkeepers indulging in malpractices during lockdown, selling expired food products

Rajnish of Mishriwala said, "A few days ago, a shopkeeper sold me a packet of bread that had expired a day ago. But I got to know only when I reached home. So I could not do anything about it". He said it was apparently done deliberately by the seller but next day when I complained him, he denies any wrong doing.

"Greedy shopkeepers are playing with the health of the consumers but Food Safety Officers are nowhere visible and have given free hand to such greedy traders," he added.

Om Parkash from Nagrota alleged that a shopkeeper in his vicinity sold him biscuit packets, which had expired in February. "The manufacturing date on the packs was August 31 and the instructions written on the pack read that it was fit for consumption within 180 days of the date of manufacturing," he said, adding he returned all the packets but came to know from his neighbours that their children regularly eat that particular biscuits by purchasing them from that specific shop.

Kanchan Devi, an educated housewife from RS Pura told that once during the lockdown a shopkeeper sold her a bottle of juice with no expiry date and also expired toothpaste but as the shop was close to her house, she immediately returned those products to the shopkeeper.

"Some shopkeepers are greedy and want to make money even out of the food items that have become outdated for consumption. That is an offence but here in rural areas everything is legal as Food Safety Officers seldom inspect shops in rural areas," she added.

Kanchan said the day in or day out they read in newspapers that Food Safety Officers inspected several food establishments in municipal limits and challaned erring shopkeepers but they never read about such inspection or imposition of penalty on shopkeepers in rural areas though adulteration and malpractices in selling food items is much in rural areas.

When contacted, Assistant Commissioner, Food Safety, Rural Jammu, Dev Dutt Sharma said that due to lockdown and restrictions on movement, the Food Safety Officers could not go for checking but as Government is going to relax some restrictions, they will increase random checking of shops selling food items and ensure that safe, clean and fresh food items are sold by the shopkeepers. He said that they will specifically check that no trader store sells expiry food items.

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testing/screening facilities for the arriving persons of their respective districts.

The UT administration of Ladakh has appointed Saugat Biswas, Divisional Commissioner as the Nodal Officer and overall Incharge for coordinating movement for stranded persons from all States.

Meanwhile, 355 persons of Ladakh including students stranded in Jammu were today cleared for Leh and Kargil districts from here in the presence of two SPs from Ladakh including Gourav Mahajan and Mohammad Rafi.

Mahajan told the Excelsior that 145 persons left in five buses for Leh and 210 in seven buses for Kargil district.

The UT Ladakh administration has deputed Mahajan and Rafi to Jammu to facilitate movement of stranded persons of Ladakh back to their districts.

More stranded persons of Ladakh here will also be cleared shortly.

Meanwhile, at least 3300 more stranded persons entered Jammu and Kashmir from Lakhanpur, the gateway to J&K, from Himachal Pradesh and Punjab today taking total number of arrivals since April 25 to over 18,000.

Deputy Commissioner Kathua OP Bhagat told the Excelsior that till last night, 15,116 J&K inhabitants had entered the UT since April 25 when the movement of students, workers and others was allowed.

Majority of people have arrived from Himachal Pradesh (11062) and Punjab (3399) till last evening.

All the persons entering J&K are being sent for institutional quarantine of 14 days either at their home districts or Kathua and Samba.

Chaos at Parimpora Fruit Mandi as Admn tries to regulate functioning

allowed inside the market leading to chaos.

"It is very difficult for us. I buy 500-600 kilogramme fruit daily and today it was very difficult for me. My load carrier was not allowed inside and I had to carry the fruit on my shoulder for around one km. I was able to buy few items only. It is better for administration to close the market", said a retail fruit dealer Ali Mohammad from Srinagar.

The traders at the Mandi told Excelsior that under normal circumstances, the Mandi remains open for at least 15 hours a day, but the same has been curtailed to a mere four hours which is not sufficient.

They also said that in these four hours, they have to unload the goods, sell the same to other dealers and then load the goods again; apart from taking other precautions. Even the trucks that reach the Mandi early in the morning, sometimes past midnight have to wait till 8 am.

"These trucks have to wait till the Mandi is opened at 8 in the morning and within 4 hours everything has to be carried out; it adds to the crowd," Bashir Ahmad Bashir, president of The New Kashmir Fruit Association told Excelsior.

He said that fixing of working hours to the extent of only 4 hours is not enough and will create acute shortage of these essential items in the markets with the result the general public will face an acute shortage of fresh fruit and vegetables.

He said that the Mandi caters to the needs of almost entire North Kashmir, parts of central Kashmir and even Ladakh and that the administration has to consider that aspect of it. "With

the limited business that we are allowed to do, the prices for sure are going up," he said.

As per numbers, out of 4 hours for which the Mandi remained open, the actual business was carried out for not more than 2 hours. Further, the business carried out at the Mandi on Saturday is stated to be 10-20 percent of what it used to do in actuality.

"There is a need for increasing the timing for which the Mandi will remain open; traders from other districts should be able to get it in and so should the retailers from Srinagar-the Mandi should be opened from 4 in the morning," Anil Kumar, a trader at Parimpora Mandi told Excelsior.

The traders in the Mandi have ensured that those dealing with the business in the Mandi wear full protection gear and are making sure that they are following the guidelines with regard to adhering to social distancing measures.

The less available time is also telling upon the necessary measures that are to be undertaken amid COVID-19 outbreak such as social distancing.

The traders told Excelsior that during the short period of working of 4 hours, the maintenance of social distancing appears to be impossible which is essentially required in view of the threat of COVID-19.

The traders, while appealing to the administration said that the enormity of the Mandi and the demand supply should be taken into consideration and the Mandi should be allowed to function-with all measures undertaken-from 4 am to 12 in noon.

Rainfall brings down temp, 2 die due to cloudburst

year-old woman died when cloudburst hit this evening at around 1730 hours in Chatroo area", Rajinder Singh Tara, Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar said.

He said that both of them were grazing cattle when the incident took place and they were washed away in Batwari Nullah.

The deceased have been identified as Gulshana (17), daughter of Bashir Ahmad and

Hajira Begum, 32, wife of Jameel, both residents of Batwari Chatroo. Their bodies were recovered 3-kilometres away from the spot, said the Deputy Commissioner.

After completing medical and legal formalities, the bodies of the deceased were handed over to legal heirs for last rites.

Chatroo police has taken cognizance in this regard.

2 patients admitted in LD, Super-Specialty hospitals test +ve

already three patients were admitted.

The woman delivered a baby and shortly after the delivery, her test for COVID-19 was declared positive. This news created panic in the hospital as a number of people especially medical staff had come in her contact.

The patients who were in the ward with her have been isolated and 2 doctors and 8 nurses of the hospital have been quarantined. Few security guards of the hospital have also been quarantined.

And a patient admitted from the last seven days, in super-specialty hospital at Shireenbagh here, has tested positive for Novel Coronavirus, leading to concern among the doctors and the hospital staff.

A 55-year woman admitted to the hospital a week ago was to be operated upon on Thursday last. However, the surgery was delayed as her test for COVID-19 was awaited. He tested positive for Coronavirus.

There were two patients whose surgeries were conducted and at least 12 other patients shared the same ward as that of the now COVID-19 patient. However, the two patients whose surgeries were conducted tested negative.

The patient was actually shifted from SMHS hospital where she was admitted for a few days.

Authorities took samples of all the 14 patients in the ward for Novel Coronavirus while around 30 hospital staff including around half a dozen doctors and they were shifted to either administrative or home quarantine. If any of staff in the hospital tests positive it will be a major set back to fight against COVID-19.

The Super-Specialty hospital Shireenbagh provides facilities like Neurology, Gastroenterology and Oncology.

And positive cases from Srinagar include eight members of a family of a woman from Rainawari who died earlier this week. They include 60-year-old man, his 55-year-old wife, their two sons aged 25 besides the 23-year-old woman and her 19-year-old brother, a 6-year-old boy and a 48-year-old woman.

Lokpal member among 72 more die of Corona, 2411 new cases

had been in the AIIMS Trauma Centre, which has been converted into a dedicated COVID-19 hospital, since the first week of April.

"He was very sick. He was in the ICU and on ventilator for last three days," one of the sources said.

Tripathi is one of the four judicial members of the anti-corruption ombudsman, Lokpal.

Meanwhile, the death toll due to COVID-19 rose to 1,223 and the number of cases climbed to 37,776 in the country today, registering an increase of 71 deaths and a record jump of 2,411 cases in 24 hours, according to the Union health ministry.

The number of active COVID-19 cases stood at 26,565, while 10,017 people have recovered and one patient has migrated, the Ministry said.

"Thus, around 26.52 per cent patients have recovered so far," a senior Health Ministry official said.

The total number of cases includes 111 foreign nationals.

A total of 71 deaths were reported since Friday evening — 26 from Maharashtra, 22 from Gujarat, eight from Madhya Pradesh, four from Rajasthan, three from Karnataka, two each from Delhi and Uttar Pradesh and one each from Bihar, Haryana, Punjab and Tamil Nadu.

Of the 1,223 deaths, Maharashtra accounts for the maximum with 485 fatalities, followed by Gujarat (236), Madhya Pradesh (145), Rajasthan (62), Delhi (61), Uttar Pradesh (43) and West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh at 33 each.

The death toll reached 28 in Tamil Nadu, 26 in Telangana, while Karantaka has reported 25 fatalities due to the disease. Punjab has registered 20 COVID-19 deaths, Kerala and Haryana have reported four deaths each, and Jharkhand and Bihar have recorded three COVID-19 deaths each.

Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha and Assam have reported a fatality each, according to the ministry data.

However, a PTI tally of the figures reported by various

Manipur and Tripura have two cases each, while Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh have reported a case each.

"Our figures are being reconciled with the ICMR," the ministry said on its website, adding, "179 cases are being assigned to States for contact tracing."

Statewide distribution is subject to further verification and reconciliation, it said. (PTI)

CO, Major, cop among 4 security men missing in Handwara operation



Security forces near encounter site at Pulwama on Saturday. -Excelsior/ Younis Khaliq

Omar's Red Zone jibe against SMC

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 2: Former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah took a jibe at the fight against Coronavirus after brother of a Corporator of Srinagar Municipal Corporation tested positive.

The brother of a Corporator from Kawdara Ward of the Municipality had hidden his travel history and was quarantined four days ago after residents informed the administration.

China 'mishandled' Coronavirus outbreak: White House

WASHINGTON, May 2:

The White House on Friday said China "mishandled the situation" after the coronavirus outbreak in its Wuhan city, but refrained from giving a definitive answer on retaliatory measures against the Asian giant.

The deadly coronavirus that was first reported in China's Wuhan city in mid-November has so far killed more than 2,35,000 people globally, including 64,000 Americans, and has infected 3.3 million across the world.

Led by the United States, several countries, including Germany, Britain and Australian, are blaming China for the spread of coronavirus across the globe.

On Thursday, President Donald Trump had hinted at using tariff as a tool to punish China for mishandling the virus outbreak and the next day the markets went down. "The markets are down substantially today after the President yesterday suggested in the East Room that he might use tariffs to punish China over the coronavirus. Is there any serious consideration being given to putting new tariffs on China or was the President just spinning yesterday?" the new White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany was asked during her maiden press conference.

"I won't get ahead of any announcements from the President, but I will echo the President's displeasure with China. It's no secret that China mishandled this situation," McEnany told reporters.

states as on Saturday evening showed 37,707 COVID-19 cases and 1,232 deaths due to the disease in the country.

There has been a lag in the Union Health Ministry figures, compared to the number of deaths announced by different states, which officials attribute to procedural delays in assigning the cases to individual states.

According to the health ministry data updated in the evening, the highest number of confirmed cases in the country is from Maharashtra at 11,506, followed by Gujarat (4,721), Delhi (3,738), Madhya Pradesh (2,719), Rajasthan (2,666), Tamil Nadu (2,526) and Uttar Pradesh (2,455).

The number of COVID-19 cases has gone up to 1,525 in Andhra Pradesh and 1,057 in Telangana.

It has risen to 795 in West Bengal, 772 in Punjab, 639 in Jammu and Kashmir, 598 in Karnataka, 498 in Kerala and 471 in Bihar.

Haryana has reported 360 Coronavirus cases, while Odisha has 154 cases. A total of 111 people have been infected with the virus in Jharkhand and 88 in Chandigarh.

Uttarakhand has reported 58 cases, Assam and Chhattisgarh have 43 cases each, while Himachal Pradesh has registered 40 cases so far.

Thirty-three COVID-19 cases have been reported from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, while Ladakh has recorded 22 cases of the infection.

Meghalaya has reported 12 cases, Puducherry eight while Goa has seven COVID-19 cases.

Manipur and Tripura have two cases each, while Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh have reported a case each.

"Our figures are being reconciled with the ICMR," the ministry said on its website, adding, "179 cases are being assigned to States for contact tracing."

Statewide distribution is subject to further verification and reconciliation, it said. (PTI)

CIC to shortly take up 2nd appeals, pending cases of J&K, Ladakh

Officers yet in majority of the departments/Public Offices the same are yet to be appointed/designated. Similarly, this exercise has not been completed in respect of all the departments/Public Offices in the Union Territory of Ladakh", sources informed.

They further informed, "the CIC has already received around 200 fresh complaints and 2nd appeals from the applicants directly which are also pending because of the lack of details about the Central Public Information Officers".

The Section 5(1) of the Central RTI Act, 2005 states: "Every public authority shall, within one hundred days of the enactment of this Act, designate as many officers as the Central Public Information Officers as the case may be, in all administrative units or offices under it as may be necessary to provide information to persons requesting for the information under this Act".

Similarly, there is a provision for appointment of Central Assistant Public Information Officer, as the case may be, to receive the applications for information or appeals under this Act for forwarding the same forthwith to the Central Public Information Officer or senior officer specified under Sub-Section (1) of Section 19 or the Central Information Commission.

"The Central Information Commission has further directed the Joint Secretary (Admn) in the Commission that all the pending cases in respect of J&K and Ladakh UTs should be registered and transferred to the Information Commissioner D P Sinha for further necessary action", sources informed.

They further said, "in the meeting the Commission had also decided to proactively engage with the administration of J&K and Ladakh UTs to address the concerns of citizens", adding "through the formal letter the CIC has also asked the Government of both the UTs to take steps for strict compliance to each and every provision of the Act to ensure utmost transparency in the functioning of all their departments".

"To facilitate strict implementation of each and every provision of the Central RTI Act, the administration of both the UTs is required to give due publicity to the law and above all should make available the same on the websites of all the departments and public authorities for easy access by everybody", sources stressed.

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Samoon e-launches Career Guidance Portal for J&K students

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 2: Department of School Education today launched Career Guidance Portal for the students of Jammu & Kashmir.

The portal was e-launched by Principal Secretary School Education, Dr. Asgar Samoon, during a Joint Review meeting here at Directorate of School Education Kashmir. It is a structured and well programmed portal developed to help students in choosing a right career after completing their secondary or higher secondary education.

Dr. Samoon, after the e-launch, revealed that the initiative is first of its kind ever taken by School Education Department, wherein students studying, especially in Government Schools could be benefited in terms of shaping their careers. He further divulged that the students, after completing their formal education, usually get confused regarding choosing their careers and making selections for pursuing higher education. "Therefore, this advanced portal with its immense information AI

(Artificial Intelligence) will not only guide them to choose a right path but also open oceanic database regarding existing educational institutes across the country and abroad" Samoon added.

In addition, the portal will also keep the students informed about the upcoming admissions, competitive examinations and important dates of applying to various institutes. He hoped that this holistic digital platform will genuinely transform the lives of many talented children and shall act as unfeigned e-guide to many students.

He said it has complete information on 550+ careers, 21000+ colleges and 262,000 programs in 16 countries. In addition, it contains information on 1150+ entrance exams and 1120+ scholarships." Besides, it can also act as guide for the children on available skill based courses and NSQF compliant curriculums being offered across the country," he added.

The portal has been developed with joint efforts of Samagra Shiksha, Directorates of School Education, J&K Board of School Education with support from UNICEF.



MP, Jugal Kishore Sharma distributing ration at Jammu on Saturday.

Jugal distributes ration in Talab Tillo, Bakshi Nagar

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 2: MP Lok Sabha from Jammu-Poonch Constituency, Jugal Kishore Sharma along with J&K BJP Executive Committee member, Sanjay Kumar Baru, JMC Councillor and J&K BJP SC Morcha general secretary, Mohinder Kumar JMC Councillor distributed dry ration to 100 needy families at Anand Nagar, Talab Tillo Bohri.

