

ICMR approves kit for home testing

NEW DELHI, May 20: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has approved a rapid antigen test (RAT) kit to conduct the COVID-19 test at home.

The self-testing CoviSelf kit, also known as CoviSelfTM (PathoCatch) COVID-19 OTC Antigen LF device, is manufactured by the Pune-based Mylab Discovery Solutions Ltd.

ICMR approved the kit on Wednesday.

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Sonia for free education to orphaned kids

NEW DELHI, May 20: Congress president Sonia Gandhi today urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide free education in Navodaya Vidyalayas to children orphaned due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In her letter, Sonia Gandhi said the nation owes it to children to give them hope and provide them a robust future after their tragedy.

"I am writing to request you to consider providing free education

(Contd on page 9 Col 7)

IT to launch new e-filing portal

NEW DELHI, May 20: The Income Tax Department is expected to launch a new e-filing web portal for taxpayers,

which they use to file routine ITRs and perform other tax-related works, early next month, officials said today.

The existing web portal will be shut for six days between June 1-6.

Officials said the new portal will be made more user-friendly.

(Contd on page 9 Col 7)

Make black fungus notifiable disease: Centre to States/UTs

NEW DELHI, May 20: The Union Health Ministry has urged States and Union Territories to make black fungus or mucormycosis a notifiable disease under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, stating that the infection is leading to prolonged morbidity and mortality amongst COVID-19 patients.

The Ministry, in a letter, said that in the recent times a new challenge in the form of a fungal infection namely mucormycosis has emerged and is reported from many States amongst COVID-19 patients, especially those on steroid therapy and deranged sugar control.

(Contd on page 9 Col 3)

Govt extends ITR deadline till Sept 30

NEW DELHI, May 20: The Government today extended the due date of filing Income Tax Returns for 2020-21 for individuals by two months till September 30.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has also extended the ITR filing deadline for companies by a month till November 30.

As per the income tax law, for individuals whose accounts are not required to be audited and who usually file their income tax return

(Contd on page 9 Col 5)

Officials asked to record spread among youth

COVID challenge remains as long as infection even at minor scale exists: PM

NEW DELHI, May 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today asked officials to record the spread of coronavirus infection and its seriousness among the youth and children, and cautioned that the challenge posed by COVID-19 will remain as long as it is present even at a "minor scale" in the country.

In his second round of interaction with District Magistrates and field officials on the pandemic, Modi spoke about concerns in various quarters about any spread of infection in the

young generation due to mutations in the virus and asked officials to analyse the statistics in their districts. They will have to be better prepared for the future, he said.

There have been reports that

(Contd on page 9 Col 1)

Cases cross one lakh in Jammu, recoveries more than new positives

Sr. Physician, SI, many youth among 41 die of COVID

Deaths, cases surge in rural areas across region

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, May 20: There was no let up in COVID casualties in Jammu and Kashmir with 67 persons succumbing to the virus and 4169 getting infected. Jammu region reported 41 casualties and 1518 fresh cases. New positives have taken total cases in the Jammu beyond one lakh while for second consecutive day today number of recoveries was more than the new cases.

Jammu region's total cases today crossed one lakh mark and stood at 1,00,710. Among them, 20916 were active positive cases as 78182 have recovered from the virus and there have been 1612 casualties.

As against 1518 fresh cases, 1533 persons recovered from the virus today.

Dr Inderjyot, Senior Physician hailing from Jammu and Kashmir and presently posted in erstwhile Kashmir House at

Chandigarh as Liaison Officer, died due to COVID-19 at PGI Chandigarh. He was 52. His wife had recently recovered from the virus.

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Non-local worker succumbs, 134 test +ve in Ladakh

Last year, as a Liaison Officer in Chandigarh, Dr Inderjyot was instrumental in assisting many students and other people from Jammu and Kashmir, who were stranded at Chandigarh, to reach their homes.

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COVID-19 in the Government Medical College (GMC) Rajouri within hours of hospitalization.

Many young persons continued to lose battle to COVID-19 across the Jammu region.

