

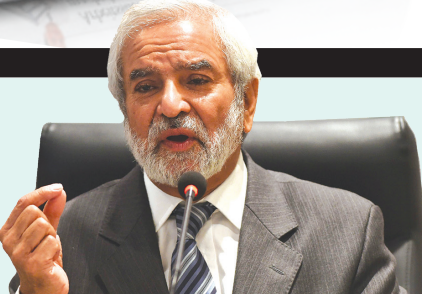
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FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS &  
YOUR COPY OF**.....LIFE & TIMES/ 08**  
**HOW RISKY IS THE CORONAVIRUS?**  
**DON'T LET YOUR MIND MISLEAD YOU**  
Anna Alexander, a property manager in Virginia Beach, started the day thinking that she might avoid shaking hands because of the coronavirus outbreak. Then somebody stuck out a hand.....**STAY AWAY FROM RUMOURS REGARDING CORONAVIRUS: PM APPEALS TO PEOPLE**  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday asked people to stay away from rumours regarding coronavirus and emphasised on the need to follow the advice of doctors in this regard.....**11/SPORTS.....****PCB CHIEF MANI ADMITS ASIA CUP WILL BE HELD AT NEUTRAL VENUE**

Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Ehsan Mani on Saturday said the Asia Cup T20 later this year will be held at a neutral venue, virtually endorsing BCCI President Sourav Ganguly's statement that the.....

**News Digest****Man Killed After Shooting Stone Hits SUV**

Srinagar: A man was killed while another suffered injuries on Saturday after their vehicle was hit by a shooting stone on the Srinagar-Jammu highway. Waseem Azad of Munawarabad here was killed while another person identified as Manzoor Azad was injured when their vehicle (JK01AA-9863) was hit by a shooting stone near Marog Ramban on the Srinagar-Jammu highway today, official sources said. The injured was removed to the hospital. The duo were on way to Jammu from Srinagar when the shooting stone hit their SUV.

**2 Burglars Arrested In Sopore: Police**

Srinagar: Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested two alleged stolen property worth lakhs from them in Sopore town of Baramulla district. A spokesman said that police station Sopore received a complaint from Ghulam Nabi Sheikh regarding burglary in his residential house at Alsafa Colony Sopore. Accordingly a case (FIR No. 38/2020 was registered and investigation taken up. "During the course of investigation, officers were able to identify two individuals identified as Owais Ahmad Lone and Zakir Ahmad Lone, both residents of Astanpora Achabal involved in the commission of crime," the

**CASO Carried Out In Kulgam**

Srinagar: The government forces on Saturday carried out cordon and search operation (CASO) in a village in south Kashmir's Kulgam district. A Joint team of army, special operations group (SOG) of police launched search operation in Wani Mohalla of Khudwani after receiving specific inputs about the presence of militants in the area, news agency KNO reported. As per local reports, heavy contingents of forces were deployed and door to door search operation is going on in the area. The CASO later ended peacefully, the report added.

**5 drug peddlers Held in Valley: Police**

Srinagar: Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested five drug peddlers from Awantipora and Mansbal areas of southern Pulwama and central Ganderbal districts and recovered contraband and psychotropic substances from their possession. A police spokesman said officers at a checkpoint established at Shar Shali in the jurisdiction of Police Station Khrew intercepted a vehicle (CHOIM-9839) with four persons on board. They have been identified as Irfan Ahmad Bhat, Shabir Ahmad Sheikh, both residents of Shar Shali, Tanveer Ahmad Ahanger of Khanmouh and Irfan Nazir of Awantipora. During checking, police recovered 6 kilograms of poppy straw, 440 grams of charas and

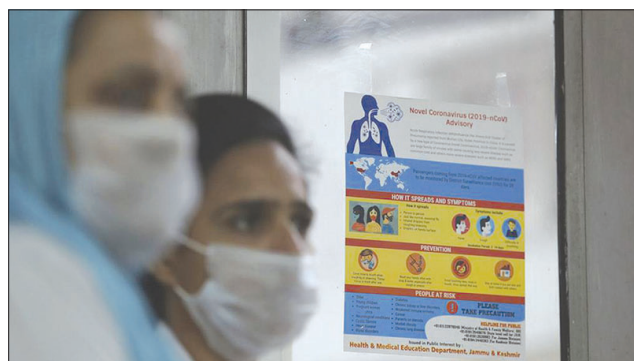
**COVID-19: 2 Test Positive In Ladakh, 1 In Jammu**

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh recorded three positive cases of the coronavirus disease on Saturday prompting the administration to order closure of all private and government schools upto primary level in many districts of the twin Union Territories.

"Two people from Ladakh have tested positive for coronavirus infection and both of them are being quarantined at the SNM hospital," a senior health officer told Kashmir Observer over phone.