Jugal Kishore Sharma also distributed ration to another 100 needy families in a programme organized by J&K BJP additional treasurer, Prem Gupta at Bakshi Nagar. J&K media secretary, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Talab Tillo, Mandal, president, Keshav Chopra, Hardev Singh, Sahil Sharma and others were also present on the occasion.

Jugal Kishore appreciated the concern of BJP leaders at both the places that they catered



Adv Purnima Sharma, Deputy Mayor Jammu distributing essential food items in Ward No. 1 in Jammu on Saturday.

Deputy Mayor distributes essential items among needy families

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 2: Advocate Purnima Sharma, Deputy Mayor Jammu distributed essential food items among 155 needy families and sanitizers among sanitation staff of Ward No-1, here today.

The food supplies including rice bags, pulses and spices were provided by the administration.

"The daily wagers, labourers and auto drivers etc are the worst suffers during the ongoing lockdown, so distribution of essential food and other allied items among these needy persons and their families was the need of the hour. Lockdown is the only preventive measure to stop the spread of Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19)," said Advocate Purnima.

She ensured the public of Ward No-1 that such distribution of food supplies will be continued in the wards and further appealed to the public to stay indoors and cooperate with the efforts of administration and Corona warriors. The essential food items were distributed among 170 families of Ward No-1 including locals, economically weaker section and immigrants from various States.

Also sanitizers were distrib-



Advisor Umang Narula and other senior officers during the launch of mobile app at Leh.

Advisor Narula launches education mobile app

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, May 2: Advisor Umang Narula launched 'dselonlineeducation mobile app', an online education mobile app of School Education Department Ladakh, at UT Secretariat conference hall.

Secretary School & Technical Education Ladakh Saugat Biswas, Director Education Mumtaz Ali, Scientist B, National Informatics Centre Leh Phunchok Paldan and officials of Education Department were also present during the launch.

Advisor Narula, speaking on the occasion, said that this app will prove beneficial for students during the lockdown period. He further suggested for the development of an offline mod-

ule for ease and far reach of the educational contents.

Giving detail about the "dselonlineeducation mobile app", Director Education Mumtaz said that this app is specially developed for students from class 1st to 9th, by DIET Kargil wherein recorded contents shall be uploaded and contents are also checked by the experts before uploading the same. He also said that parents/students can install this application on their smart phones and sit with their children and show them videos related to the curriculum. Online classes and recorded contents will be uploaded on YouTube and thereafter the links will be shared on different whatsapp groups of students and teachers.

He also added that, classes

Ban on mining hampers development: Sukhnandan

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 2: Choudhary Sukhnandan, Ex-Minister and senior BJP leader today said that the ban on mining is hampering the development works as well as irrigation projects since Mining Department is not allowing to lift the sand and Bajri needed for this projects. He has asked the Lieutenant Governor, GC Murmu to look into the matter and resolve it.

He said since the Government is taking good steps to boost the rural economy by implementing the policies for benefits of the farming community, but without irrigation facilities these policies were of no use. He said that the khoods (irrigation channels) i.e Rathua Khool and Pangore Lahorichack Khool in Marh block are badly affected, as these damaged water channels need immediate repairs so that fields in these areas get water for irrigation. Due to ban on mining these Khools which

have many breaches can't be repaired and this is hampering flow of water to the fields of the farmers, he added.

Sukhnandan said even the Jal Shakti Department is doing its best to facilitate the repairs of these water channels and called tenders for the works, but the ban put by the Mining Department is the biggest hurdle, as the contractors are not getting Bajri and sand which is the major component of the repair work if the repair of these channels not done in time.

He said hundred of acres of irrigated land will left without irrigation. Hundreds of farmers will not be able to sow the Kharif Crop which will be suicidal for the farmers as they have already faced huge losses due to untimely frequent rains and Lock down due to COVID-19. He asked the LG to look into the matter and solve the issue by ordering the Mining Department to allow the lifting of sand and Bajri for the essential irrigation and other important developmental works.

JKPSCC demands restoration of 4G, condemns attack on Pvt school

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 2: J&K Private Schools Coordination Committee has demanded restoration of 4G internet service at the earliest as the online teaching-learning process in view of the lockdown was facing hindrance because of poor connectivity.

The issue was highlighted in a telephonic meeting of all the executive members of JKPSCC, convened by Rameshwar Manhas and Dr Hari Dutt Shishu to discuss the situation arising out of alleged incident of trespassing into a private school in Patoli area of district Jammu and intimidation of its Principal by a self styled social activist.

Expressing deep anguish and higher concern over the incident, which creates a sense of lawlessness, Shishu informed the JKPSCC members that a representation detailing the whole episode has been submitted to the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu with proper intimation to Deputy Commissioner, Director-School Education and SSP Jammu seeking strict against the person responsible for the incident who was allegedly blackmailing the private schools by creating such scenes.

JKPSCC expressed satisfaction that despite very limited resources and poor internet connectivity, the private school teachers were putting in every possible efforts in engaging the students in learning process even as they are no used to this type of teaching method.

G N Var, president of Private School Association, JK (Kashmir), also participated in the telephonic meeting and supported the demand of 4G restoration as well as action against those harassing the private schools for black mailing purposes.

‘Excluding drivers, cleaners from relief package a grave injustice’

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 2: All Jammu and Kashmir Oil & LPG Tank Truck Drivers & Cleaners Union, the representative body of drivers that carries essential petroleum products including Diesel, Petroleum, and ATF fuel have expressed disappointment for excluding the drivers and cleaners from the Rs 350 crore relief package approved by J&K Administrative Council headed by Lieutenant Governor, GC Murmu to provide relief to the affected section of the society amid lockdown due to corona pandemic.

S. Harasis Singh, Advisor and spokesperson of the Union in a press statement issued here today said, "All the drivers and cleaners like other affected people were quite affirmative of getting some financial relief from the J&K Government but the curt treatment by the Union Territory administration has dashed our hopes to ground".

Singh also said that their organization is happy for all fellow citizens who are covered under the financial relief package but excluding the drivers and cleaners especially that carries essential petroleum products including LPG Cylinders is grave injustice.

The Union spokesperson reiterated the demand before the J&K Government to consider including the drivers and cleaners in forthcoming relief package as the lockdown has been extended for further two weeks.

"These drivers and cleaners are facing lot of difficulties in arranging food, milk and medicines for elders and the children during lockdown," Singh said.

Bamboo vital to India’s post-COVID economy: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

NEW DELHI, May 2 : Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said here today that Bamboo is vital to India's post-COVID economy and will provide an opportunity for India to emerge as an economic power with the support of its Bamboo resources.

Addressing a Bamboo Conclave through Video Conference, in which representatives of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), the Union Ministry of Agriculture and stakeholders from different sectors participated, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Northeast consists 60% of India's reserve of Bamboo and it is a great advantage that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while this Government has over the last six years accorded highest priority to the development of the North Eastern region, it has at the same time given the Bamboo sector the kind of boost which it had never received since independence.

In this regard, he referred to the amendment in the 100 year old Indian Forest Act brought



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing 'Bamboo Conclave' in the context of COVID pandemic, through Video Conferencing, on Saturday.

enhance livelihood opportunities through bamboo.

The sensitivity with which the Modi Government views the importance of the promotion of Bamboo, said Dr Jitendra Singh, is evident from the fact even during the lockdown period, the Ministry of Home Affairs on April 16th, while allowing limited activities in different sectors, also allowed the functioning of bamboo related activities like planting, process etc.

It is an irony, said Dr Jitendra Singh, while the total requirement of "Agarbatti" in India is about 2,30,000 per annum and the market value of it is up to Rs 5000 crore, we have been importing a large bulk of it from countries like China and Vietnam. In the Post-COVID era, it is an opportunity for the North Eastern region to help India become world competitive and self-sufficient in the changed scenario, he said.

In the near future, Dr

facturing and trade, and also work out feasibility of Public Private Partnership (PPP) in this sector. He said, bamboo can be processed into multiple products, including bio-diesel and green fuel, wooden lumbers and plywood, which can change the entire face of the economy and create employment opportunities in multiple sectors.

Among those who spoke in the Conclave included Indevr Pandey, Special Secretary Ministry of DoNER, Alka Bhargav Additional Secretary union Ministry of Agriculture, Ramvir Singh Joint Secretary DoNER, Shailender Choudhary MD CBTC and North East Handicraft & Handloom Development Corporation (NEHDC) and Anna Sahab M K Patil, Member, National Bamboo Mission and former Minister. The Conclave was moderated by Sanjay Ganjoo, Director General, Indian Federation of Green Energy (IFGE).

J&K needs comprehensive package to help poor: Bhalla

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 2: Former Minister and senior Congress leader Raman Bhalla today said that the role of workforce of J&K cannot be belittled and the Government should take every possible step to help them sail through the prevailing crisis.

He urged upon the Central as well as UT Governments to frame and implement a concrete employment policy as unemployment has been a serious concern, especially, in post COVID-19 crisis. "There is already a swift increase in the strength of unemployed youth due to prolonged uncertainty and political turmoil in J&K, followed by ongoing lockdown in view of COVID-19 pandemic, many people have lost their jobs due to disturbance, uncertainty, low expansion of industries," he added.

He further said the tourism industries which have much potential for the employment were also showing decline trend for the last nine months, so there was urgent need to revive tourism sector post COVID-19 crisis.

"The financial epidemic is knocking at the door. More people will die due to financial constraints than the coronavirus infection unless the UT Governments should take some steps quickly to keep them afloat for the next few months," he said.

He sought aggressive testing of all those stranded people

being brought back and instead of quarantine centres, they should be allowed to go home. All stranded people should be provided free transportation especially the labour class and other such poor people. He said it could only be the best tributes to those who sacrificed for the rights of the labour class.

Bhalla has sought 4G internet services in J&K to allow educational institutes offer e-learning to students amid the lockdown. He observed that restoration of 4G mobile internet services in J&K would enable people especially the students to remain engaged inside their homes, thereby effectively containing the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, he continued the distribution of ration and other essential items among needy people in Gandhi Nagar constituency including Ambedkar Nagar, Digiana, Bahu Fort, Baga-e-Bahu, Dharap Panchayat and Bablayana Ward-2.

Prominent among those who accompanied Bhalla during the distribution of ration included DCC's general secretaries Aman Bawa and Jatin Vashisht, Shamshar Singh, Amrit Balli, Surinder Singh Dutt, Kashmir Singh, Talik Sharma Bral, Suman Choudhary, Kewal Krishan, Bhabbi Sharma, Chman Kumar, Diwan Chand, Capt Ghar singh, Charanjeet Singh, Kamaljeet Kour, Jasvir Singh Jassi and Rohit Choudhary.

Big Bazaar launches mobile site

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 2: In continuation to fight against COVID-19, India's most loved hyper-market chain, Big Bazaar, is trying all possible means to help its customers in this time of need.

They have launched their mobile site Shop.BigBazaar.com which has been created for the benefit and ease of all customers.

Extremely easy to use, customers just need to add their area pin code, select their nearest Big Bazaar store and fill the cart with daily essentials. The order will be delivered at the customers door step maintaining contactless and safe delivery.

Apart from this, the customers can also place their orders via Phone Calls and Whatsapp and get it delivered at their homes. In addition, to reduce the shopping time a customer takes at any Big Bazaar store, they can select the Store Pick-up option wherein they can pay online and visit the store to just pick the order.

From the moment the lockdown has started the Big Bazaar team has been reinventing itself and learning new ways of serving its customers every single day. For large societies Big Bazaar introduces 'Big Bazaar on Wheels' service.

Under this a tempo truck filled with essential food and groceries will be parked in your society and all residents can easily refill all their pantry requirements.



DC Reasi during a meeting with Katra People.

DC Reasi meets Katra people, resolves issue of quarantine centres

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, May 2: Deputy Commissioner Indu Kanwal Chib today took a meeting with citizens of Katra at PWD Dak Bungalow today. The meeting was called in view of objection of people about creation of quarantine facilities in Katra.

In the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner patiently listened to the concerns of the locals and assured them that no such step which goes against the wishes of the locals would be taken by the district administration at any cost. She also sought inputs from them and asked about places where such centres could be set up.

An amicable decision regarding opening quarantine centres at certain selected places was reached.

Those present at the meeting included SSP Reasi, Rashmi Wazir, SDM, Ashok Kumar, President Katra Municipal Committee, Vimal Indu and various district officers among other eminent citizens of the town.

Follow scheduled timing, precautionary measures: DC Samba to shopkeepers

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, May 2: District administration Samba today allowed opening of shops with certain restriction in view of the directions issued by Ministry of Home Affairs Government of India.

Deputy Commissioner Rohit Khajuria today ordered restricted operation of shops of stationery, fans/coolers(electric), groceries, bakeries, poultry, mobiles in addition to already sanctioned opening of shops of medicines, lab testing, medical practitioners (Doctors Clinic) and milk, vegetable, fruits by following strict timing and detailed schedule in the district.

The DC informed that three categories of shops have been devised to be operational in the district. The first category of shops operating daily, 7 days a week including medicines, testing labs, Doctors Clinic (all medical facilities) and milk, vegetables, fruits, bakery poultry etc shops.

Besides, in second category of shops will operate 5 days a week (Monday, Tuesday,

Thursdays, Friday and Saturday) including grocery shops, while the third category of shops will operate twice a week (Wednesday and Sunday) including stationary, mobiles and fans & coolers (electrical) shops. All the permitted shops will operate from 8am to 11 am only.

The DC said that all these shops owners shall strictly abide the schedules and timings ordered while only 50% of the employee shall be present in shops at any given time. He further laid emphasis upon wearing masks and maintaining social distancing while visiting any shops. He also stressed that each shops shall have provision of sanitizers and soaps to employees and customers.

He has directed to mandatorily download the Arogya Setu mobile app and enable technology help each other. He further ordered the extension of lockdown period till May 17 and appealed the general public to follow the government directions and only come out of their houses in unavoidable circumstances.

PHE Deptt ignoring miseries of consumers

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, May 2: Despite repeated requests, the PHE Department authorities are ignoring the miseries of consumers.

As per reports, a distribution pipe line was laid by PHE Department from Dak Bungalow junction point to TRC Kishtwar for supplying drinking water to more than a dozen households.

The said pipeline has failed to supply drinking water to the consumers on regular basis as some new illegal connections have taped into it, the residents said, adding that the said line is damaged at various points and the drinking water instead of reaching the households remains flowing on the road.

As per residents, the PHE Department is busy in obliging VIPs and is providing drinking water to their localities twice a day. Even there are some VIP families for whom special tanker

facility has been made available.

The residents alleged that the department has failed to provide drinking water in the most of the areas.

They warned to come out on roads, if their issue is not redressed in the shortest possible time.

They have launched their site Shop.BigBazaar.com which has been created for the benefit and ease of all customers.

Extremely easy to use, customers just need to add their area pin code, select their nearest Big Bazaar store and fill the cart with daily essentials. The order will be delivered at the customers door step maintaining contactless and safe delivery.

Apart from this, the customers can also place their orders via Phone Calls and Whatsapp and get it delivered at their homes. In addition, to reduce the shopping time a customer takes at any Big Bazaar store, they can select the Store Pick-up option wherein they can pay online and visit the store to just pick the order.

From the moment the lockdown has started the Big Bazaar team has been reinventing itself and learning new ways of serving its customers every single day. For large societies Big Bazaar introduces 'Big Bazaar on Wheels' service.

Under this a tempo truck filled with essential food and groceries will be parked in your society and all residents can easily refill all their pantry requirements.

JMC demolishes unauthorized godown

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 2: The Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has demolished a pre-fabricated godown which was constructed unauthorised by one Harnam Singh at Sainik Colony without proper permission of JMC.

A handout of JMC stated that the demolition was carried on after the instructions of Avny Lavasa, JMC Commissioner.

In the demolition operation necessary support was provided to Ashish Gupta, Joint Commissioner JMC by magistrate and police authorities to maintain law and order and to avoid any untoward incident during the operation.

The residents of the area had also complained against the godown where the commercial activity was causing nuisance and the same was sealed by JMC in the recent past to stop such activities there.

