# • Tuesday • June 30, 2020 STATETIMES 3

# GMC Jammu increases COVID-19 testing by 39.33 p c in a day

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Stepping COVID-19 testing, up the Microbiology Department of Government Medical College, Jammu on Monday achieved yet another milestone by carrying out more than 2143 tests in a day, through introduction of partial automation yesterday, 843 samples more than the daily average of 1300 samples per day during the past two months, thus accounting for an increase of 39.33 percent.

Testing of a substantial figure of 70,840 samples till date in the VRDL GMC Jammu has become possible only due to the strenuous

efforts of clinical microbiologists, research scientists, laboratory technicians, para-medicos, and connected staff, who have been working upto 18 hours a day since the outbreak of the pandemic. Besides, more than 1,20,000 tests, including screening and confirmatory runs, have also been carried out by the same dedicated, limited task force, as the test is technically very demanding and needs expertise and all these endeavours by the team have been carried out with a missionary zeal. As per Dr. Shashi S.

GMC, Jammu, who is also Principal Investigator and Nodal Officer VRDL. ICMR and DHR, was assigned an additional responsibility of getting the Command Hospital Udhampur initiat-ed into COVID 19 testing lab. The Microbiology Department is in the process of training and building human resource for new medical colleges to decentralize the enormous work load on account of the COVID-19 testing, besides routine testing of Dengue, Swine Flu, Hepatitis and other such contagious and other emerging novel agents. Sharma, the Head of Microbiology Department, Microbiology The

Department is endeavouring

## Zahoor gets addl charge of DC Bandipora

Deputy

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government relieved Monday on Ravinder Kumar from Deputy charge of Commissioner Bandipora and directed him to report to his new place of posting. In order, government said that the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Ravinder Kumar who was under orders of transfer from UT of JK to UT of Ladakh has been relieved

with immediate effect. relieved with immediate "It is hereby ordered that effect with further direction to report to his new place of Ravinder Kumar, IAS Commissioner, posting, forthwith," the order stated. Bandipora, under orders of transfer from UT of J&K to

The order further stated UT of Ladakh, until fur-ther orders or till final allothat consequent upon the above, Zahoor Ahmad, KAS, Additional Deputy cation by the Central Government under section Commissioner, Bandipora shall look after the work of 88 (4) of the Jammu and Kashmir Re-organisation Commissioner, Deputy Act, 2019, in terms of the Bandipora, in addition to his own duties, till further order under reference, shall be deemed to have been orders

## Durga Saptshati Paath conclude at Vaishno Devi Shrine

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Durga Saptshati Paath, Pooja and Havan organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board at the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi during Gupt Navratras for peace, prosperity and health of humanity, concluded on Monday with Purna Ahuti, on the auspicious occasion of Navami.

Besides the Durga Saptshati Paath, Pooja and Havan, 1.25 lakh Navarna Mantra Jaap was also performed during the Gupt Navratras.

It is pertinent to mention that in view of the COVID-19, the Yatra to the Holy Cave Shrine has been suspended w.e.f. 18 March 2020. However, pooja, aarti and other rituals at the Shrine are being performed as usual.

observance of all necessary guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures. As per the official data received on Monday in this regard, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has received 68 special trains at Jammu and Udhampur railway stations from different states

and UTs, so far, with about

55,325 passengers while

about 1,17,403 persons

hard to increase the number

of testing keeping in view

the emergent situation in

the wake of pandemic with a

sense of urgency. Calibrated

steps are being taken up bal-

ancing the concerns of biosafety and quality with

the lab participating in a

mandatory external quality

assurance/proficiency test-

ing as per ICMR guidelines with NIV Pune, NCDC

PGIMER Chandigarh and

According to Dr. Shashi,

"VRDL GMC Jammu is

next only to SKIMS, Soura

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and

Kashmir Government has

evacuated about 1,72,728

JK residents, stranded in

other parts of the country due to COVID lockdown,

through special trains and

buses till date amid strict

and

via Lakhanpur

AIIMS Delhi,

Delhi,

SKIMS Soura.

### in testing, in the UT of J&K. SKIMS is our Referral the challenge posed by VRDL Lab for the UT of COVID 19 pandemic. Govt evacuates 1,72,728 stranded J&K residents

work

Department

from other states and UTs including 657 from abroad have been evacuated by the government through Lakhanpur till date.

