



Maximum : 16°C SUNSET Today 06:38 PM Minimum : 5°C SUNRISE Tomorrow 06:40 AM Humidity : 46%

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LIFE & TIMES / Q8 PLASTIC PARTICLES MAY BE PREVALENT IN DRINKING WATER SOURCES: STUDY

Ultra-small particles of the most commonly used plastics tend to move through the water supply, especially in fresh water, settle out in wastewater treatment plants, or end up as sludge in landfills, according to a study that....



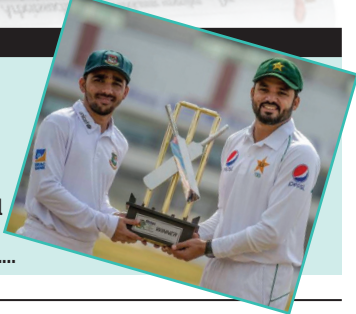
4 FRESH CASES OF COVID-19 IN INDIA, TOTAL 114 CASES

Amid the coronavirus pandemic across the globe, the government on Monday said that four fresh cases of COVID-19 have been detected in India, with one each from Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Odisha and Kerala....

11 / Sports.....

COVID-19 THREAT: BANGLADESH TOUR OF PAKISTAN POSTPONED INDEFINITELY

The Pakistan and Bangladesh cricket boards on Monday decided to postpone the upcoming One-Day International and Test in Karachi indefinitely amid the COVID-19 pandemic which has derailed sporting calendars globally....



News Digest

FB User Booked For 'Sensitive Remarks'

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday booked a Facebook user for posting "sensitive remarks" on the social media platform in Rajouri district, an official said. A case under relevant sections of the law has been registered against the accused and further investigation is on, a senior police officer said. We appeal to people to use social media in a cautious manner and to refrain from posting any sensitive remarks that can pose harm to the peaceful atmosphere in the border district, he said.

JCO Dies Of Heart Attack

Srinagar: An army officer died of cardiac arrest in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Subedar Omjeet Singh (JC-45231) suffered a heart attack inside a camp in Trona area of the district, news agency KNT reported. He was shifted to nearby hospital where doctors declared him brought dead on arrival. Meanwhile, Police have registered a case in this regard.

Panchayat Ghar Wall Collapse Kills Teen

Srinagar: A teenager was killed after a portion of Panchayat Ghar wall collapsed in central Kashmir's Budgam district. 13-year-old Mehrajuddin Sheikh, son of Bashir Ahmed of Sutharan area of Budgam was playing around the Panchayat Ghar when a portion of the wall collapsed killing him instantly.

5 Gamblers Arrested From City

Srinagar: Police on Monday claimed to have arrested five gamblers in a raid in the interiors of Dal Lake in this capital city. Acting on an input, a police party carried out a raid in Dar Mohalla, Dal Lake and apprehended five gamblers on the spot, a police spokesperson said. An amount of Rs 4030 and playing cards were seized by the police team. Both the accused have been shifted to Police Station where they remain in custody. "Case FIR No.25/2020 under relevant sections of law has been registered and further investigation into the matter has been initiated," the spokesperson added.

Missing Man Found Dead In Srinagar

Srinagar: Body of a 60-year-old man who was missing since last week was recovered from a marshy land in Soura area of Srinagar on Monday. Station House Officer (SHO) Soura, Tanveer Ahmad said that soon after receiving the information, a police team rushed to the spot and recovered the body from the marshy land. The police officer identified the deceased as Jalaludin Dar (60), a resident of Noorpora, Tral in Awantipora. He was missing since March 6.

"A case under 174 CrPc has been registered and further investigations taken up to ascertain the cause of death," SHO said. He said that a missing report... P10

Coronavirus Could Kill Up To 1.7 Million In US: Experts

Agencies

WASHINGTON - American health officials and epidemic experts across the world have estimated that, in the worst case scenario, the coronavirus could kill as many as 1.7 million people in the United States, if the outbreak persisted for months or even more than a year.

The projection was made by officials at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and their data was reviewed by about 50 expert teams to see how the virus might impact the United States and what could stop it.

The outcome of the data, published by The New York Times on Sunday, showed that between 160 million and 214 million people in the US could be infected over the course of the China-generated pandemic.

The experts said the worst case scenario was that the contagion could last months or even over a year, and as many as 200,000 to 1.7 million people could die.

The calculations based on the CDC's data suggested that 2.4 million to 21 million people in the United States could require hospitalization, potentially crushing the nation's medical system, which has only about 925,000 staffed hospital beds, according to the American daily.

The coronavirus, a respiratory disease known as COVID-19, emerged in the central Chinese city of Wuhan in Hubei... PAGE 10

The World Health Organization has declared the coronavirus outbreak a global pandemic.