Commercial passenger flights to remain suspended till May 17 midnight: DGCA

NEW DELHI, May 2: India has been under lockdown since March 25 to curb the spread of coronavirus. All commercial passenger flights have been suspended for this period. However, cargo flights, medical evacuation flights and special flights permitted by the DGCA are allowed to operate. Coronavirus has infected over 37,000 people and killed more than 1,200 people in India till now. The first phase of lockdown in India was from March 25 to April 14. The second phase started on April 15 and would end on May 3. The third phase would be from May 4 to 17. (PTI)

Consider special package for fruit growers: Vakil

SRINAGAR, May 2: Senior Vice President of Peoples Conference and former Minister Abdul Gani Vakil today demanded a special package for the fruit growers and apple traders. In a statement issued here, Vakil said that most of the people dealing with apples had kept the fruit in cold storages in different cities of the country like Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Calcutta, Patna etc, which has got rotten because of COVID-19 lockdown, leading to huge losses to fruit growers. "Apple traders had already faced massive losses in the recent past because of unexpected heavy snow fall and hailstorms," Vakil added. Vakil also expressed concern over the untimely fall of apple blossom which has raised alarm bells among the fruit growers and apple traders with many speculations that it will lead to losses even this year also as the reason being that substandard pesticides

AJKTC Agents Association demands financial package

JAMMU, May 2: All J&K Motors Transport Companies (AJKTC) Representatives/Agents Association has demanded financial package for the workers of the Association for giving proper service to the general public. Gajjan Singh, President of the Association, who is also President of State Akali Dal has appealed to the Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory to take initiative of suggesting Union Home Ministry to announce financial package to the loss bearers, especially the daily wagers including the members and workers of (AJKTC) Representatives/Agents Association. He appealed to the general public, especially to the Sikh community and the workers of the

Lady dies in road mishap, husband serious

JAMMU, May 2: A lady was killed while her husband was seriously injured in a road mishap at Chadwal Morh on Jammu - Pathankot National Highway today. Police said a lady was killed while her husband received serious injuries after the bike on which they were riding on and were on way from Chadwal to Ganayari was hit by a car bearing registration number JK08 J 8513 from back side at Chadwal Morh on Jammu-Pathankot NH today. The lady died on the spot while her husband received grievous injuries. The deceased has



Officials of SBI's branch Janipur handing over sanitizers to Medical Superintendent of Sarwal Hospital.

SBI donates hand sanitizers to Sarwal Hospital

JAMMU, May 2: In fight against COVID-19 pandemic, State Bank of India's Mohalla branch Janipur today donated hand sanitizers to Government Medical Hospital, Sarwal. The sanitizers were handed over by RM RBO-2, Gurdeep

Committee constituted to examine pending payments

JAMMU, May 2: Government has constituted a committee to examine the pending payments to suppliers from each department and clear payments to suppliers. According to the order, the Committee will be headed by Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department as Chairman, while representatives of Planning, Development and Monitoring Department not below the rank of Additional Secretary, representatives of Finance Department not below the rank of Additional Secretary, representatives of PW (R&B) Department not below the rank of Additional Secretary, representative of Jal Shakti Department not below the rank of Additional Secretary and representative of Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj not below the rank of Additional Secretary will be its members.

Kidnapped minor girl rescued

REASI, May 2: A minor girl, allegedly abducted by a youth six days ago, was rescued today by Arnas Police. Reports said that acting on complain from father of the girl that his 17-year old daughter was kidnapped by one Maqsood ul Hassan of Bassan, tehsil Thuroo, a Police team from Police Station Arnas raided at different places and finally recovered the girl besides arresting the alleged kidnapper. The rescue operation was conducted by SHO police station Arnas, Insp Rajesh Gautam under the supervision of SDPO Arnas Dr Satish Bhardwaj and Adl SP Reasi Surjeet Kumar Bhagat.

Hooch seized, still smashed

REASI, May 2: Acting tough against preparing and selling of hooch, Police today smashed a still in Ransoo area of Reasi district. Acting on an information that one person namely Chaman Lal, son of Nanak Chand of Uchh, Tehsil Kalakote, District Rajouri, was indulging in the business of manufacturing and selling of hooch at village Kaintha and surrounding areas of District Reasi, Police Party conducted a raid in the forest area of Kaintha. During the raid, Police Party found 60 litres of lahan, which was destroyed on the spot while 3 litres of hooch, still apparatus, pipes etc were seized. Before the Police reached the spot, the accused had managed to flee. In this regard, a case FIR number 08/2020, under section 48(A) (E), 50 Excise Act was registered in Police Station Ransoo and investigation started. The overall operation was conducted by SHO Ransoo Insp Ajit Singh under the supervision of Dy SP Hqrs, Reasi, Waseem Mehmood and ASP Reasi Surjeet Kumar Bhagat. Meanwhile, a Police team of Police Post Talwara, led by SI Purshotam Kumar I/C PP Talwara, intercepted a bootlegger near Siar Baba Talwara and seized six liters of hooch from his possession. The arrested bootlegger was identified as Suram Singh of Narkote, at present Talwara Reasi. In this connection, case FIR number 46/2020 U/S 48 (a)/50 Excise Act has been registered at Police Station Reasi.

Principal given warm send off

JAMMU, May 2: Kundan Lal Raina Principal got superannuation after rendering about 38 years of glorious service in the Education Department. He joined the Education Department as a teacher in May 1982 and promoted as Lecturer in 1987 and finally promoted as Principal in January 2009. He served in HSS Gunda (Doda), BHSS RS Pura (Jammu), GHSS Sunderbani (Rajouri), DIET Rajouri and HSS Channi Prat (Rajouri). Dr PP Raina and Ram Prakash Sharma on the behalf of All J&K Plus 2 Officers' wished him all the best for his retired life.

Several contribute to augment Govt efforts for containing COVID-19

J&K BJP additional publicity secretary Ayodhya Gupta handed over cheques and details of online contribution to PM CARES Fund worth Rs 1 lakh while Satsang Mandli "Sh Krishan Jyotishi Mandir", Bakshi Nagar through Hardev Singh handed over cheque worth Rs 51000 to Ravinder Raina. Ajay Anand handed over contribution of Rs 5000 while Anuradha Sharma handed over contribution of Rs 12000 and Tika Lal Taploo Mandal Rs 12000 to J&K BJP president. The management of the Presentation Convent School Jammu donated an amount of Rs 1.5 lakh as their contribution to J&K Relief Fund. The cheque was presented to the Advisor to LG, K K Sharma. Chairman, Municipal Council Arnia, Ramesh Saini handed over cheques worth Rs 50,000 as a contribution for Pm CARES Fund to former MLA Bishnah, Ashwani Sharma.

180 PPE Kits provided to frontline warriors

JAMMU, May 2: The trio of Akshat Jandyal, Manish and Sudershan Mehta, Deputy Superintendent of Police and member of COVID-19 District Control Room Jammu provided standard 180 PPE Kits to frontline warriors including doctors, staff and management of Govt CD Hospital Jammu, SMGS Hospital Jammu and A S C O M S Hospital Sidhra to facilitate them to combat Coronavirus pandemic. He said that they will welcome request from any essential Govt facility in JK Union Territory in critical need of PPE Kits. Amit Kumar, JKAS Administrator JMC Jammu; Dr Rajeshwar Sharma, Medical Superintendent CD Hospital Jammu; Dr Pramod Kalsotra, Prof & Head ENT, SMGS Hospital Jammu; Dr Pawan Malhotra, Director-Principi, ASCOMS Sidhra Jammu and Nisha Nathyal, SSP Commandant UT DRF Jammu expressed their gratitude for the philanthropic efforts of the trio.

Wild bear rescued after slipping into water reservoir

BHADERWAH, May 2: Wildlife officials today worked for three hours to rescue a black wild bear which had fallen into a near-empty water reservoir. The bear was roaming in the area over the past couple of days and fell into the water reservoir when it was being chased by local residents at Malla village of Jatheli panchayat. "The locals spotted the beast in the morning and started raising an alarm in an attempt to chase the bear which, however, lost balance and fell into an 11-feet-deep community water reservoir with little water and got trapped", Station House Officer (SHO) of Doda Police Station Munir Khan said. He said the villagers tried in vain to save the animal and later informed police. Experts from the Wildlife Department in Kishtwar reached the spot and managed to rescue the bear after a three-hour long operation, Khan said. The wildlife Department used tranquilisers and nets to pull out the bear from the reservoir, he said. Later, the bear was shifted to Wildlife Sanctuary Kishtwar.



Former Minister Bali Bhagat along with representatives of Kamdhenu Paints distributing essential items in Jammu on Saturday.

Kamdhenu paints distributes essential items among needy

JAMMU, May 2: On the direction of Saurabh Agarwal, Director Kamdhenu Paints and Rajkumar Shrivastava, national Head Kamdhenu Paints the distribution of essential items was made through former Minister Health & Medical Education, Bali Bhagat today. Corporator, Tripta Devi, BJP Mandal pradhan, Suresh Khajuria and district, president Jammu, Rular R.S. Chib was also present on the occasion. The relief items were distributed among more than 100 needy local families by the Kamdhenu Parivar represented by Subash Nanda -J&K Branch Head, Anurag Kapoor - ASM and other Sales Team and in future they will also continue the same.

Distribution of ration, essential items continues

JAMMU, May 2: Distribution of ration and essential items among the needy persons continued here today. Senior Congress leaders of DCC Jammu Urban resumed distribution of free dry ration among needy families in view of the lockdown. Led by Yogesh Sawhney, Former Minister J&K and General Secretary JKPC Incharge District President Jammu Urban, the team of senior leaders dispensed essential food items to the doorsteps of families in the Upper Rajpura area. Senior leaders Neeraj Gupta, Secretary PCC and Ramakanth Khajuria, Senior Vice President DCC accompanied Sawhney. Kotli Colony Welfare Trust in a joint initiative with All J&K Christian Mahasabha distributed dry ration to 45 needy distress families at New Plot Ward Number 16, Chairman of the trust Chandan Datta, SI Vikas Singh Jasrotia, Ashu Peter Matto President All JK Christian Mahasabha, Sunny Khokhar and Pritpal Singh Bindra were among others present on the occasion. MD Bandey Memorial Society Poonth reached out to the people of people living LOC and distributed the packs of dry food to widows, orphans, physically challenged persons and also to other poor labourers. Er Saleem Bandey General Secretary of the Society, Imran Hussain Shah, Liaqat Bandey, Kuljit Singh, Asif Kirmani, Waseem Raja, Jagjit Singh, Sohail Intiaz, Sarpanch Bagh Hussain Rathore, Molvi Basharat Hussain, Zakir Rathore and many prominent persons of the village were also present on the occasion.

Team DPS Katra donated masks, sanitizers and gloves to security personnel. Team was lead by Vandana Sharma, Simmi Sharma, Manikarnika Sharma, Gourav Bakshi, Dayal Ram and Kamal Nain in reaching at CRPF Camp Dhirti and different Police Check Posts on the way to Kakriyal, Police Post Kakriyal and Ban Toll Plaza, Nagrota. Jitendra Kumar Gupta Commandant 6 Battalion CRPF and his supporting team including Sandeep, Second in Command, Ravi Shankar Sharma, Deputy Commandant, Bijender Singh Rawat Deputy Commandant, Dr Bhanu Pratap Singh, Medical Officer, Inspector T Lingamani, Sub Inspector Surendar Kumar, Havildar Pappu Kumar and Inspector Sanjeet Sharma were among others present on the occasion. A voluntary social organization namely Live For Others-Being Helpful distributed ration kits among the needy families in Udhampur area. NSS volunteers also contributed in this drive by donating relief material and extending financial help. Vivek Parihar NSS Volunteer and Co-Founder of the Organization and Vikas Pandita Founder of the

SRS demands package for print media

JAMMU, May 2: Shri Rama Sena (SRS) today demanded incentive package for print media industry amid the crisis as it is facing an unprecedented crisis due to decline in advertising revenue, huge input and lack of transport facilities. In a statement here SRS's president Rajiv Mahajan said, "The Coronavirus outbreak followed by lockdown has severely affected the print media of J&K as over several newspapers have been forced to suspend its publications due to lack of resources, resulting, some media organisations have started online editions to keep their readership intact." Mahajan maintained that the hawkers had stopped distributing newspapers since March 25, contending that they do not want to put their lives to risk in the wake of the Coronavirus outbreak. Mahajan said the newspaper owners, editors and media professional making all efforts to live with the virus onslaught rather than rumour mongers should be pressing the panic button. "The absence of newspapers will pave way for more rumours, misinformation and panic and the 'WhatsApp University' will go berserk," he said. Mahajan further said that Central and J&K Governments should provide economic stimulus, support to the media houses till the lockdown period gets over. He also requested the Lieutenant Governor for quick release of Government advertisements' dues so that journalists of small newspapers get their salaries during these testing times. He demanded 50 per cent increase in advertisement rate and 100 per cent increase in budget spend for print media and immediate settlement of payment towards all outstanding bills of advertising from DIPR.

BJP nominates Shopian district team, WC

JAMMU, May 2: BJP Shopian district president, Mohd Younis Shah in consultation with party's J&K president, Ravinder Raina, party J&K general secretary (Org.), Ashok Kaul and its other senior leaders announced new office bearers, Working Committee members and constituency presidents today. Manzoor Hussain Bhat, Bashir Ahmad Malla, Manzoor Hassani Zargar, Dilshad Akther, Sarver Ahmad Khari and Ab Rashid Khanday have been nominated as district vice-presidents. Mohd Yousuf Bhat and Muzaffer Ahmad Hajam have been nominated as district general secretaries. Gh. Mohd Bhat, Javeed Ahmad Malla, Mubarak Ahmad Sofi, Bashir Ahmad Kalas, Ghalam Hassani Jarar and Ashaq Hassani Baba have been nominated as district secretaries. Muzafer Ahmad Tantray has been nominated as district media secretary and Tariq Ahmad Parry as additional media secretary. Aqib Muqbool and Jahinger Hassani Shah have been nominated as office secretaries. Mohd Skinder Shah has been nominated as district publicity secretary and Fayaz Ahmad Shah as district additional publicity secretary. Mujtaba Hassani Bhat has been nominated as IT & Social Media secretary. Mukther Ahmad Mir has been nominated as district spokesperson. Ishfaq Ahmad Shah has been nominated as constituency president Wachi and Intiyaz Ahmad Bhat as constituency president Shopian. Nissar Ahmad Ganai has been nominated as district president for BJP OBC Morcha. Besides, the district Working Committee members were also nominated by party leadership.

CORONA VIRUS MITIGATION EFFORTS CONTROL ROOM

A Psychiatry counseling cell has been established at Corona Control Room, Old Secretariat, Srinagar. All such persons in need of such help, or officials / NGO, Workers etc. involved, can recommend as & when required :-

S.No	Doctors Name	Timing	Mobile No
1.	Dr. Syed Umar M.D (Psychiatry)	10:00 AM - 02:00 PM	9596049186
2.	Dr. Lateef Ahmed M.D. (Psychiatry)	02:00 PM - 05:00 PM	9797733414

Besides Landline No. 0194-2455389 is also available during office hours.

Sd/- Additional Commissioner Corona Virus Mitigation Efforts, Kashmir Division

DIP/J-450 Dt: 2-5-2020



Vivekananda Kendra workers distributing goods among COVID-19 saviours at Jammu.

organization coordinated the whole activity. Shashi Sadotra, Sarpanch Kamaldanga area and Pankaj Keri, Naib Sarpanch Jib were also present on the occasion. Rakesh Singh, Deewakar Singh, Arya Mahajan, Hritik Verma, Abhinandan and others contributed in this distribution drive.

Tehsildar Reasi Munshi Ram today distributed food packets among stranded labourers at Ward Number 6 of Reasi town. Each food packet contains 10 kg wheat flour, 8 kg rice, cooking oil, pulses, salt and other essential food items. Local branch of Vivekananda Kendra Kanayakumari distributed goods among the police and armed force personals as a mark of respect and regard for their contribution. Shiva Sikarwar, Pooran Kalin of Vivekananda Kendra, Naresh Sharma SHO Janipur Police Station and many others were present on the occasion. Kendra workers held such camps today at Janipura Chowk, High Court Chowk, New Plot, Amphalla Chowk, Hari Niwas Naka, Nagrota bypass, Sidhra bypass, Panjirthi Chowk and outside the Raj Bhawan gate.

Ploughing machine causes death of farmer

UDHAMPUR, May 2: A young farmer died because of fatal injury by diesel plough machine while cultivating his field at Panchhari, here today. The deceased, namely Bittu (35), son of Santu, resident of village Parjee, Tehsil Panchari, was cultivating in his field with the diesel plough machine, which accidentally inflicted him fatal injury. Even as the locals rushed him to Primary Health Center (PHC) Panchari, where doctors referred him to District Hospital Udhampur, he succumbed to his injuries on way to Udhampur.

Minor drowns in river


DODA, May 2: A minor boy died due to drowning in river Khalguni, a police official said. The deceased has been identified as Saqib Hussain (12), son of Jaffar Hussain, a resident of Sariya. He was crossing the river when he drowned accidentally. After completing medical and legal formalities, the body of the deceased was handed over to legal heirs for last rites. Police has taken cognizance in this regard.

PHOTO CAPTION

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS

To
Dr Sanjay Kumar Bhasin
for taking over as HOD
Department of Surgery, Govt.
Medical College, Jammu.

FROM:
Prof. (Dr.) G.L Thapa
President
ALL J&K SC & ST Retd.
Employees Forum
M: 9419185677



Heartiest Congratulations

To
Dr. Nasib Chand Digna
for his appointment
as **Principal,**
Govt. Medical
College, Jammu.

FROM:
SH. MANGAL DASS
ANGRAL AND FAMILY
RAJPURA JAMMU



135 troops from single CRPF battalion test positive; more results awaited

NEW DELHI, May 2:

The number of COVID-positive personnel in a Delhi-based battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), the country's largest paramilitary force, has risen to 135, officials said today.

The men belong to the 31st battalion of the paramilitary, based in Mayur Vihar Phase-III area of the national capital, that has been recently sealed after the huge numbers of the COVID-19 infection started building up over the last few days.

"A total of 135 troopers of this battalion have tested positive for the virus," a senior official said.

A total of 480 samples were taken from the unit, out of which 458 results have come and 22 are awaited.

A mobile coronavirus testing lab has been stationed on the premises of the battalion to ensure quick collection of samples.

A special sanitisation drive is being conducted on the campus and in its vicinity, the officials said.

The brighter side is that the maximum of these infected troopers are asymptomatic and it is expected that they will be cured soon, the senior official said.

The personnel are admitted to an isolation facility of the Delhi government at Mandoli.

Twelve troopers had tested positive on Friday and a 55-year-old Sub-Inspector of this unit had succumbed to the disease early this week.

These huge numbers in a single battalion (of over 1,000 troopers) has rung alarm bells in the establishment after it was found that "dichotomous" orders were issued to check the spread of COVID-19.

While the general order in the force was a mandatory quarantine of 14 days for personnel joining back from leave or having suspected exposure to a coronavirus-infected person, CRPF officers said it recently came to light that the medical wing of the paramilitary issued a separate order in April stating that doctors and paramedics can be taken off the quarantine if they do not show any symptom after five days.(PTI)

RBI cancels CKP Co-operative Bank's licence

NEW DELHI, May 2:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) today cancelled the licence of Mumbai-based CKP Co-operative Bank. The RBI, in a press released, said 'financial position of the bank is highly adverse and unsustainable'. It further added that the depositors are entitled to repayment of their deposits up to Rs 5 lakh only.

"The financial position of the bank is highly adverse and unsustainable. There is no concrete revival plan or proposal for

merger with another bank. Credible commitment towards revival from the management is not visible," the apex bank said in a statement.

"With the cancellation of licence and commencement of liquidation proceedings, the process of paying the depositors of The CKP Co-operative Bank Ltd., Mumbai, as per the DICGC Act, 1961 will be set in motion," RBI's statement added.

The central bank's move means that the troubled co-operative bank will be prohibited from carrying out any banking business, including accepting deposits etc.

According to reports, the co-operative bank has 1.25 lakh account holders. The CKP Co-operative Bank Ltd's net worth

is stated to be Rs 230 crore.

Meanwhile, the Maharashtra unit of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) questioned the Centre over the action against CKP Co-operative Bank Ltd.

"In 2014 restrictions were placed on CKP Bank, just like they were placed on PMC Bank last year. Now, stealthily CKP bank has been shut, with the no mercy shown on the depositors which are largely middle class people with small savings," the AAP Maharashtra unit said in a series of tweets.

"On the other hand, a private bank like YES Bank, where the scam is there for all to see got a bail out from the same Government within a month simply because it has rich corporate customers," it added.(PTI)

U'khand CM condoles death of jawans along LoC in J&K

DEHRADUN, May 2:

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat on Saturday expressed grief at the death of two soldiers in firing by Pakistani troops along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir.

Havildar Gokarn Singh and Naik Shankar Singh of 21 Kumaun Regiment were injured on Friday and later succumbed to the injuries.

Rawat said he took pride in their martyrdom but at the same time aggrieved at losing them.

He prayed for strength to their families to bear the loss and assured them of all help from the state government.

The mortal remains of the bravehearts will be brought to their home district Pithoragarh on Sunday.

Shankar Singh was a resident of Nali village of Gangolihat sub division and Gokarn Singh was from Napad village of Mundo Hari sub division of the district.

Shankar Singh is survived by his wife and a six-year-old son, while Gokarn Singh is survived by his wife and two children. (PTI)

Stay Home Stay Safe

WATCH VIDEOS

PLAY GAME

READ BOOKS

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WORK

Together We Can Fight Coronavirus

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Chairman of Delhi Minority Commission booked for sedition

NEW DELHI, May 2:

The Special Cell of Delhi Police has registered a case of sedition against Chairman of Delhi Minority Commission Zafarul Islam Khan for a controversial social media post, an officer said today.

The FIR was registered against Khan on April 30 under section 124 A (sedition) and 153 A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth) after police received a complaint by a resident of Vasant Kunj.

In the FIR, the complainant alleged that Khan's post was "provocative", "deliberate" and seditious and intended to cause disharmony and create a rift in the society, police said, adding that the case is being investigated by the cyber cell.

The remarks were posted by Khan on Tuesday but deleted after sometime.

Later, Khan also sought an apology while the BJP demanded his removal from the commission.

"I realise that my tweet was ill-timed and insensitive in view of our county facing a medical emergency and fighting an unseen enemy. I apologise to all whose sentiments were hurt," Khan said in a statement.

He said that his tweet on April 28, thanking Kuwait for taking note of the "persecution" of Indian Muslims, in the context of the northeast Delhi violence, has "pained" some people which was never his intention. (PTI)

JAMMU'S MOST TRUSTED MARRIAGE BUREAU

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PHAWA MAHAJAN BIRADARI NOTICE

In view of outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) and subsequent nation lockdown, social distances and other restrictions including all types of gatherings at religious places, the president of the Phawa Mahajan Biradari Pawan Gupta has unanimously decided to cancel Kul Devta (Congregation) on 7 May at Bawa Kailakh Nath Mandir Thather Bantalab.

PAWAN GUPTA

AKHIL BHARTIYA MAHAJAN PABA BIRADARI NOTICE

"JAI BABA BRAHM DEV JI"

ALL THE MEMBERS ARE INFORMED THAT THE HALF YEARLY MAIL WHICH WAS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON 7TH MAY 2020, THURSDAY, HEREBY STANDS CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC SITUATION. ALL THE MEMBERS ARE THEREFORE, REQUESTED TO KINDLY STAY AT HOME AND BE SAFE AND PRAY TO BABA BRAHM DEV JI FOR THE WELL BEING OF THE NATION.

PRESIDENT
SH. SHIV PRATAP GUPTA (9419181599)
SECT. GENERAL SH. ANIL GUPTA (6005188644)

STOP...!

MOSQUITO BREEDING

Prevent Malaria, Dengue, Chikungunya and Stay Healthy

- Do not allow water to stagnate in and around your surroundings.
- Keep overhead tank and other water containers tightly covered.
- Get your blood tested from Govt. Hospital/ Health Workers in case of fever with chills and headache.

- Discard/destroy junk item/articles.
- Empty air coolers, drums, flower pots and birds bath weekly.
- Use bed nets while sleeping.
- Wear clothes covering full body to prevent mosquito bite.

In case of positive results get **FREE TREATMENT** from the nearest **HEALTH INSTITUTIONS.**

PLEASE EXTEND CO-OPERATION

ISSUED BY PROGRAMME OFFICER /STATE MALARIOLOGIST, J&K. DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, JAMMU.

DIP/J-436, Dt:- 02-05-2020

THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTORATE HEALTH SERVICE LADAKH

(Email Id: dhs@ladakh.gov.in)

Advertisement Notice No:- 09-DHS/HMME of 2020
Dated:- 29-04-2020

Subject: ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE FOR CONTRACTUAL APPOINTMENT OF DOCTORS UNDER (NHM) UT-Ladakh 2020-21

Applications are invited on behalf of Health and Medical Education Department (UT- Ladakh, for contractual posts of Medical Officers and Consultants as mentioned in (Annexure-I category I, II and III), under NHM Programme as per the permissibility vacant posts approved under ROP (NHM) for the year 2020-21, vide No: P.NoM-1009/R/2020- NHM-II, dated:15/4/2020.

The application shall be addressed to the Director Health Service Ladakh on the prescribed form. Application form, advertisement details and list of supporting documents can be downloaded from the www.dhsut.ac.in. Interested candidates shall apply on the prescribed format and submit along with supporting documents as prescribed by mail on dhs@ladakh.gov.in within a period of 20 days from the date of advertisement.

Eligibility criteria:

S.No	Name of the Post	Eligibility criteria
1	Medical Officer	1. MBBS degree from recognized institution. 2.Registration certificate from Indian Medical Council
2	Pediatrician	1. MBBS degree from recognized institution. 2. Post graduate degree from recognized institution. 3. Registration certificate as pediatrician from Indian Medical Council
3	Gynaecologist	1. MBBS degree from recognized institution. 2. Post graduate degree from recognized institution. 3. Registration certificate as gynecologist from Indian Medical Council
4	Anaesthetist	1. MBBS degree from recognized institution. 2. Post graduate degree from recognized institution. 3. Registration certificate as anaesthetist from Indian Medical Council

Selection criteria:

(i) Medical Officer:

S.No	Selection criteria	Points
1	Percentage Marks final MBBS (on pro-rata basis)	40 Points
2	Experience 0-5 years= 10 points 5-10 years= 20 points 10- above =30 points	30 Points
3	Viva voce	30 points
4	Total	100 Points

(ii) Consultants:

S.No	Years of Experience	Points
1	Experience from recognized institution: 0-5 years = 10 points 5-10 years = 20 points 10- 15 = 40 points 15- above= 50 points	50 Points
2	Viva voce	50 Points
	Total	100 Points

Terms and conditions:-

- All the appointments are on contractual based under NHM Ladakh. The initial term of contract shall be up to 31st March 2021 and further renewal/termination is strictly on the basis of performance and continuation of the scheme.
- Honorarium will be as per the "Annexure-II" category I, II and III.
- The applicant shall apply for a post of a particular health institution and cannot apply for more than one post.
- The engagement shall strictly be for the particular post per the annexure I, and it is non-transferable in any circumstances.
- Local Candidate shall be given preference.
- The selected candidate shall have to sign a contract with the appointing authority as per NHM guidelines.
- If a contractual appointee at any time willfully neglects or refuse to perform duty, his/her service shall immediately be terminated without serving any notice and he or she shall not be entitled to any salary for such period.

For any query candidates may contact on the given contact details:

- Mail ID: dhs@ladakh.gov.in.
- M.No: 9509988901
- M.No: 9806015331

Sd/-
Dr. Phuntsog Angchuk,
Director Health Service, Ladakh

Ne:- DHS/NHM/HR/363-72
Date:- 29-04-2020

BAYOTRA MAHAJAN BIRADHRI NOTICE FOR MAIL

JAI SHREE BALA DEV JI

In view of the outbreak of deadly COVID-19 and consequent National lock down, social distancing and related other restrictions including all types of gatherings at religious places, the working committee has unanimously decided to cancel the Bi-Annual Mail of Bayotra Mahajan Biradhri at Dev Sthan Bishnah falling on 7-5-2020. May Kuldevta bless all Bayotra Mahajan Biradhri.

Narender Gupta (President)
9419189373

Ram Sarup Gupta (Gen Secy)
9419999999

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS

Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds

Cover your nose and mouth with handkerchief/ tissue or use elbow while coughing and sneezing

Throw used tissue into closed dustbin immediately after use

Don't touch your nose, eyes and mouth

Don't spit in public

Stay Home unless necessary to go out Maintain social distancing, keep a distance of at least 1metre

If you have fever, cough and difficulty in breathing, contact a doctor or call help line numbers: (while visiting doctor, wear mask/cloth to cover your mouth and nose)

+91- 0191-2549676 (State level cell for J&K)

+91- 0191-2520982 (for Jammu Division)

+91-0194-2440283 (for Kashmir Division)

Issued in public interest by:

Health Education Bureau
Directorate of Health Services Jammu

DIP/J-435, Dt: 2-5-2020



Forgotten sentinels ...Page 4



"Yajyen purifies...Page 3

Rerun epics evoke nostalgia, enthusiasm

Rahul Dogra

The announcement of re-telecast of the epic shows like Ramayan and Mahabharata was like a dream come true for those who wanted to relive the nostalgia.

When PM Narendra Modi announced a nationwide lockdown in the wake of coronavirus, there was a huge demand to begin the re-telecast of Ramayan and Mahabharat in this time of crisis. Both the series are dramatic adaptation of the Indian sacred texts of the respective names. Retelecast was a golden opportunity for the new generation to watch the iconic show, which once ruled the Indian television. The idea of re-telecast was to reduce stress when normal life has come to stand still due to lockdown.

The re-telecast of three-decades-old series Ramayan became a hit and made DD national the most-watched channel within a week and became the world's most-watched show on April 16 with 77 million viewers. **Dr Vikas Padha, Joint Replacement & Orthopaedic Surgeon** from Kathua says, "I watched Ramayana during my childhood first time at the age of around 10 years and for the second time after 3 decades. Ramayana had huge impact on me while growing up and inculcated Dharmic values in me. Few things that were not comprehensive to a 10 year old kid were cleared this time. I liked it even more than first time." Ramayana has instilled a life changing impact on today's youth and one does not expect today's Youth, which is used to binge-watching web series, to give such a positive response however, a large number of them were hooked to it and enjoyed it thoroughly. **Sourabh Gupta, a UI Developer from Jammu says,** "I had already watched these series few years back online. With its rerun on Doordarshan, many people along with me get their chance to relive their old memories associated with the Ramayana and Mahabharata. During Ramayana initial run, whole locality used to watch it under single roof together. Now a day's whole family use to watch it together. It's one of the teachings of Ramayana that as a family we should live and stay together. And it's re-telecast also brings the same idea of togetherness."

The young generation gets a close information about our rich religious and cultural heritage with the retelecast. On a higher note, now a days Matashree, Pitashree, Bhratashree words are added in our daily vocabulary. And also Doordarshan is giving tough competition to top



streaming providers like Netflix, Hotstar, amazon prime etc in terms of viewership. **Manu Khajuria, Social Activist (Voice of Dogras),** London, shares her views as "Along with watching Ramayan, we as a family are also currently reading Pravachans of Pandurang Shastri Athavale ji on Valmiki Ramayan. It is a profound experience to especially look at Ramayan as one of the biggest lessons in ideal family and society and passing on this treasure to our children. What especially is very interesting for me as a woman are the strong lessons of feminism, the correct kind, enshrined in Ramayan. The fact that Rishi Vashishth said when Shri Ram was leaving for Ayodhya that in his absence Sita would be the most able ruler reflects the position of women in the society then. The debate that Sita has with Ram to convince him to take her with him, showcases her splendid intellectual prowess. How she balanced her duty as a wife, daughter in law and mother along with her intellectual pursuits & community work is exemplary." These historical dramas had a deep influence and teach a great value of moral lessons. **Anu Sharma, teacher from Udhampur says,** "I was not even a teenager when this serial was telecasted,

Although we already knew the entire story beforehand. Retelecast of this great epic has refreshed good old memories of my childhood days. It made me nostalgic. The most profound experience I have had while trying to reconcile various versions, point of views, academic works, dramatic representations was the realization that the 'truth' will always remain elusive."