Jammu & Kashmir with

enormous state of the art

VRDL GMC Jammu has

been successful in overcom-

ing many of the initial infra-

startup hiccups and related

miscellaneous hardships in a

very professional manner

with collective approach of all stakeholders. With the

ongoing upgradation of

infrastructure and creation

of an academic vibe and

culture,

Microbiology, GMC, Jammu

is now fully geared to meet

and

the

deficiencies,

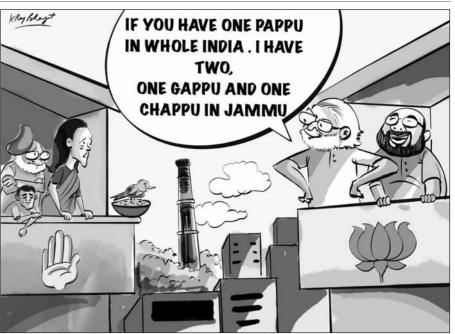
infrastructure

resources

structural

As per the detailed breakup of the figures, about 1362 stranded passengers have entered through Lakhanpur from June 28 to June 29 mornings while 832 passengers have reached today in the 47th Delhi COVID special train at Jammu. So far, 47 trains have

reached Jammu with a total of 39,629 stranded passengers belonging to different districts while 15,696 passengers have reached Udhampur in 21 special trains, so far.



## **DGP releases Ajay Vaid's book**

tive to be self-employed.

self-employed.

job opportunities.

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Director General of Police (DGP), J&K, Dilbag Singh on Monday released a book titled 'Self Employability/ Employability Skills: A Special Reference to J and K' written by Ajay Vaid and coauthored by Manjeet Singh at Police Headquarters, here. On the occasion IGP Jammu Mukesh Singh was also present.

The DGP said that the narrative of the book is to create awareness among the unemployed youth of J&K who can be self-employed.

"The book will be of great help for the people of J&K especially unemployed youth and many others," he said.

DGP congratulated the author and said that this book would be useful for all

Thaper, Director Racemix

Molecules Pvt. Ltd. from

Anphar Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.

side to jointly work to identify

the route of synthesis on one

side and scaling up the produc-

It was further stated that the

objective of this work was to

synthesize the Favipiravir from

indigenously produced chemi-

make the treatment affordable

tion on the other side.

to the people of India.

DGP J&K, Dilbag Singh along with others releasing a book those who are taking initia-This is the authors 4th book, earlier he has written a The book has been pre-'Tourism book on Destinations in India' in pared to create knowledge and awareness about being 2011, second book he has written on 'Exams, Job, Career and burning environ-The book provides certain guidelines for readers as to ment issues' in the year 2012 and last year he has written a what are basic needs for book titled "Beyond Alcoholism & Drug Addiction" which was also starting their own business like hospitality, communication, entrepreneurship and

released by the DGP J&K.

Wuhan and Shenzhen. Anil

Gupta further informed that

the company is in negotiations

with few Indian multinational

companies for the supply of this

COVID-19 drug for formulat-

ing it into finished dosage form.

Power shutdown

JAMMU: According to Chief

Engineer, (Distribution)

JPDCL, Jammu, the power

supply to Denis Gate, Prem

Nagar, Part of Jewel and its

adjoining areas fed from 33

KV G-4 line emanating from

220/132/33 KV Grid Station

Gladni shall remain affected

9:00 AM

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

## **Congress stages protest against fuel price hike** IIIM, Anphar Labs develop process of COVID-19 drug

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Congress on Monday staged a protest here against the rise in petrol and diesel prices and demanded that the government roll back the hikes immediately to relieve the people of the "extra burden".

Led by former minister and Pradesh Congress Committee vice president Raman Bhalla, scores of party activists and leaders assembled outside the party headquarters at Shaheedi Chowk and later took out a march. The protesters headed to the office of the Jammu Deputy Commissioner at Wazarat Road and submitted a memorandum addressed to the President of India, party spokes person Ravinder Sharma said. The protest was organised as part of a nationwide call given by the Congress

to express the anger of the neo-Prom



Congress leaders protesting against fuel price hike in Jammu. participated in the rally includ-

ple against the rising prices of essential commodities.

ed former minister and district "Similar protests were also president Jammu urban organised at district headquar-Yogesh Sawhney, vice president ters across Jammu region," he Kanta Bhan, General secretary said. In a symbolic protest, the Manmohan Singh, Congress party workers rode two horse Corporators of Jammu and carts and raised slogans leaders of Mahila Congress, youth Congress, NSUI and against the central government. Seva Dal activists, Sharma

nt among others y

tral government of putting burden on the extra people by raising fuel prices amid the coronavirus crisis.

"The unprecedented hike is unjustified at a time when the prices of crude oil are at their owest." he said

Addressing the gathering, Raman Bhalla said that Modi Govt. is fleecing the people by imposing heavy taxes.

"When BJP assume power in 2014 the excise duty was 9.20 per litre on petrol and Rs. 3.46 per litre on diesel, whereas in six years it has increased it to Rs. 23.78 per litre on petrol and 28.37 per litre on diesel. This shocking 820% hike on diesel and 258% on petrol," he said.

Later the leaders submitted a memorandum to the president of India through the district magistrate Jammu.

#### LG greets KPs on birth anniversary of Mata

**Roop Bhawani** 

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS** CSIR-Indian JAMMU:

of Integrative Institute Medicines, Jammu and Anphar Laboratories Private Limited, a Jammu based Pharma Company, have jointly developed synthetic lab process of Favipiravir, which has been found as a potential treatment for coronavirus. Giving the detail of the work carried out, Ram Vishwakarma, Director, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu and Anil Gupta, Managing Director, Anphar Laboratories in a joint press statement issued here said that this project was undertaken jointly by IIIM and Anphar Laboratories immediately after the first lockdown

was announced. "Considering the emergent sit uation of COVID-19, we decided to devise some mechanism to cals to make it cost effective to immediately develop the lab process of Favipiravir at CSIR-IM and simultaneously scale

Dr. Parvinder Singh, Principal Scientist, Dr. Bhawal Ali Shah, Sr. Scientist, Dr. Mukesh Kumar (SRF), Rohit Singh (SRF). Maninder Singh process (Project fellow) from IIIM, side and Ankit Gupta, Technical Director and Dr. Rajesh

was extremely difficult.

However, they successfully finally developed the novel technology The most important achieveplished in this case.

Pertinently the Favipiravir, also known as T-705, Avigan an antiviral drug was first developed by Toyama Chemical (Fujifilm group) of Japan.

was being studied in China f

ing on the project said that the experimental treatment of the task was even more challenging emergent COVID-19 (novel due to the lockdown condition, coronavirus) disease. On March 17 Chinese officials suggested as the procurement of different chemicals from outside the state the drug had been effective in treating COVID patients in

overcome so many obstacles and Favipiravir. About the chemical process involved, it was said that it is extremely complex as it involves 12 stages including some serious hazardous steps. ment of the process is that not even a single chemical/raw material is imported thus objective of Atamnirbharta is accom-

on June 30 from 6:00 AM to

In February 2020 this drug

up the process at the manufacturing at company site in Gangyal Industrial Area," they said. Accordingly, they said, a joint team was constituted with

## **Advisor Baseer reviews Amarnath Yatra arrangements**

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan on Monday reviewed arrangements made for the smooth conduct of Shri Amarnathji Yatra, 2020 commencing from next month at a high level meeting of officers here. Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, PK Pole, IGP Deputy Kashmir. Commissioner Srinagar, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag and representative of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board joined the meeting through video conferencing.

The Advisor reviewed the status of all the arrangements like clearing of track, installation of lights, water tanks, toilets, generators, PSPs, Public Address System, communication tow-

ers and road signages before the scheduled date. Baseer Khan also enquired

about deployment of medical teams, fire tenders, oxygen booths, temporary ration depots and service providers like tents, beddings, ponies and Palkiwalas for the yatra. He stressed that no dearth of essentials should be felt either by vatris or administrative facilitators deployed there.

Deputy All the Commissioners gave a detailed brief of the arrangements being made by their respective administrations. The Advisor was apprised by the DCs that most of the

arrangements have already been done at the Holy cave and enroute for the yatra and now they are giving finishing touches to the arrangements as per the standard practices. He was

further informed that most of the works have been completed or are at the final stages of completion.

said. Sharma accused the cen

concerned DCs The informed the meeting that all the camp locations and facilities required there have already been finalized and worked upon. Moreover, the required men and machinery of all the concerned line departments is ready to move to the locations where they are scheduled to reach along with necessary supplies. The Advisor directed the concerned officers to gear up their men and

machinery to ensure adequate arrangements for the comfortable journey and stay of Yatris.

He asked the concerned departments to make sure that the pilgrims do not face any hardship on account of basic amenities.

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu has extended his heartiest greetings to the Kashmiri Pandit community in J&K and across the globe, celebrating the 400th Birth Anniversary of mystic saint-

philosopher and patron saint of Kashmir, Mata Shree Roop Bhawani.

In this regard, Shri Alakh Sahiba Trust, which looks after various Shrines of Mata Roop Bhawani in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country is launching year long celebrations across the globe from June 29, 2020 and culminating on June 24,2021.