He said the two male pilgrims aged 76 and 65 had recently returned from Iran after undertaking the pilgrimage. "We are keeping eye on all pilgrims who have returned from Iran. Our health



officials daily visit their places to enquire about their health," the official added.

The administration in the Ladakh Union Territory has ordered the closure of all primary schools in Leh and Kargil districts as a precautionary measure.

Another case of coronavirus has been reported from Jammu region. According to news agen-

cy ANI, the infected person is receiving treatment at Government Medical College in Jammu.

Earlier in the day, an official spokesperson said that two suspected coronavirus patients undergoing treatment

at a hospital in Jammu were "high viral-load cases", while announcing an immediate suspension of all biometric

**FRO Issues Advisory**

The Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory administration on Saturday issued an advisory asking foreigner to fill-up self-declaration form on their arrival in the UT.

In a statement issued here, the foreigners' registration office has asked all foreigners visiting Jammu and Kashmir UT to fill-up the self-declaration forms that they have not visited any Coronavirus affected country in the recent past.

The mandatory forms are available at the health counter established at all entry points i.e. Lakhanpur, Jammu airport, railway station and hotels. "Medical check up is mandatory for all those who have visited China, Iran, Italy, Japan, Thailand, Singapore,

**EARLIER IN THE DAY, AN OFFICIAL SPOKESPERSON SAID THAT TWO SUSPECTED coronavirus patients undergoing treatment at a hospital in Jammu were "high viral-load cases", while announcing an immediate suspension of all biometric attendance in the Union Territory.****Flight Brings Swabs Of Over 100 Indians From Iran**

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** More than 100 swab samples of Indians in Iran who are suspected of having coronavirus infection were brought to the national capital on Saturday in a flight, which returned to Tehran with nearly 200 Iranians, according to officials.

The flight, which was operated by Iranian carrier Mahan Air, is part of India and Iran's efforts to bring back their nationals in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak.

The flight from Tehran land-



ed at around 5.30 am and returned at around 10.30 am, an official at the Indira Gandhi International Airport here said.

A senior official at aviation watchdog DGCA told PTI that about 108 swab samples were brought in the flight and nearly 200 Iranians went in the return flight.

**Woman, Son Arrested For Duping Businessman Of Rs 6.5 Cr**

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** A woman and her son were arrested on Saturday for allegedly duping a businessman of Rs 6.5 crore, while a search is on to apprehend two of their accomplices, a spokesman of the Jammu and Kashmir Police's Crime Branch said.

Touseef Ahmad Bhat and Sha-keela Begum were arrested on a complaint by Raees Ahmad, who owns a firm called Wals Walnut Industries, he said.

Ahmad has alleged that he was tricked into supplying dry fruits worth Rs 6.5 crore by

Reyaz Ahmed Matoo, a resident of Srinagar, with whom he had done business for sometime, the spokesman said.

In his complaint, lodged with the Crime Branch in Jammu, Ahmad said Matoo started taking consignments of dry fruits from him after introducing himself as a dry fruit businessman, owning a firm called Sadaf Dry Fruit, he said.

Matoo continued making payments against the consignments to build a trust and one day he told Ahmad that he had received a huge army contract for supplying dry fruits,

**Bukhari Unanimously Elected President Of His New Party**

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Former Finance Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, was on Saturday unanimously elected as the President by the members of his new political party scheduled to be launched here on Sunday.

The ex-PDP minister's name for the post of President was proposed by former minister Ghulam Hassan Mir and was seconded by former legislator and Chief Secretary Vijay Bakaya and other ex-legislators.

The meeting over

**NC Leader Says Not Joining 'Aapki Party'**

Former MLA and National Conference leader Dr Gagan Bhagat on Saturday expressed surprise over reports of him joining a new political party being launched by former finance minister Altaf Bukhari.

"National Conference is a premier political party having unflinching commitment to secularism and unity between the regions", Mr Bhagat told reporters at Sher-e-Kashmir

**Ashraf Mir Quits PDP, Joins Bukhari & Co**

PDP leader and former minister Ashraf Mir on Saturday resigned from the party and will join a new outfit being floated by former finance minister Altaf Bukhari. Bukhari, who also left the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) last year, is expected to announce the new formation here on Sunday.

"Yes, I resigned from the PDP today and join Bhukhari

**India, Pak Troops Exchange Gunfire In Poonch**

India and Pakistan troops on Saturday exchanged heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Pakistan army on Saturday shelled and fired on forward posts and villages along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, a defence spokesman said.

The firing from small arms and mortar shelling from across the LoC began at 1.30 pm. In retaliation, the Indian army gave a befitting reply, he said.

There are no immediate reports of any casualty on the Indian side. Cross-border

**Primary Schools In 4 Districts Ordered Shut Till 31st March****Large Gatherings Not To Be Encouraged, Declaration at Airports to Continue**

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** All systems are required to be maintained in absolute state of high alert to contain the spread of Coronavirus in Jammu & Kashmir, Chief Secretary, BVR Subrahmanyam said Saturday He was speaking at a meeting held to review the preparations made and measures put in place for containment and management of the Coronavirus infection, an official spokesman said.

It was decided in the meeting that as a precautionary measure all schools up to the primary level shall remain closed in Srinagar, Budgam, Baramulla and Bandipora districts till 31st March in view of the evolving Coronavirus situation. Besides, no large gathering shall be allowed in the districts till further orders.

Financial Commissioner, Health, Principal Secretary, Planning/Civil Aviation, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir/Jammu, All Deputy Commissioners, Director, Na-

tional Health Mission, Principal GMC, Srinagar/Jammu, MD, Medical Supplies Corporation, Director, Health Services, Kashmir/Jammu and other senior officers from the Administration and Health Department attended the video conference.

In the meeting Financial Commissioner, Health briefed the Chief Secretary with respect to the arrangements and measures in place to mete out the Coronavirus situation in the Union Territory. He informed that highest level of alertness is being maintained through proper checks at the airports, where 100% declaration is being strictly made to be followed, while as health desks have been put in place at railway stations where announcements for public awareness are being regularly made. He said the road checks at the two entry points at lakhanpur in Kathua and Qazigund in Anantnag, besides check post at Katra are in place to carry out check on influx of people with history of foreign

**CHIEF SECRETARY DIRECTED ALL**

Deputy Commissioners and health functionaries to have detailed surveillance plans prepared in advance to have effective contact tracing and surveillance, if need arises.

**City Mayor Calls For Cancellation Of Winter Games**

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Mayor Junaid Mattu has called for cancellation of Khelo India's first winter games chapter, which started in the ski resort of Gulmarg on Saturday.

Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju inaugurated the event, which would continue till Wednesday. Around 800-

900 sportspersons are taking part in different events at the ski-resort.

"In view of the #COVID2019 situation, I personally believe the 'Khelo India' sports event in Gulmarg should be cancelled," Mattu tweeted on Friday evening.

"I have conveyed this to the administration as well as the Lieutenant Governor of J&amp;K, Sh. G. C. Murmu.

**OIC Wants Peaceful Resolution Of Kashmir Issue: Official**

Press Trust Of India

**ISLAMABAD:** The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is concerned over the situation in Kashmir and wants a peaceful settlement of the issue, a top official said on Saturday.

OIC Secretary General's Special Envoy for Jammu and Kashmir Yousef M Al Dobeay said the resolution of Kashmir and Palestine issues remained on the organisation's top-most agenda, Pakistan Foreign Office quoted the envoy as saying in a statement.

Dobeay, who led a six-member delegation on a five-day visit to Pakistan, said the OIC was concerned about the situation in Kashmir.

The envoy said Jammu and Kashmir was an "internationally recognised" dispute and called for its peaceful settlement.

"The OIC will take all necessary steps to alleviate the sufferings of the Kashmiris and help resolve the dispute according to the wishes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

During the visit, the envoy called on Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan and held meetings with the other top ministers. During the meetings, the Pakistani leadership apprised the delegation of the situation in Kashmir.

The delegation also held meetings with the top leadership of Pakistan-controlled

**J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019 Finds Place In JKBOSE Textbooks**

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) has introduced a chapter on J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019 in the political science textbooks for class 10, an official said on Saturday.

The book (Social Science Democratic Politics-II) concludes with an Addendum on the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 under chapter eight of Unit IV.

The centre had on August 5 last year revoked provisions of

Article 370 which guaranteed special status to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated the erstwhile state into two Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

The Centre's announcement proceeded strict curbs across

Jammu and Kashmir to maintain law and order. The restrictions were, however, eased out in a phased manner to a large extent as the time passed.

However, three former Chief Ministers -- National Conference president

**Class 10 Paper Mentions 'Azad Kashmir', 2 Officials Suspended**

The opposition BJP on Saturday hit out at the Congress government in Madhya Pradesh after a class 10 question paper of the state board referred to Pakistan-controlled -Kashmir (PcK) as "Azad Kashmir". The term appeared in the class 10 social science paper

**ASI Arrested After Video Shows Him Accepting Bribe**

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** An assistant sub-inspector of Jammu and Kashmir police was arrested on Saturday after a video purportedly showing him demanding and accepting bribe inside a police station in Kishtwar district went viral on social media.

ASI Abdul Subhan, posted at Kishtwar police station, has also been placed under suspension and a department inquiry has been initiated against him, a police spokesman said.

The officer was caught on cam-

era demanding and accepting the bribe from some persons within the station premises on Friday.

Taking serious cognisance of the matter, the spokesman said a case under Section 161 of the Indian Penal Code and Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act has been registered against the erring officer at the Kishtwar police station and an investigation is underway.

"He has been formally arrested in the case. He has been placed under suspension and a departmental enquiry has also been initiated against him," he further said.