Ramayan means "Ram me ayan", which means diving into the ocean of divine saga. The newer generations responded very positively with the re telecast of Ramayan. This re telecast of Ramayan was infact a rollercoaster of emotions, assimilation of good moral values. Mahabharata teaches us that one should neither desire the benefits of his actions nor long for inaction. Both are extremes and extremes do not beget good results. Even if the results are achieved, the man will be trapped in the demonic quality of pride, which eventually leads to destruction. **Shubam Dogra,** a student from **Akhnoor** shares his view as, "It helps us to bring back ourselves to our track whenever we miss. Sometimes we lose our patience too easily but after watching it we learn how to talk sensibly even if things are going against us. It has dif-

ferent impact on different stages of life. As a Child it is like a story for us as an adult we gain values and few misconceptions are corrected as well, as an elder it takes back us back to golden era of past."

Krishna himself has said in the Mahabharata that change is the law of nature. Nothing in the universe has ever remained same. Lord Krishna himself had to see drastic changes all throughout his life. Born to some other parents and looked after by others, he had a peaceful life in Gokul and Vrindavan, but had to leave it at the call of the duty. Similarly, he was in love with Radha but got married to Rukmani. Amidst all kinds of changes in his life, he handled himself as well as the situations very well. This change was evident in the life of the Pandavas. While at one point of time, they were the lords of palaces, at others they had to wander in the forests, hiding their true identities, all for the bigger goal of Dharma. **Richa Khanna, a teacher from Jammu,** shares her views as, "The Ramayana and Mahabharata left a deep impact on us. When it was telecasted before, we were very young to understand the deep meaning. This is an example of truth, sacrifice, values, ideals and selfless love. It teaches us the great values. "It

brought Renaissance to the hidden values and qualities of all. We feel related to our culture and religion again. **Pawan Khajuria, a resident of Jammu opines,** "Ramayana cleared misconception about Agni Pariksha of Maa Sita. That's the best message I think which was conveyed to young generation and they might have come to know that Maa Sita was actually under the care of Agni Dev and Shri Ram had to take her back from Agni Dev."

In Mahabharata we see that even if one is great a leader, a great warrior but this doesn't make you a great individual until and unless you take a stand for right things & against wrong things. Even if that wrong act is done by someone who is superior to you in terms of power or authority. **Shivali Jamwal, a teacher from Jammu says,** "One thing I have noticed in many online posts: People claimed that Ravana was a man of dignity and an ethical person. But these are false claims. Ravana raped Rambha forcibly. Rambha's husband Nalkubera cursed him that he shall no longer be able to approach any other young woman who is unwilling to accept him. And this curse was the reason why Ravana never dared to touch Sita against her will. He was vile, immodest and evil person overall." **Akash Padha (student) from Rehal says,** "Ramayana serial displays the father-son bond of Maharaj Dashrath and Lord Ram. When asked to go on exile for 14 years without giving a second Ram Ji accepted that because he was following what his father said and father died in the agony of his son. **Rohan Singh, student, Jammu says,** "Though I knew about Ramayana since childhood, this time I got to know the finest details of it. I felt immense pride in our ancestors who had such vast knowledge, not just Vedic but geographical, political and astrological as well. " Indeed, the Mahabharata which was written centuries ago but contains all the aspects that we see in life today - greed, power, jealousy, friendship, honor, competition, loyalty, courage, love, confusion, morality, etc. Instead of depicting an entire character as either fully bad or fully good, it leaves it to us to decide. No person is entirely bad or good, even the darkest character has a tinge of good in him, maybe that is why the characters of the Mahabharata despite having lived hundreds of years ago are still very real and relatable to the present generation.

In everyday life we often fall into the dilemma of choices and sometimes it was very hard for us to choose one, but, if we listen to our guts, our heart, our intuition then we definitely find a way out of these situations and no matter how dark the clouds are, there is always a sunshine. Always.

Hardest goodbyes in the cruel month of April

They came, they entertained, and they conquered million of hearts sold on the magic of Bollywood. While the people are locked down at homes with a virus on the prowl, two different actors of different genres say goodbyes, one of them a little too early. Tributes to Rishi Kapoor and Irrfan Khan.

Rishi Kapoor (1952-2020): A kickass lover boy to Agneepath's karakul-cap Rauf Lala

This was long before mature adult content became part of the Indian cinema or nudity was even celebrated in Bollywood tinkering with suggestive shots and heroines in body hugging clothes of 60s.

Back in 1970, in Raj Kapoor's Mera Naam Joker, in one of the bold scenes which perhaps only Kapoor could embed in those days, actress Simi Garewal (playing Mary, a teacher) was shown undressing in a bush after a swim.

A blue-eyed teenager coming to grip with his raging hormones would ogle from the cover of a tree at her teacher's bare body with some amount of guilt and excitement as she undresses.

This boy (playing Raju in the iconic film) trying to come to terms with his first love, his teacher, and adolescence sexuality was Rishi Kapoor.

Only three years later in 1973 he exploded in the silver screen as the lover boy of the 70s with Bobby, opposite Dimple Kapadia.

Well, even in Bobby, he in one scene had almost exposed his butt to the more experienced Aruna Irani who rushes out of his room in splits. He was game to his father, showman Raj Kapoor's dare- of pushing the envelope of commercial Hindi cinema permissibility.

Millions of cine-goers loved Bobby. And Rishi Kapoor, the lover boy of 70s and 80s through 90s who would not just romance his leading ladies, including his actress wife Neetu Singh Kapoor, but also shake a leg to disco beats in gorgeous outfits!!!

The journey never hit a pause button since then, till his illness (cancer) took him to USA a few years ago. He returned to India last year after it was assumed that he was cancer-free. However, Rishi Kapoor breathed his last at a Mumbai hospital on Thursday (April 30) leaving the entire Indian film industry in grief. He was 67.

Kapoor, who had stolen millions of hearts with his spirited screen presence and lover boy roles in the 1970s through the 80s, died at 8:45 am. He was admitted in Sir HN

Reliance Foundation Hospital on Wednesday. Rishi Kapoor was under treatment for cancer in USA earlier though it was assumed that he had recovered.

One of the most well known Kapoors of the Kapoor clan of Bollywood, he is survived by his wife Neetu Singh Kapoor, actor son Ranbir Kapoor and daughter Riddhima Kapoor.

Rishi Kapoor was born on Sept 4, 1952 in Mumbai as the second son of Bollywood legend Raj Kapoor and his wife Krishna Raj Kapoor. He was the grandson of illustrious actor Prithviraj Kapoor. His brothers, Randhir Kapoor and Rajiv Kapoor; maternal uncles, Prem Nath, Rajendra Nath, Narendra Nath and Prem Chopra; and paternal uncles, Shashi Kapoor and Shammi Kapoor are all actors. His two sisters are late Ritu Nanda and Rima Jain. He did his schooling with his brothers at Campion School, Mumbai and Mayo College, Ajmer. While Bobby would always remain etched in memory of Bollywood fans, among his other successful films were Amar Akbar Anthony, Sargam, Karz, Prem Rog, Chandni, Saagar, Ajooba, Damini - Lighting.

While Big B regaled audience in his Anthony Gonsalves avatar in Amar Akbar Anthony and Vinod Khanna played a police inspector, Rishi Kapoor would steal hearts romancing his wife Neetu Singh in the film playing Akbar Illhabadi/Raju and singing kawalis.

His lover boy image started changing from 80s itself with more intense portrayals in films like Prem Rog against Padmini Kolhapuri or even in Yash Chopra's Chandni opposite Sreedevi. And his experiments with roles and transition from the lover boy image of the 70s continued. Though initially reluctant to play the character of Rauf Lala in Agneepath, a remake in 2012 of the 90s Agneepath starring Amitabh Bachchan, he would be remembered for his performance in a negative character in this film, wearing kurta-pajama, a karakul cap and eyes rimmed with kajal.

Post 2000, Kapoor with growing age had started doing supporting roles and he caught limelight once again with his acting in films like Fanaa, Namastey London, Love Aaj Kal, Patiala House.

In 2018, Kapoor reunited with his long-time friend and co-star Amitabh Bachchan in a Hindi film titled as 102 Not Out. Some of his last films include Taapsee Pannu starrer Mulk and The Body which featured Emraan Hashmi in the lead role.

He had returned to India last September after almost a year under treatment abroad.

Irrfan Khan (1967-2020): An actor and a gentleman

During the shooting of Mira Nair's The Namesake, Irrfan Khan was clueless on how he can get into the skin of a first generation reticent Bengali professor (Ashoke Ganguli) set-



tled in USA. Then he met writer Jhumpa Lahiri's father, Amar Lahiri, who was a librarian at the University of Rhode Island.

"I taped him, without his permission, and listening to his voice, I slowly began to form a picture of Ashoke in my mind," the actor recalled in an interview given to The Times of India years later on how he prepared himself to play Ashoke Ganguli in the film of Mira Nair based on Jhumpa Lahiri's book.

A man loved in his every screen presence, Irrfan Khan was a method actor from the National School of Drama, and have been compared as one who is somewhere in between the methods of Dilip Kumar and Amitabh Bachchan. So from Ashoke Ganguli to the lonely accountant of The Lunchbox, he appeared effortless before camera.

The Piku actor who created some endearing moments for audience with Deepika Padukone in the film where he plays a cab service owner, was often critical of Bollywood mainstream too. He would regret its unimaginative use of songs unlike in the 1950s and 60s. But he was also a very integral part of Bollywood films too.

"Acting is a very sensitive process of searching your own method. You have to very minutely figure out what works for you and what doesn't. It is a trial-and-error method. Nobody can teach you in training school how to generate emotion," he once said in an interview with The Hindu. So when the news of his death came on April 29 in a world already reeling under the seamless flow of Covid-19 deaths, it only added up to the pain and helpless of millions of his admirers who gave a thumps up to his screen presence over the decades.

India was truly shocked to hear the death of one of its



most versatile actors. Khan, who was suffering from cancer, was reportedly surrounded by his family members when he breathed his last at Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital. He is survived by his wife Sutapa Devendra Sikdar and two children. Khan, who will be remembered for his smooth acting, gestures and silent expressions onscreen, was a part of more than 50 Indian films besides several Hollywood projects. The Academy Award-nominated Salaam Bombay! was the first film of Khan who made his acting debut in 1988.

In a career spanning more than 30 years, Khan mesmerised audience with his roles in Vishal Bhardwaj's Maqbool, Life in a... Metro, Life of Pi, Paan Singh Tomar, The Lunchbox, Haider, Piku.

His last film Angrezi Medium was released just before the pandemic Coronavirus swept the country in 2020.

The international projects where Khan stole the limelight include The Warrior, The Namesake, the Academy Award-winning Slumdog Millionaire, Life of Pi, Jurassic World.

At the peak of his career in 2018, Khan was diagnosed with neuroendocrine tumor.

Khan, the recipient of numerous awards, had received the Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian honour, in 2011.

In a heart-out conversation with journalist Rajeev Masand last year, Khan had revealed why he had chosen film career initially.

"...I am fortunate that I chose this job. Initially I chose it for fame and money... The most important thing to become an actor was to explore and observe yourself and to reflect on yourself and your surrounding and society. That is something I am really fortunate to do that through my job," the Piku actor had said. (TWT)

THIS WEEK FOR YOU

3RD MAY TO 9TH MAY 2020

ARIES :

For the Aries sign, this may be quite a mixed week. Businessmen might be frustrated owing to the slow pace of getting results. However, they would do well to remain calm, as getting frustrated doesn't help anyone. If you are an undergraduate student, this may be a good week. All you need to do is keep up with your academics. Maybe you could take up a part-time job. A little extra income always helps. During this period on the financial front, things seem good, and the time seems ripe to make some good investments. On the romance front, those who are looking for love may take a bold step. For couples, true love might prevail, however, a little extra spark in the relationship might help keep things exciting. Take care of your health. If you face any health issues, do not hesitate to take a specialist's advice.

TAURUS:

If you are a businessman, this period may test your patience. Do display perseverance, and do not let slow progress bring you down. Employees working day jobs may face a time shortage, and may be pushed to show more results. This period may be good for students, as stars show that memory and learning power of learners may be sharp. Hence, students may do well to put long hours into study to get great results. This may be a comfortable time, financially, so you may be able to take care of your family's luxuries. You may be able to save some money as well, putting you in a comfortable financial position. However, do not make any hasty expenses that you might regret later. Single men and women may find a passionate long-lasting relationship that might bloom. This might lead to physical intimacy as well. This might spur the couple to spend the rest of their lives together as well. On the health front, things seem to be fine, except that an unexpected injury might occur. Since there is also the chance of a respiratory ailment, stay away from air pollution.

GEMINI :

For Gemini entrepreneurs, this may be a tough time, with reducing sales and increasing competitors. Businessmen may need to think quick in order to manage any situation. They may also need to look out for new avenues, and grow sales. People who are working day jobs may desire a promotion and a salary hike. Undergraduate students might find themselves neck-deep in academics. They might do well to think about their future, and in this respect, their stars might support them. During this time, do not resort to unfair means to earn profits. This might be lucrative in the short run, but is detrimental in the long run. This may land you in serious trouble with law enforcement agencies. During this time, it is also advisable not to show off wealth. Ganesha advises not to start trusting a new romantic partner immediately. First, test the person's integrity and commitment. During this period, there may be some nagging health problems. If they appear, at first sight, visit a doctor. During this time, and injury may seem likely, so stay on-guard.

CANCER :

Cancerian businessmen during this period may face some issues when it comes to timely delivery of their orders. They might need to explain this issue to their high net worth customers. Salaried people need to step up their productivity as their job may be under stress. They may need to feel secure in their job. Students in colleges may face some distractions, and need to pull up their socks and stay focused. During the week, post-graduates may face a tough time, which may cast a shadow over their academics. During this week money-making opportunities might come your way. All expenses may be deftly handled by you. You may give priority to increasing your savings during this time. Couples in a relationship need to give each other space, and do not be overly critical of each other. Friendships may be formed. However, you may do well not to rush into them. Try starting a physical activity so you may stay fit.

LEO :

This week might see Leo business owners focusing on increasing their sales, overshadowing all other priorities. Those who are working in government opportunities, might come across a lucrative opportunity this week, to make a long term deal. Employees in day jobs might be pressed for time, and their boss might push them for more work. Students in tertiary education may have razor sharp attention, and may see their progress rapidly move forward. However, those in higher education may need to be aware of distraction. This week may herald financial stability for the Leo. Entrepreneurs may need to focus on developing their endeavours. Lovers who are planning to get married might do well to wait. There may be some difficulties for already married couples, who might do well to practice restraint. Some cosy time spent together might go a long way in bringing lovers closer, and dispelling harmony. This might be the ideal time to start a physical fitness routine. Beware of some unexpected injury that might occur during this period.

VRGO :

For business owners, this might be a good time. They might clinch a rewarding business deal. Job goer may experience a week with a lot of work. Undergraduate students might not see results in proportion to their hard work. However, they shouldn't get demoralised. For senior students, this might be a good time to try and make some extra side income, that could aid them in their expenditures. This period might see you joyous, as your income may rise, and your financial state may be secure. You may have a strong urge to spend on luxuries, but you need to be practical in this regard. You might make friends during this period. Couples might be in a hurry to take the next step, but this might not materialise yet. If you are developing a bond with the opposite sex, exercise caution. There might be some concern with your physical and mental well-being. Consult a professional at the first sign of trouble.

CIPHER DECIPHER

e-mail: cipher-decipher@dailyexcelsior.com

Hi Friends! We are back with your favourite column for the week. Please have a look at OUR MESSAGE before you send in your message to us.

- To all from G.L.Sidhu: " Treasure your relationship not your possessions ".
- From J S Sambayal to all: " Kind words are short and easy but their echoes are endless".
- To all from Surinder Sharma: " Commerce is the equaliser of the wealth of nations".
- From Ravi Kumar to all: " Common sense is not so common".
- To all from Gourav Kumar: " Communism is a society where each one works according to his ability and gets according to his needs".
- From Asha Rani to all: " Every man has a wild animal in him".
- To all from Sandhya Rani: " A man in the house is worth two in the street".
- From Meenu Gupta to all: " Prayer needs no speech".
- To all from Payal Bal: " We read History through our prejudices".
- From Neha Sharma to all: " Holiness is the symmetry of the soul".
- To all from Avtar Chand Varma: " Home is where the heart is".
- From Sudeshwar Pandoh to all: " Humour is emotional chaos remembered in tranquillity ".
- To all from Japneet Kour: " The best sauce for food is hunger".