'On this auspicious occasion I wish joyous celebrations to one and all in the community and trust that they shall steadfastly continue to promote and strengthen Mata Roop Bhawani's spiritual values and teachings', he said.

# Judicial fraternity condoles demise of B S Slathia, pays rich tributes

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To condole the sad demise of B.S Slathia, Senior Advocate and former President, J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu, a full Court reference was held on Monday in Chief Justice's Court at Jammu wing of the High Court.

B. S Slathia left for his heavenly abode at the age of 69 on June 27th, 2020 at PGI Chandigarh after a brief illness.

On account of guidelines with regard to measures for containment of COVID-19 pandemic in the country issued by the Government of India and the Government of Union territories of Jammu & Kashmir and in order to avoid gathering as well as to maintain social distancing, the reference was held through Virtual mode.

Justice Rajesh Bindal, Justice Tashi Rabstan, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul and Justice Puneet Gupta attended the reference in Jammu Wing of the High Court while as Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey, Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rainesh Osawal, Justice Sanjay Dhar and Justice Javed Iqbal Wani attended the reference through virtual mode. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Justice Gita Mittal said that B.S Slathia was not only an accomplished lawyer, but a person with rare qualities and a wide public acclaim and had a unique style and led by example making efforts to raise the standards of the Bar exhibiting knowledge, wisdom, fairness and professional commitment. The Chief Justice also said that B.S Slathia was a man with acknowledged strength, knowledge and leadership qualities and was widely respected and was able to handle difficult cases also with ease.

The Chief Justice further added that the untimely demise of Slathia is an irretrievable loss to the legal fraternity as a whole. Chief Justice also said that Slathia was blessed with ability to stand up for

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Chief Justice Gita Mittal along with other Justices paying tributes to B.S Slathia, Senior Advocate and former President, J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu.

his convictions and was known for his constant guidance and help to young lawyers in the profession and large number of promising lawyers in the Jammu Bar owe their very existence in the Bar to the guidance and mentorship that they received from Slathia during their formative days in the profession. Chief Justice Gita Mittal while expressing grief, paid heartfelt tribute to the memory of B.S. Slathia

D.C Raina, Advocate General, and Abhinav Sharma, President Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association, Jammu also addressed the Full Court reference and paid tribute to Advocate B.S Slathia.

Advocate General while recalling the immense contribution of B.S Slathia in the development of law said that Slathia was a Criminal Law expert and had authored and co-authored a number of books on different subjects. Advocate General further added that Adv B.S Slathia was a popular figure in all regions of the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh in general and in legal fraternity in particular and always remained instrumental in bringing a number of positive changes in the legal profession. Advocate General also said that Slathia was a Nationalist and used to be on forefront for advancing the cause of the Bar.

Advocate Abhinav Sharma, during his address, said that B.S Slathia was a professional lawyer and was a great manager of time. He further said that Slathia remained associated with a number of NGOs for larger interest of the society.

Recalling Slathia as a person having immense protocol qualities, Abhinav Sharma said that the level of acceptability of Slathia had no parallel in the Union territories of J&K and Ladakh and during his three terms as Bar President, Slathia always fought for the cause of the lawyer's fraternity especially for the rights of the young lawyers.

Vishal Sharma, Assistant Solicitor General Jammu was also present during the proceedings. A two minute silence was also observed as a mark of respect to the departed soul. Jawad Ahmed, Registrar General conducted the proceedings.

## Div com reviews progress on multi level parking project at Bus Stand

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Sanjeev Verma on Monday visited Jammu Bus Stand and inspected the ongoing works on multi level car parking project there.

He was accompanied by Engineers of Jammu Development Authority, Additional SP, Traffic, senior functionaries of executing agencies and other concerned officers. Divisional Commissioner

and enquired about the work progress. The Project incharge apprised the Div Com of the works completed so far, in progress works besides shared future work plan.

The Commission-er observed

took a round of all the floors and would be completed soon.

Divisional

that the work on three floors of parking areas has almost been completed, all the major works have been completed while some minor allied works are in progress

It was informed that the three floors for parking with capacity of more than 1300 cars are ready to be made operational while work on 4th and 5th floors (commercial spaces) major works have been completed while allied works are in progress.

The executing agencies highlighted issue of labour shortage and the Divisional Commissioner advised them engage local labour to

besides contacting labour from outside UT.

The Divisional Commission-er directed the executing agencies to deploy more labour and expedite the pace of work for timely completion of this prestigious project of Jammu city.

The Divisional Commission-er also directed the executing agencies to expedite the progress of work on road and other allied works for timely completion.

Scienti