



Maximum : 13°C  
Minimum : 3°C  
Humidity : 57%

SUNSET  
Today 06:39 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 06:41 AM

# OBSERVER

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## LIFE & TIMES / 08 CORONAVIRUS INFECTION MAY START SHOWING SYMPTOMS IN FIVE DAYS: STUDY

The analysis by researchers, including those from the Johns Hopkins University in the US, also suggested that about 97.5 per cent of people who develop symptoms of the coronavirus--SARS-CoV-2-- infection will do so.....



05/NEWS...

**CORONAVIRUS: INDIA FIGHTS BACK, 7 MORE PATIENTS CURED OF COVID-19**  
Even as India reported one more case of coronavirus disease (Covid-19) on Saturday morning, taking the total number of people infected with the viral disease to 83, seven more people have been cured of the disease.....

## 11/ Sports.....

**COVID19  
REAL KASHMIR FC VS TRAU FC MATCH  
SUSPENDED, I-LEAGUE HALTED TILL MARCH 31**  
All I-League matches from March 15 and other football activities, barring the Indian Super League (ISL) final scheduled to take place Saturday evening, have been suspended till March 31 due to.....



## News Digest

### Civilian Injured In Cross-LoC Firing

Jammu: A middle-aged man on Saturday was injured when India and Pakistan troops traded gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. Mohammad Rafiq was hit by a bullet from across the border outside his house at Gohlad village in Mendhar sector, officials said. The officials said Rafiq was evacuated to a local hospital and is undergoing treatment for an injury in his thigh. They said Pakistan resorted to unprovoked small arms firing in the sector, prompting retaliation by the Indian Army. The cross-border firing between the two sides lasted for sometime, the officials said.

### Avalanche warning issued in J&K, Ladakh

Jammu: Authorities on Saturday issued a medium and a low danger avalanche warning for high altitude areas of various districts of the twin Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, an official said. The medium danger avalanche warning has been issued for Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi, Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar and Udhampur districts of Jammu region and Kupwara and Bandipora districts of north Kashmir besides Kargil district in Ladakh, Director of Disaster Management, Jammu and Kashmir, Aamir Ali said. He said there is also a threat of low danger avalanche in ● P10

### Minor Falls From Tractor, Dies

Srinagar: A minor on Saturday was killed after he fell from a tractor in Qazigund area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district. Seven-year-old Muneeb Ahmad Ganie of Mandhole village received serious injuries when he fell down from a tractor, news agency KNO reported. The locals removed the injured minor to the Public Health Centre (PHC) Vessu where he was declared brought dead.

### Day Old Militant Held During CASO

Srinagar: Government forces on Saturday arrested a militant during an ongoing cordon-and-search operation at Bulgam area of Sopore in north Kashmir. Acting on specific information, a joint team of army's 52 RR, CRPF and SOG launched a search operation at Bulgam village today evening, news agency GNS reported. While conducting searches in the village, the forces apprehended ● P10

### NIA Carries Out Raid In Pattan, 1 Arrested

SRINAGAR - National investigation agency (NIA) on Saturday morning conducted fresh raid in Pattan area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district. NIA raided house of Ghulam Mohammad Mir at Palpora Pattan of Baramulla district in the morning, reported news agency KNO. "During the raid, the NIA held the house owner Mir allegedly in connection with "terror funding" case," an official of the NIA said. ● P10

# India Declares COVID-19 'Notified Disaster', Many Public Places Shut

Observer Monitoring Desk

**NEW DELHI:** The Central government has decided to treat coronavirus as a "notified disaster" for the purpose of providing assistance under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and has announced an ex-gratia payment of Rs 4 lakhs to families of those who die of the infection.

The disaster management division of the Union Home Ministry has issued a letter to the Chief Secretaries of all the states.

The letter states, "The Central government, keeping in view the spread of COVID-19 virus in India and the declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic by the World Health Organisation (WHO), by way of a special one-time dispensation, has decided to treat it as a notified disaster for the purpose of providing assistance under SDRF".

The home ministry said funds earmarked under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) can be utilised for procurement of essential equipment and measures taken to quarantine people.

Two persons -- a 76-year-old man from Karnataka and a 68-year-old woman in Delhi -- have died from coronavirus, which has been declared a global pandemic by WHO and has ● PAGE 10

Several states ordered closure of schools, colleges, public institutions and cinema halls.



Pic. Abid Bhat

## Pak To Join Video Conference Of SAARC Nations

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** Pakistan on Saturday agreed to participate in the meeting of the SAARC nations through video conferencing to discuss measures to tackle the deadly coronavirus pandemic that has killed over 5,000 people across the globe.

According to reports, Pakistan agreed to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposal to attend the meet aimed to discuss tackling of the pandemic.

Pakistan's response to the proposal came late in the night with the country's Foreign Office Spokesperson Aisha Farooqi saying the threat of COVID-19 required coordinated efforts at global and regional levels.

"We have communicated that SAPM (Special Assistant to Pakistani Prime Minister) on Health (Zafar Mirza) will be available to participate in the video conference of SAARC member countries on the issue," she said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead ● P10

## Govt Takes U-Turn On Rs 4L Ex-Gratia

**NEW DELHI:** The Central government on Saturday took a u-turn, hours after it was announced that an ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh will be given to the families of those who died of the novel coronavirus.

The Centre earlier mentioned that 'Rs 4 lakh will be given for per deceased person including those involved in response activities, subject to certification regarding cause of death from appropriate authority'.

According to latest announcement, the document had no mention of the aforementioned point, New Delhi based India Today reported.

Apart from Rs 4 lakh ex-gratia, the Centre earlier also mentioned assistance towards ● P10

## Will Work With All To Ensure Early Restoration Of Statehood To JK: PM



Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said his government will work with all sec-

tions of the population for restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir "at an early opportunity".

A 24-member delegation of the newly formed ● PAGE 10

### PM Modi's Heart Beats For J&K: Bukhari

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has assured that there will be no demographic change to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari said on Saturday, who met him along with 24-member delegation in New Delhi. "PM Modi said no ● P10

## NC Leader's Son Charge-Sheeted In Rs 177 Cr Bank Loan Fraud

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The CBI on Saturday filed a charge sheet against Hiral Rather, son of former Jammu and Kashmir minister Abdul Rahim Rather, in connection with a Rs 177-crore bank fraud scam within 10 days of taking over the case, officials said.

In the charge sheet filed before Special Court, Jammu, the CBI has also named the then branch heads of J and K Bank, New University Campus branch Iqbal Singh and Arun Kapoor as accused, they said.

A special investigation team is probing the case, earlier investigated by the Anti Corruption Bureau of the UT, since the CBI registered the FIR on March 4 on the request of Union Territory (UT) ● P10

## Agency Created Parties Can't Run J&K: Azad

Meets Farooq, Calls For Restoration Of Democracy

Press Trust of India

**SRINAGAR:** Congress general secretary and leader of opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi

efforts in the last 47 years. Agency created parties can't run Jammu and Kashmir. Only those parties chosen by people can do so," Azad told reporters after meeting Na-



CONGRESS LEADER GHULAM NABI AZAD MET NC Chief Farooq Abdullah in Srinagar on Saturday. Photo: Abid Bhat / KO

Azad said on Saturday that Jammu and Kashmir cannot be run through "agency created parties". "Such parties have made a lot of

tional Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah, who was released from home detention after seven months on Friday. ● PAGE 10

## Kashmir Highway Remains Closed For Third Consecutive Day

Press Trust Of India

**BANIHAL/JAMMU** - The 270-km Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remained closed for the third consecutive day on Saturday as multiple landslides overnight hampered the restoration work, officials said.

The highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, was closed for traffic on Thursday after heavy rains triggered landslides, leaving more than 3,000 Srinagar-bound vehicles stranded.

"The road clearance operation is underway at over a dozen places along the Ramban-Ramsu stretch of the highway. A major landslide had occurred over-

night between Monkey Morh and Battery Cheshma and will take at least six more hours to get cleared," Deputy Superintendent of Police, Traffic (National Highway), Ajay Anand told PTI.

He said the road stretch between Nashri and Ramban was cleared of the mudslide, while the snow clearance operation across the Jawahar Tunnel, the gateway to Kashmir, was also completed.

"Multiple landslides also occurred overnight between Ramban and Banihal, including Panthiyal, Digdole, Moumpassi, Sher Bibi and Gangroo," Anand said.

He said with the improvement in the overall weather, the clearance operation was ● PAGE 10

## PCI Team Meets Journalists, DIPR Officials

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A Press Council of India (PCI) team on Saturday arrived in the Valley to study the media scenario in Jammu and Kashmir.

Headed by Balwinder Singh, the three-member Sub-Committee of the PCI visited the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Srinagar and held detailed interactions with various delegations of media persons including editors, photojournalists and representatives of news agencies, an official statement issued here said.

The team also comprising members Kamal Nain Narang and Syed Raza Hussain Rizvi also sought feedback on the overall media ● PAGE 10

## Enough Evidence To Prosecute Yasin Malik, Says TADA Court

Agencies

**JAMMU:** A TADA court in Jammu on Saturday said there was enough evidence to prosecute Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chairman Yasin Malik and six others over the killing of four Indian Air Force officers in Kashmir in 1990.

The court said that prima facie there was enough evidence to prosecute all of them, reports said.

Special NIA judge Subhash Gupta said the court was of the certain view that sufficient grounds exist for drawing presumption that the accused Yasin Malik, Ali Mohammad Mir, Manzoor Ahmed Sofi, Javed Ahmed Mir, Saleem Nana Ji, Javed Ahmed Zargar and Shoukat Ahmed



File Pic.

Bakshi, prima facie have committed acts of militancy.

Malik and his aides have been charged with attempt to murder, murder, criminal conspiracy, illegal possession of arms and acts of terror, under several sections of TADA and Ranbir Penal Code (RPC), the erstwhile state of J&K's own law.

The charges were framed against each of them separately for ● PAGE 10

## Farooq Meets Son Omar In Srinagar Sub-Jail

It was an emotional meeting when NC president Farooq Abdullah met his son Omar Abdullah in the sub-jail in Srinagar where he has been under detention for over the last seven months.

Released on Friday after his detention under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) ● P10