BEST MESSAGE

The award of rupees 300 for this week's best message has gone to, **SUDERSHAN PURI R/o HOSPITAL LANE, OPPOSITE COOPERATIVE SCHOOL, SAMBA-184121, CONRTACT:9906064401** for the message " Trouble are often the tools by which God fashions us for better things".

Congrats. The prize money would be sent online/Paytm.

The Contestants are requested to send their mobile numbers, as the winner will be intimated through SMS

Cut it Here

CIPHER—DECIPHER

MESSAGE CHIT

Name.....

Address.....

Message.....

.....

Cut it Here

OUR MESSAGE

Please do mention pin code number of areas while sending your message to EXCELSIOR.

Your message must reach us by Friday evening.

To send your message, use CIPHER-DECIPHER message chit.

Your entries should be brief and original. We use those messages devoid of hurting the sentiments of the people.

Out of the messages we receive, one of the message is selected for the award.

HARESH SINGH

CAREER COUNSELLING

Popular Specializations in Management!

Dr. Shahid Amin Trali

Management comprises planning, organizing, staffing, leading or directing, and controlling an organization (a group of one or more people or entities) or effort for the purpose of accomplishing a goal. By resourcing we mean the deployment and manipulation of human resources, financial resources, technological resources, and natural resources etc. The possibilities for a business graduate are almost endless. Business management professionals are required in every industry be it primary, secondary or tertiary sectors. A career in business management can mean working in a start-up, start our own business, or working with a large enterprise or even be a part of Fortune 500 companies.

A good option for a career in business management is a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration (BBA). After the graduation courses in any stream aspirants can opt for Masters Degrees in Management. A long list of specializations exist today in management which aspirants can choose to secure a promising and rewarding career. Some of the business management specializations like marketing, human resource management, finance etc. are there from a good period of time but new specializations are emerging and catch-

tion offers students understanding to manage recruiting, training, building teams, employee policy, salary, benefits and increments, employee health and safety as well as staff amenities. You can secure a better position in this field if you have good communication skills and have an ability to handle tough situations well.

-Finance is a popular option for MBAs which is well-paid, with plenty of global opportunities. Finance is a great choice for candidates who are ambitious but also want stability. MBA in Finance gives in depth knowledge about the planning and controlling the financial resources of a business. The focus is on management accounting and control, the Indian capital and money market, banking, privatization and international finance etc.

-Information Technology Management is the management of all IT resources of a company like computer hardware, software, networks, data and data center facilities and also the manpower involved. This specialization effectively trains managers for the planning, design, selection, implementation, use, and administration of emerging and converging information and communications technologies.

-Business Analytics involves exploration and analy-



ing demand in the market. Some of the promising MBA specializations are discussed in the sections below:

-Marketing specialization has always been a popular career choice which revolves around the satisfaction of customers. In this specialization students deeply understand consumer behavior, advertising management, competitive marketing, sales force management, service marketing, sales promotion management, and product and brand management etc.

-Digital Marketing nowadays has more demand in the market. It is a booming industry not only in India but across the globe. Almost all businesses are going online in their marketing activities, thus the demand for digital marketers is increasing at a rapid rate and is opening doors for plenty of job seekers.

-Human Resources Management equips students with key skills, concepts and the knowledge to manage human resources in an organization. This specializa-

sis of present data to gain insight for planning and execution of future business strategy and goals. A course in Business Analytics offers training and knowledge to develop skills for making business plans and strategies of the future based on accurate analysis of the available data.

-Operations Management is a field in management that focuses on improving productivity, quality and lowering cost. This specialization produces specialists who are responsible for successful production and distribution of products in the organizations.

-Entrepreneurship specialization is for those students who are running their own businesses at a young age or at least have a best idea for one. Nowadays many business schools help develop students' ventures, with incubator hubs for startups.

-International Business Management is a promis-

Scholarship Alert

Scholarship Name 1:	SERB National Post Doctoral Fellowship (N-PDF) 2020
Description:	Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), GOI has announced this fellowship for the young researchers and provide them with support for doing research in frontier areas of science and engineering.
Eligibility:	Indian citizens who have obtained a PhD/M.D/M.S degree from a recognized University and not older than 35 years of age at the time of application, can apply for this fellowship.
Prizes & Rewards:	Selected students will get a research grant of INR, 3 Lac per annum and monthly stipend up to INR 55,000 per month.
Last Date to Apply:	13-05-2020
Application mode:	Apply online
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/excelsior/NPD8
Scholarship Name 2:	Nursing Scholarship For Girls, Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation 2020
Description:	Sasakawa-India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF) has announced this scholarship for the girl students residing in self-settled leprosy colonies who wish to pursue nursing studies for Nursing Scholarship for Girls 2020.
Eligibility:	Indian class 12 passed (PCB) girl student who are more than 17 years of age interested in pursuing B.Sc Nursing (Basic), have one parent who has leprosy and must be residing in a self-settled leprosy colony can apply for this scholarship.
Prizes & Rewards:	Financial support up to a maximum of INR 88,000 and monthly stipend of INR 1,000 will be provided to the selected student.
Last Date to Apply:	31-05-2020
Application mode:	Apply online
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/excelsior/IFN2
Scholarship Name 3:	Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Research Fellowships 2021-22
Description:	United States-India Educational Foundation (USIEF) has announced this 6 to 9-month fellowship for Indian scholars who are registered for a PhD programme at an Indian institution. The selected scholars will get multiple financial benefits.
Eligibility:	Indian students who have registered for their PhD at an Indian institution on or before September 1, 2019, can apply for this fellowship.
Prizes & Rewards:	Selected students will get opportunities to audit non-degree courses, conduct research and gain practical work experience in suitable settings in the US and benefits like two-way airfare for the trip, visa, healthcare and more.
Last Date to Apply:	15-07-2020
Application mode:	Apply Online
Short Url:	www.b4s.in/excelsior/FDR5
In arrangement with www.buddy4study.com	

INNER VOICE

READING A BOOK

Reading a book keeps me calm,
Reading a book takes me along
Reading a book innovates my mind,
Reading a book opens the window
of my mind
Reading a book makes my mind refresh,
Reading a book releases all my stress
Reading a book takes me to another
world of imagination
Reading a book is my habit,

Which gives me mind refreshing thoughts
Reading a book provides me
mental support and strength
Reading a book plays with my mood
Thus, reading a book teaches me
something new everyday,
It is like a guidance which could be carried
everywhere.

Swasti Gupta
VII, Jodhamal Public School

CORONA

Whose careless attitude carried cruelty
And gifted humanity the
deadly destruction?
Whose conscience forgot its due duty
Just to lead the market competition ?
Spread the invisible foe east and west
Killing thousands far and wide
in every nation
Still claim their way only the best.
Not cure but still market is passion.

Satish Bhat

WHY THIS CORONA POLITICS?

Corona politics is now more dangerous
than this disease
Why the politics of our country
is not at ease?
Is it a really a matter of religion?
Our country is being praised everywhere
It's time to stay neutral and be fair
Corona is not spreading because of a
Muslim or a Hindu
It's just the matter of our
extreme negligence
Let us unite together and
create a strong fence

The vicious Virus transmitted
from a vast highland
Whose rulers still too hard and proud
To admit the fault or join the nations band
And fight the microbe so
strong and loud
Save humanity is duty of every nation
Combined effort only left to
end the isolation.

Vaishali Sharma
Akhnoor, Khour

DREAMS!

I Had A Dream,
We were baking together, it seems.
The house was a classic, same as the one's that
you've always liked.
With a blink,
We bunked and got ourselves a cup of tea.
With each sip, plans were lit up like a
Christmas Tree
Memories flashed and the girls with weird hair
believed they were not anyone's cup of tea.
"Friendship's doesn't last long"
was Greek to us.
The conversations went on Thus and Thus.

From Sobbing to Crying to making
that one laugh.
We never failed to be each other's better half.
Once we're done, I hope I get their last laugh.
All I wish is together we rule and breakthrough.
Dream is a Dream.
Unless you wish to live
with your best friends.
That makes the two of us, Indeed.

To *Veers*
Muskan Arora

e-mail: innervoice@dailyexcelsior.com

Edited by: Neeraj Rohmetra, E-mail: editor@dailyexcelsior.com

SACRED SPACE

"Yajyen purifies atmosphere"

Swami Ram Swarup, Yogacharya

After completion of the time of final destruction, God creates universe and simultaneously originates the knowledge of four Vedas in the heart of four Rishis because in the absence of vedic knowledge, human-beings would remain ignorant and would not be able to utilize worldly matters. The first mantra of Rigved is-

"Agnimeedey Purohitam....."
Idea of which is this, that a person must desire to worship God and before starting any deed; first of all must remember God to destroy all the sorrows, problems, diseases etc.

Vedas are the invaluable treasure of education of each and every worldly subject i.e. right from straw to Brahma. Therefore, medical science is also a part and parcel of vedic knowledge.



Atharvaved mantra 2/9/5 preaches that God is the creator, nurses and is "Su Bhishaktamaha" i.e. the most Supreme doctor. That is why, He is empowered to destroy all diseases which are not controlled by doctors of the world.

I think, that is why, several doctors, duly inspired by Almighty God, clearly tell to the relatives of highly critical patients that - "We the doctors have done our best, now everything lies in the hands of God.

But to our bad luck, we are ignorant of Vedas, so never praise, pray and worship Him according to Vedas and hence problem.

See, that if we forget God, He does not protect us from diseases and leaves us to bear the sorrows according to our previous lives' bad deeds.

Vedas preach that the base of the human-life is Brahmacharya. So, Atharvaved mantra 8/5/2 preaches that when a person maintains firm brahmacharya, then the precious gem of strength is generated in his body which kills all the microbes which cause diseases.

Further, Atharvaved mantras 8/5/10, 11, 12 preach that Brahmacharya generates the best medicine within the body to kill all types of disease causing germs. But there is a doubt that in the absence of holding vedic knowledge, whether Brahmacharya can be maintained.

In previous yugas, the knowledge of Vedas was in vogue. As a result, everyone used to maintain Brahmacharya, perform daily Yajyen/agnihotra, which purified the air, water,

food etc. Therefore question to face the diseases did not arise.

In daily life, living-beings, including human-beings, spread pollution in the atmosphere. If we consider Yajurved mantra 1/1, we find that if we perform daily agnihotra/Yajyen, then all infectious diseases are destroyed.

Mantra 1/2 gives full assurance that agnihotra/Yajyen purifies the air and thus destroys all pollution. When all the pollution is destroyed; air, water, food is purified by agnihotra/Yajyen then where would diseases exist?

But to our bad luck, unlike previous yugas, we are not aware of the vedic knowledge and as a result are unable to liberate ourselves from serious diseases.

Let us pay our attention towards Yajurved mantra 6/14 which preaches that if a person makes contact with a learned Acharya, then the Acharya by teaching him vedic knowledge especially making him perfect in performing

benevolent daily agnihotra/Yajyen with ved mantras, purifies his speech, respiratory system, eyes which are the source of vision, purifies his ears, the source of hearing, purifies his naval, organs of excretion and ultimately makes his character/conduct pure.

As quoted above, the idea of vedic knowledge is that if public makes contact with learned Acharya of Vedas, learns vedic knowledge, including performing daily agnihotra/Yajyen with ved mantras, the result will be as mentioned below-

There will not be any kind of disease in public and the public will always experience pleasure. (Yajurved mantra 1/1).

Yajyen purifies the universe, if it is performed by everybody. Its result in the form of smoke exists in sunrays and spreads with air. Thus it purifies the air and atmosphere. It holds all the pleasure of the universe and that is why, it is called the best deed of the world.

In this mantra, the Almighty God preaches/orders the learned Acharya and public that both should never leave to perform Yajyen i.e. Yajyen should be performed daily. Here, we will have to think that since, mostly public has oversights the eternal knowledge of Vedas, then who would perform Yajyen and how the atmosphere would be purified. In toto, vedas preach that the best deed for benevolence of all living-beings is performance of daily agnihotra/Yajyen lovingly and with hard work. (Yajurved mantra 1/2 refers).

See, what a wonderful knowledge exists in Yajurved mantra 1/3 that the Yajyen holds the world, purifies the universe and clearly preaches that Almighty God purifies those who perform daily Yajyen/agnihotra but those, who being lazy, donot perform it, they are not purified and they are infected and spread diseases.

It concludes that until and unless we approach learned Acharya, learn vedic preach and perform daily agnihotra/Yajyen, how the nation and public would be purified and liberated from diseases. Because neither vedic knowledge nor Yajyen is performed without learned Acharya.

ART & CULTURE

Natrang Jammu's Quarantine Theatre Festival

Mohd. Yaseen

In this period of crisis, when the whole world is in gloom because of the loss of so many precious lives due to Corona Virus, everyone is contributing his/her bit for healing the world, be it healthcare professionals or forces, be it media personnel or volunteers, everybody is fighting hard to throw Corona Virus out from the society.

Exhibiting solidarity towards this cause, Natrang started a unique online theatre festival entitled 'Quarantine Theatre Festival' featuring plays of different languages, genres and directed by different directors of Natrang. The festival was started on 9th April with the mission to reach the audience globally through social media with the best of Natrang's archival plays. At the time of social-distancing because of COVID 19 outbreak, online theatre is the only possible and safest way thus it received tremendous response from the audience worldwide which was opened with Internationally acclaimed Dogri play Ghumayee followed by the plays of Prem Chand, Gulzar, William Shakespeare, Charles



Dickens, Moilere, Vaclav Havel, Munshi Premchand, Dario Fo, Shankar Shesh and Balwant Thakur which were directed by Balwant Thakur, Ranesh Gupta, Neeraj Kant, Adil Hussain, Harish Khanna, Sanjeev Gupta, Sumeet Sharma, Rahul Singh and Aarushi Thakur Rana. On the other hand viewers from all over the globe applauding the initiative of Natrang in which a viewer from African continent Joseph Antony commented that in these times of confinement Natrang has provided a wonderful opportunity to witness best of the theatre being practiced in India. At a time when social media is full of unusual irrelevant stuff this initiative of Natrang is praiseworthy, providing viewers an opportunity to view highly meaningful intellectually stimulating theatre productions.

Due to the Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic, the residents of Jammu along with the rest of the country are living under a lock down and this is to a tee to flourish theatre and a best way to reach to the masses. One theatre play can get

400 to 500 audiences but online presentations of theatrical plays can get numerous audiences and one can easily learn from it too. Natrang has always pioneered in innovating new ways of reaching people. They always try to engage the masses for the art of theatre and this unique idea has kept people intact. Rather than inviting audience for theatre, Natrang has taken theatre to them keeping in view of pandemic and the norms of social distancing. To run such a festival for so many days requires a vast collection of quality work which was once appreciated by live audience only then it qualifies to be showcased to the worldwide audience through internet.

Quarantine Theatre Festival of Natrang was aimed at taking meaningful theatre into the screens of the global audience during this phase of social distancing. The festival featured 25 plays in 25 days which were directed by different directors of Natrang who have attained the landmark with their creative ways of doing theatre. The festival was highly successful and will be available on You Tube till long. It marks a huge step for theatre loving audiences whose numbers are on the rise as one can watch these extremely socially and politically relevant plays at a time of your choosing

when you are tired of the usual tough office regime or feeling down. The initiative of online festival focuses on the big names of Jammu theatre too who have been working in theatre since last 35 years.

Sharing his views, Balwant Thakur, Director Natrang who is currently in Johannesburg as the Cultural Diplomat of India at South Africa, shares that Theatres around the world are closed and are facing devastating impact from the lock down. Considered to be the most positive activity in these turbulent times, Natrang has organized a festival of best of the plays for the theatre lovers sitting in the entire length and breadth of the world. It has not only connected us with the audience's world over but also gave us the right occasion to promote our language and Culture Internationally I am not only sure but confident that this initiative of Natrang Jammu will receive overwhelming response and appreciation. While sitting here in South Africa I will also contribute my bit in promoting this initiative in African continent. Artists usually avoid to share their work in public domain for obvious reasons but in this contest, Natrang has shown a larger heart in throwing the entire collection of its works for public viewing with any expectation of returns. End of the day we as an organisation has the satisfaction that we have been able to contribute our share of creativity and positivity to the public in these hours of critical times.