COVID-19: 2478 Under Lens, 2095 Under Home Quarantine In J&K

2 More Test Positive In Jammu, Ladakh

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh recorded two fresh cases of deadly coronavirus, while the number of people under surveillance reached 2478 on Monday, even as 2095 others remain under home quarantine.

"One more patient tested positive in Jammu and his report was received on Monday evening," a doctor said. With this, the number of positive cases in the winter capital reached three today.

In the newly carved out union territory of Ladakh, another case of COVID-19 infection surfaced today, taking the number of people infected to four. The infected person, officials said has been put under quarantine.

Here in Srinagar, two persons with a travel history to Saudi Arabia and Pakistan were admitted to the isolation ward of the SKIMS hospital after being recognised as potential coronavirus (Covid-19) patients, officials said.

Nodal officer for coronavirus control at SKIMS, Dr G H Yatoo, told GNS that two persons were admitted to the hospital and their samples were sent for the laboratory test.

"One among them, a resident of Baramulla, has history of travel to Saudi Arabia while another, who is from Budgam, had returned from Pakistan," he said.

Meanwhile, the government in the daily media bulletin issued today said that 176 persons have completed their 28-day surveillance period and, so far, only two cases have been tested positive in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the government spokesperson, 2478 travellers and persons in contact with suspected cases have been put under surveillance while as 2095 persons are under home quarantine. "Persons who are in hospital quarantine stand at 29 and 178 persons are under home surveillance," the spokesperson said. PAGE 10



SMC SQUAD CARRYING OUT SANITIZATION drive amid coronavirus scare in Srinagar -KO Photo Abid Bhat

Parks, Gardens Closed In Srinagar

SRINAGAR - Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday announced closure of all parks and gardens in Srinagar till further orders.

"All parks and gardens in #Srinagar will remain closed till further notice. Cooperation of people in implementing precautionary measures is appreciated," Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Shahid Iqbal Chaudhary said in a tweet.

All Parks and Gardens in #Srinagar will remain closed till further notice. Cooperation of people in implementing precautionary measures is appreciated.

Although the official did not give any reasons for the decision, it is believed that the step is part of... PAGE 10

Admin Warns Travel Operators, Transporters

SRINAGAR: The district administration on Monday issued specific guidelines to the travel and transport operators in this capital city and warned strict action against overcrowding in the public transport in a meeting with transporters today, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary... P10

J&K HC Only To Hear Urgent Matters

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Monday issued a circular restricting the functioning in both of its Jammu and Srinagar wings to urgent matters only in view of the coronavirus threat.

According to the circular, functioning in both the wings of the High Court from March 16, 2020 to March 31, 2020 shall be restricted to urgent matters.

The Advocates, litigants and parties in person shall mention their matter(s) by providing number... P10

Quarantine Facility To Come Up At Sonmarg

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory administration on Monday decided to restrict public entry inside the Civil Secretariat, and establishment of quarantine facility at Baltal Base Camp in Sonmarg to screen people entering the UT from Ladakh.

The decision in this regard was taken in a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary, B. V. R. Subrahmanyam to review the Cluster Containment Plan for COVID-19, an official spokesperson said. P10

Section 144 Imposed In Ganderbal

SRINAGAR: The administration has imposed Section 144 in Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Monday to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

District Magistrate Shafiqat Iqbal imposed the ban on the assembly of four or more people in any public place and it will remain in place till March-end, according to an order.

The number of confirmed coronavirus cases in the country rose to... P10

After 30 Years, TADA Court Charges Yasin Malik, 6 Others

JKLF Chief, Six Others Plead Not Guilty

Agencies

JAMMU: A special court here on Monday farmed charges against Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Chairman Muhammad Yasin Malik and six others in a 30-year-old case of gunning down of Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel on the outskirts of Srinagar.

The additional sessions TADA judge III, a designated court for hearing the case, had on Saturday said that there was enough evidence to frame charges against Malik and six others in the case, officials said.

On Monday, the court ordered



Investigation Agency (NIA) for alleged terror funding of separatist activities in Jammu and Kashmir. A note for signature of Malik had also been sent to him at Tihar Jail as he was present throughout the trial through video conferencing, the officials said. The judge had ordered on Saturday that charges could be framed against Malik, Ali Mohammed Mir, Manzoor Ahmed Sofi alias Mustafa, Javed Ahmed Mir, Showkat Ahmed Bakshi, Javed Ahmed Zargar and Saleem Nanaji. All have been charge-sheeted for murder, attempt to murder and sections from... PAGE 10

BJP Will Anyway Restore J&K Statehood, Need More: Soz

Advises Farooq Abdullah To Seek Substitute For Article 370

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Congress leader and former union minister Prof Saifuddin Soz Monday said that the challenge for J&K leadership was not the restoration of statehood but finding a substitute to the abrogated Article 370 of the constitution.

"The crucial question is not the restoration of statehood which the BJP itself wants to happen, but, seeking, at least, a close substitute to the abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution of India," