

Kashmir Witnessing Unknown Virus; Children In Grip Of Viral Infection

SRINAGAR: An unknown viral infection has gripped Kashmir Valley where everyday hundreds of children are being taken to different hospitals.

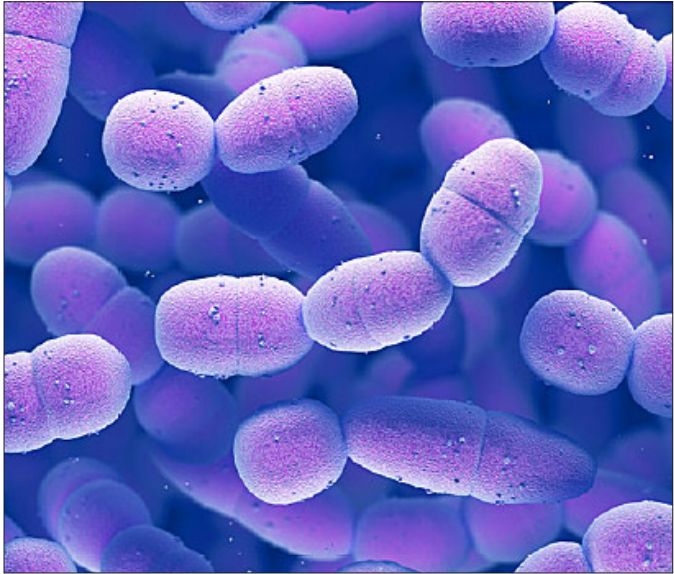
However, doctors have advised people not to panic as the infection they stated could be seasonal and would go away with simple medication.

In the meantime, the rush of viral-infected children has increased manifolds at G B Pant, Kashmir's lone children hospital. "There is a huge rush of patients these days. For past one week, the number of patients in Out Patient Department has exceeded by 1000-1500 per day while the rush in casualty department during night has also risen," said a senior official at the hospital.

He added the infection would go as the weather may start improving from March.

However, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) stated that Kashmir valley is witnessing increase in number of flu cases due to an unusual influenza B virus which puts children at higher risk of having a severe disease said.

"We have seen something this year that we haven't seen in last 27 years which is increase in influenza B virus," said DAK President and flu expert Dr. Nisar ul Hassan.



Dr. Nisar ul Hassan.

"Children are particularly vulnerable to influenza B virus and it can be fatal in them," he said.

Dr. Nisar said the reason that kids are being hit hard this year is because the current influenza B virus hasn't appeared in recent years, so children haven't been exposed to it.

The older adults have been exposed to it more, they have got just more antibodies that protects them. "The last flu season where B strain was dominant was in 1992-93," he

informed.

In every district, both district as well as sub district hospitals are packed with children suffering from viral infection.

A doctor at GB Pant hospital advised parents not to send infected children to tuition centers, which have become main source of spread of viral infection.

He also mentioned the symptoms of the infection as cough, fever, chills, sore throat, headache, fatigue and runny or stuffy nose. **KNT**

Pregnant Women In Kashmir Not Getting Flu Vaccine: DAK

SRINAGAR: "Most of the pregnant women in Kashmir valley are not getting vaccinated against flu," said Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Thursday in a communiqué.

"Despite life-saving benefits of flu vaccine in pregnancy, majority of expectant mothers are unvaccinated," said DAK President and flu expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan.

"The reason why pregnant women are unvaccinated is because they are unaware about the importance of flu vaccine," he said.

"Also, doctors do not offer flu vaccine to expectant mothers putting them and their babies at risk," he added.

Dr Nisar said pregnant women are prone to develop severe illness from flu, which can lead to hospitalization, and even death.

Quoting a study, he said flu vaccine reduces pregnant women's risk of hospitalization by 40%.

"The vaccine in pregnancy saves infants from dying in the womb," Dr Nisar said adding

"a large study has shown that flu vaccine reduces the risk of stillbirths by 51%."