A 23-year-old girl from Saloon in Reasi district succumbed to the virus in the GMC Jammu while 25-year-old woman from Joura Thathri died in the GMC Doda. A 31-year-old youth from Kachi Chavni passed away in the GMC

■ Pic on page 9

Jammu and a 32-year-old youth hailing from Sokar Kandi in Rajouri district also breathed his last in the GMC Rajouri while 36-year-old woman from Shakti Nagar died in the GMC Jammu.

Significantly, all of them had no co-morbidities and died of COVID Pneumonia and related complications.

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DB seeks details of buildings, illegal structures in Gulmarg

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 20: High Court today directed the various departments concerning with the Gulmarg tourist resort to come up with a fresh affidavit indicating therein the position of all existing buildings, details of such buildings as also the unauthorized structures and any action taken so far against violators and reiterated its ban on any construction in and around the resort.

Hearing a Public Interest Litigation on protection and preservation of the environs of the resort, the Division Bench of Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul directed the Gulmarg Development Authority, Tourism Department, Revenue Department, Forest Department

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2 siblings, OGW arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 20: Jammu and Kashmir Police today arrested two brothers along with 6 live grenades in main market in North Kashmir's Kupwara district. An Over Ground Worker (OGW) of a militant outfit was also arrested in Kupwara.

Police said that based on a specific information regarding the movement of some individuals, Kupwara police established a special Naka in Kupwara main market.

"During the searches two persons were found in suspicious condition and on seeing the search party they tried to escape from the spot. However, they were chased and apprehended", police said.

The apprehended persons on preliminary questioning disclosed their identity as Jahangir Ahmad Hajam son of Mangta Hajam and

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'Trial court not expected to act as Post Office' HC directs for framing charges in 2010 rioting, unlawful assembly

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 20: High Court has directed the trial court to frame charges against the persons accused for committing offences of unlawful assembly, rioting, endangering human life etc in the year 2010 and asked them to approach the trial court for grant of bail in these offences within one month.

The instant petition was preferred by the prosecution against the order dated 27.07.2010 passed by the court of Additional Sessions Judge, Baramulla by virtue of which the 11 persons involved in the offences have been discharged for commission of offences under Sections 302, 307 RPC and Section 3 of the Public Properties

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Excelsior/Rakesh

Schools warned, family booked for violating SOP

26 die in Kashmir, 2651 test +ve

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, May 20 : Kashmir today reported 26 fresh deaths due to COVID-19 infection and 2651 tested positive for the virus taking the Jammu and Kashmir death toll to 3422.

Those who died include a 72-year-old woman from Alochi Bagh Srinagar, a 70-year-old woman from Tral, a 59-year-old woman from Bomai Sopore, two elderly women from Aung and Qazigund in district Anantnag, a 56-year-old man from Humpora Baramulla, a 70-year-old man from Pampore and a 75-year-old Nowpora Srinagar.

Those who tested positive include 674 from Srinagar, 333 Baramulla, 393 Budgam, 187 Pulwama, 206 Kupwara, 255 Anantnag, 215 Bandipora, 117 Ganderbal, 206 Kulgam and 65 from Shopian in Kashmir.

As per officials figures, 60,540 positive cases including 715 deaths and 52,872 recoveries are from Srinagar, 19,056 including 230 deaths and 15,855 recoveries are from Baramulla, 17,656 including 13,119 recoveries and 161 deaths are from Budgam, 11,372 including 8,689 recoveries and 147 deaths are from Pulwama, 10,012 including 130 deaths and 8,042 recoveries are from Kupwara, 12,497 including 8,018

recoveries and 143 deaths are from Anantnag, 7,552 cases including 6,328 and 82 deaths are from Bandipora, 7,401 including 6,267 recoveries and 65 deaths are from Ganderbal, 8,469 including 4,992 recoveries and 88 deaths are from Kulgam and 4,792 including 3,717 recoveries and 49 deaths are from Shopian.

The number of cases in Kashmir division has reached 159,347 including 127,899 recoveries and 1,810 deaths.

The number of active cases in Jammu and Kashmir has reached 206,081 which is 79.24 percent of the total cases.

And the Corona curfew imposed by the Government continued for the 21st day today across Kashmir while police arrested 216 persons and also realized fine to the tune of Rs 1,98,190 for norms violation in the Valley.

Police and paramilitary troops were deployed in large numbers to enforce the lockdown restrictions. The barricades and concertina wires were erected at many places to prevent public movement.