

BEACONS OF HOPE A SHOT OF HOPE

Girl drives Covid dead on last journey

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Kolhapur:

Her college lectures having gone online, Priya Patil says she had time on her hands to engage in social work. The avenues for this noble pursuit are plentiful, but who would have thought that the 20-year-old would choose to get behind the wheel of an ambulance and ferry bodies of Covid victims to the crematorium.

A first year science undergraduate at Vivekanand College here, Priya has been transporting the bodies in a 9am-9pm shift from the government-run CPR Hospital and other private hospitals to the Panchaganga crematorium. Not just that, she helps in placing the bodies in the ambulance at the hospital and also assists the Kolhapur municipal corporation staff in preparing the funeral bed at the crematorium. Priya, who lives in the Jadhavwadi area of the city, says her parents supported her in this endeavour. Her father works in an industrial unit in Shirol while her mother is an insurance agent.

“I have been engaged in this work for the past 15 days and have so far ferried around 65 bodies from CPR and other hospitals to the crematorium. I had learnt to drive a car and decided to contribute to society as I had free time after my lectures got over. The ambulance I drive has been donated for Covid service to CPR Hospital by social activist Harshal Surve and garment shop owner Prashant Pop-hale,” she says.

Asked how the experience was initially, Priya says, “When I first donned the PPE kit to drive the ambulance, I was very nervous but somehow managed to keep calm. Now, however, it is a routine job.”



Priya Patil, 20, drives ambulance to ferry bodies of Covid victims to crematorium