Since this grave crisis has come into existence everybody is in panic and afraid of their lives and we need only determination and patience to fight with it. Sit at home and act, write and direct by using digital platform and stay in touch with your community, the day will definitely come when all the artists will be together again.

PERSONALITY

Remembering the towering poet of Valley

Versha Koul

The Pakistan sponsored terrorism in last over three decades has taken a heavy toll and shattered the economy of J&K. It is unfortunate when whole world is fighting it's war against the dreaded COVID-19, Pakistan is hell bent to send its armed desperadoes in J&K to foment trouble while a discernible change in the situation is visible on the ground.

The terrorists who indulged in killings right from 1989 after gun was exported to Kashmir from Pakistan killed renowned personalities, political leaders, academicians, intellectuals, religious and socio-political leaders who had contributed a lot in their respective fields to nurture the age old pluristic character of Kashmir.

Among the towering personalities who fell to the bullets of terrorists during the nineties include

ed Sarwanand Koul Premi a renowned intellectual, thinker and freedom fighter who till his last breath worked for fostering the bonds of Hindu Muslim brotherhood in Kashmir and even did not favour the migration of minority Hindus from Valley when over a dozen members of this miniscule minority including some well known KP leaders and intellectuals voice was silenced by prophets of doom till then. To name a few among them included Veteran BJP leader, Tika Lal Taploo, Prominent socio-political leader, Pt Prem Nath Bhat, Judge Neelkant Ganjoo, Ashok Qazi a KP activist and Rajinder Tickoo another social activist. Besides them veteran politician and ex MLA Mir Mustafa, VC Kashmir University, Prof. Masherrul

Haq, Head of HMT Unit J&K, H L Khara were also eliminated by the Pakistani terrorists to create fear psychosis among masses so that no one should challenge them.

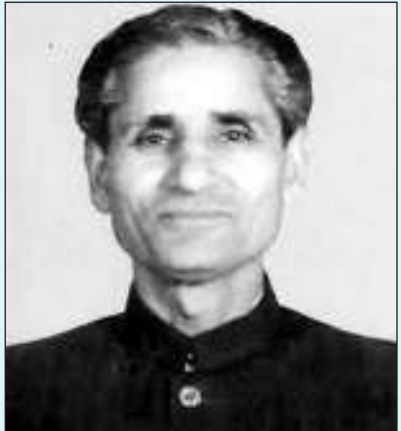
Despite the killing of members of minority community to force their mass exodus Premi visited village to village in his area which were inhabited by quite a few minority members of his community not to leave Valley at any cost as the community has thousands years of lineage with it. "We can't afford to leave Kashmir where we have thousands of years old religious monuments and cultural centers", Premi had said to some Kashmiri Pandits in his neighboring village after migration of minorities had started from Valley.

"How can we leave the Valley and live away from our Ishtdevtas and Devis", he had told this Pandit in his neighbouring village advising them not to think of leaving Kashmir as Muslims are our brothers and we have lived together for centuries together. "I have a faith on them and I am of firm belief that they will not harm us come what may" is what Premi had told this Pandit.

Premi had never dreamt that he will meet such a quick end and will be killed along with his younger son Ravinder Koul who was just married a year ago through the wicked hands of terrorists on the fateful day of May 1as he had always throughout his life worked for welfare of the people in his area irrespective of their religion. He had encouraged the Muslim chil-

dren in his backward and secluded village Soaf Shali in Kokernag tehsil of Anantnag in South Kashmir to take benefits of education and was managing books and uniforms for poor children either from his own pocket or with the help of his friends. A highly respected person in his area Premi who besides was an authority on Hindu religious scriptures had also studied the holy books of other religions including Islam, Christianity, Sikhs, Bhudists and Jainis. But unfortunately this man who had optimism that that gun can't rule roost in Kashmir and it will soon fell silent was proved wrong and he was not also spared by the merchants of death.

Premi had a great influence of Shair-e-Kashmir Gulam Ahmed Mahjoor on him and he considers him as his teacher (Ustad)



and an inspirational poet who initially guided Premi in writing poetry and Premi became his staunch admirer.

Among many admirers of Mahjoor, one was Late Pt. Sarwanand Koul Premi. He was one of the towering figures in the history of Kashmiri poetic culture. Premi was born in the small village soaf shali of Anantnag district on 2nd of November 1924. He was the one who later in his life, translated Srimad Bhagavad Gita in Kashmiri and Urdu would write the biography of Saint-poetess Roopa Bhavani.

After passing his matriculation from Lahore university with distinction in 1939, he started his career with the All-India Spinners Association (Khadi Bhandar), which was famous by the name of Gandhi ashram and Khaddar Bandar. This was the time in his life when he got influenced by Gandhian philosophy and also got involved in the Indian freedom struggle against Britisher's colonial rule. During the Quit India movement, he went underground, at that time he was 17 years old.

His first poetry Roouda Jarea was published when he was 20 years old. While working in Khaddar Bhandar in Pampore which is near to Matri Gaam, the residence of Mahjoor. One day Premi along with his colleague and childhood friend Shri Arjan Dev Duda went to meet Mahjoor. In his first meeting, Premi showed him his Roouda Jarea and the great poet became teary-eyed. The year was 1944, when Mahjoor became the philosopher, guide, and a close friend of premi. Their relationship became so healthy that Premi accompanied

Mahjoor to meet the Governor of J&K in Srinagar on 9th June 1945. This incident is mentioned by Mahjoor in his diary which is now with the J & K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages. The diary has been published by Academy. One can understand the influence of Mahjoor on premi in his collection of verse "Paan-Tsaaddar". Premi has authored more than 24 books and has left many manuscripts.

A major chunk of Premi's work is in Kashmiri, in which he has written a biography of saint-poet Mirza Kak, translated prose of Tagore's famous Gitanjali into Kashmiri.

The great follower of Gandhi who started his life in Gandhi Ashram became a martyr-like him. Entranced with the image of his father, Mr Rajinder Koul Premi recalls the fateful night of April 28, 1990, when few militants barged into his home and the moment his life changed. It was a warm evening, and soon after lighting Sandhya Chong (a lamp-lit at sunset with clarified butter), Mr Premi's family had begun preparations for the dinner. It was around 9 pm when Mr Premi heard some strange creaking noise outside. Within a few seconds, there was a knock on the door. Rajender koul opened the door and three young militants barged into their home. They started ransacking everything that came within their way. They asked the ladies to remove all the precious jewellery on them and hand it over. They did as they were told, everyone was scared. A few minutes later, while throwing away the books from the shelf, the young militant came across the copy of the Quran. Premi asked the militant to pay respect to the Holy Scripture. He was stunned to see a copy of the Quran at a Pandit's home. Taking all the valuable stuff from their home. Later, they asked Sarwanand Koul Premi to come with them, as their commander would like to talk to him. The suspicious younger brother of Mr Premi, Verinder Koul Premi, asked the militants to let him accompany his old father. The Militant kidnappers swore on Allah, Quran, Khana Qaba that no harm will be done to them.

On 1st May 1990, few police officials called Mr Premi and told him that they have found his father and brother. It was a brief moment of relief for Mr Premi. On the following day, the officials told them that they both were found dead, shattering all hopes left within Mr Premi.

He has written a number of papers which his son Rajinder koul Premi read out in seminars. His son has undertaken to publish the left behind the manuscript of his father. He has published Urdu translations of Gita, Ramayana in Kashmiri, both Nastalik and Nagri. The Kashmiri translation of Gita has been set in audiovisual form.

The devotional poetry in the form of bhajans which have been composed in both Nastalik and Nagri is in the process of publishing.

His son is publishing his work to preserve the Kashmiri literature. However, due to exodus, there is no considerable readership. He has published his work of his own and is distributing it free of cost.

Writing : His passion

Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju'

Writing has been his passion. He has been living with it for the last so many years now and is enjoying every bit of it. He loves to give words to his imagination and observations resulting in thought provoking and captivating literary pieces which are critically acclaimed as well.

He is Kewal Krishan Sharma popularly known as K. K. Shakir in literary arena, an eminent writer in Hindi, Punjabi, English, Urdu and Dogri language.

Shakir was born on November 11th' 1936 in the family of Pt. Jagan Nath Sharma and Ram Pyari at R.S.Pura Jammu. Right from an early age he had an inclination towards reading that inspired him to write, and his first ever short story written in Urdu language was published in 'Tarjaman' published from Ludhiana way back in 1954.

With the passage of time, he started writing articles on varied subjects and poetry also that got published frequently in all three editions of J & K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages' bi-monthly magazine 'Sheeraja' in Hindi, Dogri and Punjabi, Information Department' Hindi magazine 'Yojna' and Dogri magazine 'Loo', besides some vernacular papers.

While working as a teacher, it was quite tough to extract time for quenching his thirst for writing. However he maintained a beautiful equilibrium between his profession and passion. He earned respect from his students and his tiring and inspirational services as a teacher were also acknowledged by all quarters. But after having retired as a Senior Lecturer, he has devoted himself entirely to literature.

His first book 'Parchhawan' a collection of poems in Punjabi was published in 1974. Till date he has more than 14 books published in different languages that include 'Dharti De Geet' and 'Jhanjharan' _ collections of poetry in Punjabi, 'Gulshan Gulshan' _ poetry and 'Yeh Log' _ Short Stories in Urdu, 'Sarkande' _ novel and 'Hirkhay Di Dor' _ poetry in Dogri, 'Jammu Ke Pracheen Mandir', 'Jammu Ke Dharmik Sathal', 'Jammu Darshan', 'Jammu Ke Pavitar Smarak', 'Jammu Ki Vibhutiyan Evm Sanskritik Paridrashya' _ based upon the prominent personalities, historical monuments and places with cultural references in Hindi, 'Changing Faces', 'Jammu Heritage And Culture' in Eng-

lish language etc. It is pertinent to add here that 'Jammu Ke Pracheen Mandir' has been awarded by Central Hindi Directorate, Ministry of HRD Government of India in 2015.

Shakir has the privilege of writing on the subjects that many writers aspire to. But a lot of research work has to be made for such initiatives. However, after the work is over and gets documented in the form of a book, it gives strange feel of contentment not only to writers but the readers also



feel proud.

Shakir's works predominantly revolve around the eminent personalities of historical significance and the religious and historical places of Jammu region. It will not be unfair to add here that the way he has put in best efforts with all dedication and commitment, he has carved a niche for him self in literary circles.

In addition to it he has been a regular participant in numerous literary Conferences, Seminars, meetings organized by Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, Information Department of J & K, Department of Archives, Rashtra Bhasha Prachar Samiti and other literary organizations. At the same time he has been a regular contributor as a poet and talks in different languages on All India Radio Jammu, Doordarshan Kendra Jammu and Doorsardarshan Kendra Srinagar.

He has been honoured and awarded by several organizations for his contributions in literature and as a teacher. The major ones include 'Best Teacher's National Award by Sh. R. Venkatraman, President of India in 1990, Best Teacher's State Award-1978, 1st. Gandhi medal by Gandhi Samarak Nidhi J & K-1969, Awarded

by Central Hindi Directorate, Ministry of HRD Government of India-2015., Dogra Brahmin Pratinidhi Sabha-1991, Punjabi Sahit Sabha R S Pura, Sahitya Shree by Nami Dogri Sanstha Jammu, and Indian Cultural Forum etc.

In a conversation, Shakir was of the opinion that he is fond of visiting the historical places and writes about the cultural significance of same.

It's a matter of concern that when we stress national character and of preserving our heritage, the present generation is not aware of the real heroes who have played pivotal role in building up society and working for welfare of region and the inhabitants. Even If they are familiar with some prominent faces, they don't know their momentous contributions. At the same time there are so many who deserve to be in the memories but ironically don't find considerable mention. Then it becomes moral obligation of writers to go for extensive research and pen down their contributions. The historical monuments and other places of religious or cultural importance should also be documented so that the generations should have an access to it.

The efforts made by Shakir for such a noble cause need all appreciation. The youths should study the rich cultural heritage of their native places and the inspiring works rendered by the pious souls in the past and feel proud of their history. But the history needs honest efforts for survival also.

It is well said that the generations which are not bothered about their past history get lost in the wheel of time whereas those which are concerned do excel and are talked about for ages. In this context, we should seek lesson from Western Countries who are very much concerned about their roots and try their level best to preserve their heritage and ensure that it should never fade away from their memories.

Literature pertaining to cultural identity deserves to be in the libraries of all schools, colleges, Universities, District Libraries so that students representing young generation and others also should get to know about their roots, elders and cultural heritage.

We may hope that Shakir will go on documenting rich cultural heritage of Dogras in future also and others will also get inspired for same.

SCIENCE & TECHONOLGY

Improved face masks



Siddarth Gupta

SID07 Designs came up with a small innovation to ease things a little bit for our warriors on the field, the emergency workers, especially the doctors who have to sometimes work for over 20 hours continuously. We are calling this innovation Mask Buddy.

Mask Buddy helps to convert your usual behind the ear elastic mask into a comfortable one. This not only makes it easier to wear the mask for longer duration but also ensures you don't have to constantly touch the mask directly or its elastic to adjust it, ease it or remove it, which protects you even more from accidentally contaminating your hands with

As attested by more than 10 doctors who we talked to, the normal surgical masks with over ear elastic strings cause earache, headaches and even pressure blisters on the back of the ears when worn over long periods of time.

the corona-virus particles which could be present outside your mask if you were exposed to a contaminated environment. It is a reusable plastic band that latches onto the two elastic strings of the surgical mask behind the head so that there is no need to hook these elastic strings behind the ears. There are two levels of adjustments available for different sized heads as well. This way it protects the back of the ears from the

friction and wear that is present when wearing the normal surgical mask. It can be reused after cleaning with an alcohol based liquid sanitizer as well.

As attested by more than 10 doctors who we talked to, the normal surgical masks with over ear elastic strings cause earache, headaches and even pressure blisters on the back of the ears when worn over long periods of time. This tiny little attachment ensures that the elastic string does not put any kind of strain on the ears so that our doctors can focus on saving lives without any unnecessary distractions or discomfort.

While the world is busy 3D printing things, we made these using thin but strong plastic sheets cut from folders files (see following image) manually. We are able to produce 100 times the number of such bands using this method compared to what we would have achieved with our currently broken FDM 3D printer. Talk about "necessity is the mother of invention". We would be making more of these and providing them to our doctors working in various hospitals in Jammu.

About SID07 Designs

We develop novel solutions, in the form of physical and tangible products to problems faced by the masses. We believe in bringing a sustainable positive change by making lives easier, healthier and happier by identifying unstructured problems or pain points in the society and solving these problems through engineering. Till date we have made eleven inventions in the fields of automotive tooling, wearable technology for health and wellness, hydraulic pipes and fittings, dust extraction for hand held and bench top tooling, plastic waste management and bio waste management and more. One out of these inventions is patent pending and three are registered patents in India.

Satish Singh Lalotra

'Only as a warrior can one understand the path of knowledge .A warrior can not complain or regret anything .His life is a challenge, and challenges are not good or bad. Challenges are simply challenges to be overcome....A Tibetan saying.

Prior to world war 2, few countries aroused interest in themselves than Tibet. Tibet in fact was that last zone of neutrality lodged between 3 behemoths of Asia--- India, China and USSR(Now Russia) a mighty classic buffer zone. Topographically the boundaries were all but impenetrable . The inhabitants were said to be living in a self isolation mode jealously guarding their borders sealed off from foreigners. While the romantics envisioned a Shangri la ,western countries particularly the USA took a pragmatic view .Tibet was in fact a convenient vacuum ,a blank space on the world map void of any prominent geographical landmarks and Geopolitical significance. But all this changed suddenly with Mao Tse Tung having successfully ousted Chiang Kai Shek and his nationalist forces from mainland China in 1949 and turned his attention to Tibet .Ignoring Tibet's claim of independence ,the PLA (People's liberation army of China) invaded Tibet and by 1956,had more or less gained complete control of the country. By 1959 the situation had become so bad in Tibet that Dalai Lama the spiritual head of Tibet along with 80,000 of his followers fled and sought political asylum in India.