He said there is evidence to suggest that a pregnant woman sick with flu has a greater risk of preterm delivery and that a flu vaccine lessens that risk.

Dr Nisar said mother's flu shot protects her baby up to 6 months after he or she is born, which is important because babies younger than 6 months of age cannot be vaccinated.

"In a paper published in journal Pediatrics it was found that infants born to women vaccinated for the flu were 81% less likely to be hospitalized during their first 6 months of life," he said.

"Flu vaccine is perfectly safe for pregnant women and can be given to pregnant women during any stage of pregnancy. The power of vaccination in pregnancy is a message that should be broadcast far and wide. It is imperative that obstetricians should advocate for flu vaccination and provide flu vaccine to expecting mothers," said Dr Nisar.

Ensure Better Service Delivery At All Levels: Kotwal



SRINAGAR: -Principal Secretary, Department of Revenue, Dr Pawan Kotwal today took stock of people's grievances during a day-long public grievance camp held here today.

During the programme, a large number of deputations and individuals from across Kashmir including, Srinagar, Budgam, Anantnag, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Kulgam, Pulwama, Langate, Shopian, Gurez, Bandipora, Kangan, Kupwara, Uri and other areas met the Principal Secretary and highlighted their issues.

Speaking to officials during the camp, Kotwal asked them to reach out to the people and

address their issues on priority.

"People want better services and public servants must understand that if they provide right time relief to the people, it is going to bring remarkable changes on the ground," he said.

"Officers in their positions of power must understand helping people gives a best satisfaction of their service. That is the service that we are meant to provide to the people of this land," he added.

Meanwhile the Principal Secretary listened to scores of delegations and individuals patiently; assuring their grievances would be addressed as soon as possible.

Public Grievances: People Leave Venue Disappointed After Bureaucrats Fail To Turn Up

SRINAGAR: Scores of people who had arrived here in Kashmir capital Srinagar from far flung areas for the redressal of their grievances left the venue disappointed as the two administrative secretaries failed to attend the 'darbar'.

In a bid to address and listen to the grievances of common people, Government of Jammu and Kashmir had made a schedule for the month of February 2020 public. From different platforms, this initiative on part of the government was given much hype.

In the schedule it was mentioned that administrative secretaries will meet people both in Jammu and Srinagar and will listen and address their grievances. Gandhi Nagar is the venue in Jammu and for the people in Kashmir Valley; they were advised to visit Banquet Hall Srinagar.

The schedule for the hearing of public grievances by the Administrative Secretaries had gone well with the people who welcomed this initiative on part of the government. Every day, one or two administrative secretaries meet people but since Feb 3, when bureaucrats started meeting people,



some administrative secretaries, much to the discomfort of the people failed to turn up.

On Thursday, scores of people from far flung areas had arrived at Banquet Hall Srinagar to meet Principal Secretary to the Government, Revenue Department, Dr Pawan Kotwal and Secretary to the Government, Power Development Department, M.Raju, but both these administrative secretaries didn't turn up.

People were disappointed and left the venue in a huff. "We had arrived from Kutligam Beerwah to highlight the worst power scenario, but the official concerned didn't

arrive at the venue," said Abdul Gani to Kashmir News Trust.

A resident from Aishmuqam Anantnag said that they arrived at the venue at around 9:30- half an hour earlier, but even after waiting for 4 hours, administrative secretary didn't turn up.

When contacted, Secretary to the Government, Power Development Department, M.Raju told KNT that he is in New Delhi in connection with a court case and thus was unable to meet people at Banquet Hall Srinagar. Another Administrative Secretary Dr Pawan Kotwal could not be contacted for his comments. (KNT)

CUK Celebrates Mother Language Day



GANDERBAL: The Directorate of Students Welfare (DSW) celebrated "Matribhasha Diwas" (Mother Language Day) at the varsity's Green Campus here on Thursday.

Students from various departments recited poetry in their mother tongue and subsequently translated it in English and Urdu for the convenience of other participants.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir highlighted the importance of mother tongue, especially Kashmiri, Dogri, Pahadi, Balti, Dard Sheena and other languages spoken across length and breadth of the Jammu and Kashmir. He said that preservation of mother tongue was imperative in order to preserve the culture and ethnicity of a particular area. Prof. Mehraj ud Din Mir said the parents should talk to their children in mother tongue from their formative years. "The parents should ensure that they converse with their children in mother tongue from the

early age so that the child gets well versed with the language," he said.

Dean School of Business Studies, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Shah while addressing the participants said that language, particularly the mother tongue is an important component of any regions culture. "The mother tongue, especially Kashmiri is dying a slow death and the need of the hour is to resurrect it," Prof. Farooq Shah said and urged the participants to start speaking in their mother tongue while socializing.

Welcoming the guests, Deputy Director, DSW, Mr. Faizan Ashraf Mir, said the objective of celebrating the day was to celebrate the cultural diversity of Jammu and Kashmir and encourage usage of mother tongue among students. He said that students of the varsity, from almost all the areas of Jammu and Kashmir where different languages are spoken, are participating in the event.

Family Stages Protest After Woman Dies Inside Operation Theater



SRINAGAR: Attendants of a woman who died inside the operation theater at GMC Anantnag Thursday staged a protest against doctors alleging that the death occurred due to sheer negligence of the doctors.

The family members of the deceased woman Raja Begum of Achabal who were part of the protest told Kashmir News Trust that after sustaining in injury in her leg due to a fall, they admitted Raja Begum (53) in GMC Anantnag on 14th of this month.

"After six days, she was taken to Operation Theater today but to our shock she was declared dead in the middle of the operation. We have apprehension she died of over dose when anesthesia was given to her," the family of deceased said.

They demanded action against the 'erring' medics.

Principal, GMC, Dr Shokat Geelani said that an inquiry will be initiated if family members file a complaint. He added that the deceased seems to having a history of heart ailment. (KNT)

JKPCC, JKHB Languishing projects Complete Works In Double Shifts: Div Com Directs Executing Agencies



SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Bas-eer Ahmad Khan today issued strict directions to the engineers of Jammu & Kashmir Projects Construction Corporation (JKPCC) and Jammu & Kashmir Housing Board (JKHB) to complete the pending works on languishing projects within the given time frame by working in double shift.

The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir issued the direction while chairing a meeting to review the progress on languishing projects being executed by JKPCC and JKHB.

The meeting was informed that 28 works (24 bridges & 4 hospitals) at a cost of Rs 213 crore under languishing projects are being executed by JKPCC on which 70 per cent

construction work has been completed. While, 23 works (21 New Type Primary Health Centres (NTPHC), 1 district hospital and 1 community centre) coming at Rs 39 crore under languishing projects are being executed by JKHB on which 60 per cent construction work stands completed.

The Div Com said that any laxity on this count will invite disciplinary action. JKPCC and JKHB authorities were asked to send monthly progress report, of each work with name and designation of the concerned engineer, to his office.

He reiterated that government is taking all measures to strengthening the developmental infrastructure across the valley for the benefit of people.

DIAL-EMMA



- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

RAILWAYS



- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BUBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

- Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
- Mughal Road - (Closed)
- Srinagar- Leh- (Closed)