On the western edge of this huge landmass /plateau of Tibet ,is situated Ladakh of India ,which often gives the visitors of a feeling of being in Mini Tibet, and worth remembering that Lhasa ,the capital is just 1500kms from Leh .Ladakhi people share many aspects of their lives with their Tibetan counterparts viz ethnicity,religion----The mystical Vajrayana form of Buddhism ,crops...mainly barley, food such as barley based Tsampa flour and the slightly alcoholic chhang to name a few. A piece of history that needs remembering is that it was not Buddhist Tibet that brought about a primarily Buddhist Ladakh ,instead Buddhism travelled from India via Kashmir and Ladakh to Tibet.It was only in 13th century that Ladakh became ,so to say subordinated to Tibet in religious terms .My interest in Tibetans settled in India more so in Ladakh was triggered by the fact that I had a close interaction with this race when I was in the army and had a stint in SFF(Special frontier force) the so called nucleus of Tibetan national army ,officered by Indian army officers on deputation. This interest in Tibetans took a fillip when during my course of interaction with them I came to know their trials and tribulations ,as also their flight from Tibet to most humiliating and unceremonious manner overnight crossing hazardous terrains with Chinese border guards often hotly on their trail.

Following the Chinese occupation of Tibet in 1959, about 80,000 Tibetans fled their homeland along with their spiritual head the Dalai Lama. At the request of the then PM Nehru various states leased lands to the Tibetans including J&K among them. Starting from Tezu in Assam,Tuting ,Walong in Arunachal Pradesh ,Manju ka tila in Delhi ,Mungod in Karnatka and Dharamshala in Himachal to name a few ,Tibetans have spread all over India and have to a large extent been Indianised too. It is also during this time that a sizable numbers of Tibetans started migrating to Ladakh coming to dominate all other older races here such as the Dards. All these Tibetans have now settled in TRCS(Tibetan refugee camps) spread over the length and breadth of India. But over the last 7 years or so the community strength has dropped by about 44% from around 1.5 lakhs in 2011 to about 85,000 according to

HISTORY

Forgotten sentinels of LADAKH

the GOI data available from time to time, with most opting to migrate to US,UK and Switzerland. One of the major reasons being that Tibetans are not officially recognized as refugees in India ,but as foreigners. On top of it India has not signed the UN convention on refugees making their recognition as refugees all the more difficult. There are about 7500 Tibetan refugees in Ladakh region ,3000 in Choglamsar on the outskirts of Leh town with rest about 2500 scattered around the nomadic region of jangthang and Sonamling area . The Tibetan settlement in Choglamsar area was started in 1960 with the blessings of HH Dalai Lama ,who gave it the name as Sonamling Tibetan settlement.

All these areas are administered by home department of Central Tibetan administration and have agro based work ,but due to harsh climatic conditions the produce is hardly worth the effort .As far as NGO's work-

ruling Delhi .Their real worth was identified, and harnessed by the British during the early part of the Great Game in the early 19th century ,when successive viceroys from Lord Dalhousie to Elgin to Lord Curzon played unflinching faith and trust in them and employed them in scouting /reconnaissance and allied tasks across the mighty Karakorums, Himalayas and the Hindukush mountain ranges to survey the high passes ,record the routes etc which a Czarist Russian army could undertake as part of their expansionist designs to advance into India ,the Jewel of British crown. Cut to the present times this community has proved its worth in the early days of Operation Meghdoot in the Siachen glacier area ,when the Indian army was making its initial forays into the highest battle ground of the world. Even today a major portion of SFF is stationed there as' Sentinels of the north' keep-



ing here are concerned ,its primarily the Tibetan youth congress and Tibetan women's association for the upliftment of the community. The settlements invariably have an SOS children's school and Mentsekhong Tibetan medical center which cater to basic medical emergencies in the camps .The Sonamling settlement camp initially started with 617 inhabitants who were basically nomads from the western Tibetan region bordering Ladakh. The Sonamling Tibetan camp is a cluster of 11 scattered villages with each settlement known by a numerical .In the Sonamling area ,the camp number 3 ,is the capital/hub of all the administrative echelons to include the vocational training centers, cooperative societies ,schools etc ,making it the most sought after area .The average distance between each settlement is about 3 to 4 kms, with the outermost being 13 to 14 kms away from the nodal center. Similarly the Jamthang settlement area was established in 1982 from nomadic groups of traditional herders who moved with their livestock in the initial years. The Tibetan settlement at Changthang is located at 9 different places such as Hanley, Chumur, Sumdho, Niyma, Samedh, Puga, Kharnak etc to name a few. The whole area is at an elevation of about 3000 meters and is one of the least developed one. Being highlanders ,the Tibetans have naturally large lungs with greater capacity to intake oxygen and hence adapt to Ladakhi terrain very easily.

Notwithstanding the above ,the Tibetans have taken to Ladakh as their own home away from home. This community has always been at the forefront in guarding the frontiers of our country no matter what empire was

ing a hawk's eye on the enemy .Despite all these sacrifices in all the years gone by ,the Tibetans have been repeatedly short shrifted by various governments of the day with their valor having gone more or less unrecognized and their existence depending upon the whims and fancies of the local administration under whose jurisdiction their settlements come. Since their identity is under a cloud, even after 60 years of stay in India, consequently all the social benefit schemes doled out by the GOI doesn't touch them even by a remote chance.

Though at the time of fleeing from his own homeland, His Holiness Dalai Lama on 17th of March 1959, had various options to choose from to take a political asylum ,in so far as the country of refuge was concerned ,but the fact that he chose India must have been guided by his sense of attachment for the religion he belonged to as well as the country of origin of the religion-india. But what great travesty of justice that our country has under punched in providing succor to these hapless people at all stages of their stay here. Last but not the least the aim of my writing for this community was prompted way back in 1995/96, when on R&R(Rest and relief) after my Siachen tenure at Leh, I happen to visit the Choglamsar Tibetan camp to have a first hand view of their living conditions and came back utterly disenchanted by the way things were there. Any way as somebody has rightly said -After every dark night there is a bright dawn , hope GOI wakes up from its slumber and looks after its guests in the way they should be looked after.

(The writer is a Retired Col from the Army)

HEALTHLINES

A word of precaution for the dentists

Dr Parveen Lone

In dental practice Microorganisms may be inhaled, implanted, splashed onto skin or mucosal surfaces. They can spread by direct contact from one person to other or indirectly through instruments and equipments. The majority of procedures undertaken in dentistry generate aerosols. Infectious agents can spread by airborne transmission through respiratory droplets (droplets > 5 microns in size) generated by a patient when he is coughing, sneezing, talking and large droplets (splash and splatter). This is particularly the case as in dentistry the care provider has to operate in close proximity to the patient using droplet and aerosol generating procedures and it has implications in terms of how close items such as open boxes, gloves, or other materials or instruments are placed to the source of contamination like patient's mouth or instrument washing sink.

Standard precautions are essential when cleaning the dental surgery environment, handling items contaminated with saliva (e.g. radiographs, dentures, orthodontic appliances, wax rims and other prosthetic work that have been in a patient's mouth), handling blood, saliva

For asymptomatic carriers there is a dilemma regarding dental management of these symptomless infectious individuals of COVID 19. On one hand, aerosol generating or potentially cough or vomit inducing dental procedures increases the risk of cross-infection whilst on the other hand patients' well-being is compromised if treatment is not delivered. Treatment planning and work practice can therefore be modified to prevent Cross infection. Special precautions can be as follows.

Measures for controlling droplets and aerosol

Control the gag, cough and vomit reflex. By proper patient positioning and behaviour management the patient should be relaxed and comfortable.

Retraction and suction must be performed with care

Intra-oral radiographs, especially bite wing and posterior films, may stimulate the gag reflex and one may consider using extra-oral views for screening purposes e.g. the OPG or the oblique lateral views. Trays may need to be adjusted for impression taking. Very sensitive patients may require anaesthesia of the oral mucosa before impression taking.

Patients suffering from traumatic injuries may have a significant amount of blood in the oral cavity. The reflexes may be induced if blood is swallowed or aspirated so effective evacuation is important

The use of pre-procedural mouthwash

Use of rubber dam isolation

Aerosol and splatter generation is inevitable when ultrasonic scalers, rotary brushes and air prophylactics are used. If conditions dictate, manual scaling and brushing should be used as similar clinical results could be obtained without aerosol generation.

Avoid the use of rotary hand pieces for operative procedures if possible. In selected cases, procedures such as chemo chemical caries removal or atraumatic restorative technique (ART) may be useful.

Minimise the use of a 3-in-1 syringe as this may create droplets due to forcible ejection of water/air.

Rotary instruments are used only after taking all universal precautions to prevent cross infection.

Dilution and removal of contaminated ambient air

This could be performed through using one or more of the following measures High volume evacuation (HVE). HVE prevents or minimises the dispersion of infectious droplet nuclei into the air by removing them at the source as they are emitted. It is important that the filters in the suction apparatus are cleaned General ventilation. Clinics where air-conditioning is not available all windows should be kept open to encourage natural ventilation as much as possible.

The air quality may be improved by controlling the airflow patterns. The ventilation systems should be designed such that fresh incoming air mixes with and dilutes the contaminated ambient air and the mixture is then removed by an exhaust system.

Disinfect air/aerosol generated by Ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI)

It damages the DNA of microbes rendering them non-infectious and is effective against a wide range of airborne pathogen Sanitisation of the dental clinic regularly



Other safety measures

Design of premises the design of the premises, the layout of the dental surgery and treatment areas are important factors in implementing successful infection control

The dental operatory and instrument reprocessing rooms must have clearly defined clean and contaminated zones

The contaminated zone is the area which becomes contaminated by splashes and droplets originating from patients mouth (typically within distance of 1.8meters) because Aerosol generated from patient can extend further than splashed material and also instrument cleaning area

The Clean Zone of dental clinic includes office, staff area, waiting and reception, areas used for storage of supplies and sterilised instrument & equipment

After gloving, staff may move from the clean zone to the contaminated zone but never the reverse direction, workflow for instruments and materials must be from the clean zone to the contaminated zone.

Computer keyboards in the dental operatory may harbour microorganisms and should be covered in treatment areas, and regularly cleaned in non-treatment areas. Patient notes written by hand or electronically must follow a protocol which prevents environmental contamination of the hard copy notes or computer keyboard.

Eating and common room areas for dental staff must be separate from patient treatment area. Lunchroom crockery must not be washed in the hand wash sinks or in instrument wash basins.

Food must not be stored in a refrigerator with dental materials, sealed clinical specimens or medical products such as drugs or blood to prevent cross contamination

Inanimate objects such as toys and other decorative items act as fomites and can spread infections through indirect contact. For this reason, it is prudent to wipe down the hard surfaces of all decorative items in reception and waiting areas on a periodic basis using alcohol based chemicals sprays or detergents and water

Cleaning the environment Equipments and instruments; Floors, walls and curtains pose a risk of disease transmission in a dental practice and must be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition, the practice should develop a schedule to ensure areas including floors, window sills, door handles, and telephone handsets, solid surfaces in the waiting room, Walls, blinds and window curtains in patient care areas must be cleaned daily

Equipment: Surfaces of dental units must be impervious as they may become Working surfaces in the contaminated zone and must be cleaned after every patient by wiping the surface with a neutral detergent or disinfectants like alcohol or hypochlorite solutions based sprays .

Instruments

All used instruments should be dipped in H2o2, hypochlorite or alcohol to remove the infected debris and wiped with gauge and sterilised using autoclaving, hot air oven ,glass bead sterilisers and formalin chambers as per guidelines

Separate instrument kits for each appointed patient should be autoclaved separately and all instruments and material should be dispensed before treatment to avoid cross contamination.

Management and Disposal of sharps

Used disposable needle syringe empty cartridges of LA solution, burs, needles, scalp blades, orthodontic bands, endodontic files and other single-use sharp items must be discarded in an approved clearly labelled, puncture and leak-proof containers directly. Bags and containers for medical waste should be appropriately colour coded and labelled as biohazard or medical waste and removed by a licensed contractor. Medical waste and hazardous chemical waste (which includes some blood, saliva, chemicals and mercury) must never be disposed of at local refuse tips that use compaction of an open landfill.

ADA's Guidelines for Infection control contains a significant number of additions to the second edition published in 2012. In addition to the above all protocol.

In addition to above all protocol prescribed of covid 19 may be followed like Use of PPE which including gowns/over garment, hair covers, N95/99, face masks, waterproof aprons, boots or shoe cover, goggles, face shield and head cover Keeping effective screening protocols, providing hand sanitizer & facemask to patient and attendants, physical distancing, prior appointment by telephone, limiting the no attendants with patient to avoid crowding in waiting areas.

It is the duty of all of us to maintain a safe practice and environment to prevent cross infection by following the universal precautions.

The author is Prof & Head Oral & Maxillofacial surgery (OMFS) Indira Gandhi Government Dental College Jammu (IGGDCJ)

Learn to live with virus

Friends before I start one point I would like to make clear. VIRUS is not going anywhere soon. We can't live lock downed for ever. We must " Learn to Live with Virus" along side new Normals till vaccine/ cure arrive.

Yesterday on my way back home from duty, I saw a bakery shop opened. It was a big pleasant surprise for me. I immediately stopped and went for buying some. This shop was in rural area. I placed my order. The Baker immediately started grabbing my wishlist. He didn't wash his hands. No gloves,



was scratching his body. He was wiping his sweat with Parna (Shoulder hung long handkerchief). No hand washing/ Hygiene etiquatte. I felt disgusted and expressed same to him. Poor Baker was clueless. He was doing everything as he used to do before

lockdown. Now I realised Post lockdown my mind-set is changed. Similarly post lockdown there will be many "New Normals".

Friends there will be many New Normals post lockdown. We better get acquainted to them fast. Allow me to share new Normals which will change our daily routine life.

Friends our Wardrobe is soon going to have an addition - Facemask. Now on roads almost everyone will be using Facemask. It's going to be matching or may be designer. Already fashion houses are coming out with matching Facemasks.

School uniforms will make facemasks compulsory.

Schools/Colleges will be forced to devise some strategy to ensure Social Distancing. No body will like their ward studying in crowded classrooms.

Even for school/ college transport, parents will think twice sending their children in crowded vehicles. Another new Normal which emerged is online teaching. Lockdown has provided good mock exercise toward online teaching and it's a turning out to be a Hit.

Readers our functions, social gatherings all are going to be arranged keeping Social Distancing in mind.

Routine functions at home where distancing is not feasible will be discouraged. Marriage, birth-day, funeral, Uthalla etc all going to be tailored in accordance to public/ Government consent.

Our offices are not planned keeping Social distancing in mind. It's going to be big headache man-

aging public - Official interaction. Routine heavy rush at Counters/ Desks are going to a great Personal Relationship challenge.

Eating out in Restaurants is going to decline. Public will prefer home-cooked or Take away food. I strongly feel Innovation which will ensure infection free kitchen etc will be promoted. Advertising agencies will be coming out with such advertisements shortly.

A big change will be seen in relation to Air Conditioning at public places. As it was observed at

Wuhan Virus travelled more distance than documented few meters with the help of direction of AC air and some families got infected. Researches are coming regarding Central Air Conditioning vs Window Air-conditioning which one is better in relationship to virus. Doctors and patients management is going to be a huge challenge.

Our country second is most populated having population of 1.33 billion. How

doctors shall proceed for examination is going to be interesting. Soon ICMR will come out with guidelines. Procedures producing aerosol like the one rendered by Dental surgeons is going to have new Normal too

Here we must talk about Beauty Parlours, Gyms, Tattoo Parlours, Hair salons etc. There will be advisories for them too.

Especially in procedures where instruments like Blades, Scissors etc are used. Sterilisation at these places is going to be new Normal.

Travelling is going to change as well. A big challenge. Social Distancing in trains, buses, Matadors, Rikshaw etc. No one will like to sit in close proximity. Lifts will come out with notice like x number in one go and it will be much less than before. Patience is going to be tested under New Normals.

Annual religious gatherings has to be planned in accordance to new guidelines. Already Amarnath Yatra is undecided and Haj is not going to take place this year. Similarly public must adapt for Religious travelling according to New Normal.

Sports activities are going to have a body blow. Imagine Olympics, World Cups, IPL etc being played closed door in empty Stadiums. Only live telecast, no audience. It's definitely going to be a new Normal.

Soon for job employment or any other admission along with other certificate another certificate will be needed- Antibody Titter test report. Just to make sure one has Immunity and can't infect others.

Friends until and unless vaccine/ cure arrives let's start following New Normals and " Learn to Live with Virus"

(The author is Dental Surgeon Government Health Services Government of J&K)

THINK OVER IT

Dr Kapil K Sharma