This Day in History

- 1613 - Michael Romanov, son of Patriarch of Moscow, elected first Russian Tsar of the house of Romanov.
- 1675 - Prince Willem III appointed viceroy of Gelderland
- 1746 - Jacobite Rising 1745: British forces surrender Inverness Castle to Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobite forces
- 1777 - British ambassador Joseph Yorke demands dismissal of Governor John de Graaff for saluting US flag
- 1782 - US Congress resolves establishment of a US mint
- 1848 - Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels publish "The Communist Manifesto" in London
- 1874 - Benjamin Disraeli succeeds William Gladstone as British Prime Minister
- 1901 - In Cuba, the constitutional delegates adopt a constitution much like that of the USA
- 1915 - Russian 20th Army corps surrenders to the German 10th Army after being surrounded
- 1916 - World War I: Battle of Verdun begins, leads to an estimated 1 million casualties
- 1917 - British troopship SS Mendon sinks off Isle of Wight, 646 die
- 1922 - Britain declares Egypt a sovereign state
- 1932 - Andre Tardieu becomes Premier of France
- 1937 - The League of Nations bans foreign national "volunteers" in the Spanish Civil War.
- 1947 - 1st instant developing camera demonstrated by Edwin Land in NYC
- 1969 - 1st launching of heavy N-1 rocket at Baikonur Kazakhstan (explodes)
- 1972 - Richard Nixon becomes 1st US president to visit China
- 1973 - Israeli fighters shoot Libyan aircraft down, killing 108
- 1974 - Israeli forces leave western Suez
- 1979 - Japan launches Hakucho X-ray satellite & Corsa-B (550/580 km).
- 1981 - Japan launches Hinotori satellite to study solar flares (580/640 k)
- 1981 - NASA launches Comstar D-4
- 1987 - Syrian army marches into Beirut
- 1991 - USSR announces Iraq agrees to a proposal to end Persian Gulf War US calls the plan unacceptable
- 1996 - Soyuz TM-23, launched into orbit
- 2012 -Yemeni voters go to the polls for a presidential election where the only candidate on the ballot paper is vice-president Abd Rabbuh Mansur al-Hadi
- 2013 - 83 people are killed and 250 are injured in a series of bombing attacks in Damascus, Syria
- 2013 - 21 people are killed and 54 are injured in a bombing in Hyderabad, India.
- 2014 - 11 people are killed after a Libyan Air Force plan crashes in Tunisia.
- 2014 -Police in Kiev open fire on protesters: 27 killed and around 570 injured
- 2016 - Bombings in the Syrian cities of Homs and Damascus kill 140 people, Islamic State claims responsibility



HIJRI
CALENDAR

26
JUMADA
AL-SANI
1441

PRAYERS

FAJR
5: 55
ZUHR
12: 45
ASR
4:40
MAGRIB
6:24
ISHA
7:44

From KO Archives

If There Is Hell On Earth, It Is Here

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR - The devil himself could not have conceived of tortures more horrible. Security forces drenched a local imam of Rafiabab with kerosene, set him alight, and flung him half-dead into his home, with a dire warning of consequence! still more hide-ous if the family let out even a chirp about the incident. As the cleric hovers between life and death in hospital, his relatives say police have refused to reg-istered a case.

Locals say the 35-year-old imam, Ghulam Hassan Kumar, of Shalakot, Rafiabab, was arrested by personnel of the 28th Rashtriya Rifles (RR) last Wednesday evening, i.e. the 14th of February, when he was on his way to the mosque. The RR-patrol which picked him up had accused him of signaling away some foreign mili-tants, who they said, had been working near the place of wor-ship.

Residents of the area and the imam's relatives and neighbours say that Kumar's captors had torn off flesh from his arms and legs during his eleven-day-long 'detention'.

He was flung into a blazing fire, and when he crawled out badly burnt, he was put through another ordeal: kero-sene oil was poured on his chest, and set on fire again.

When he miraculously sur-vived the torture, the RR major set him free on February 15. Dumping the imam near his home, he was warned neither to go to a hospital nor to inform anyone else. Ghulam Hassan had been 1 suffering his agony in silence, but seeing his condition deteriorate, some villagers and relatives mustered courage and shifted him to the Baramulla hospital. He is said to have sustained 90 per cent burns and doctors say his condition is critical. Relatives say they had tried to register an FIR but the police had refused to do so.

Meanwhile, Hassan has been shifted to the SMHS hospital here.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 21 February, 2001)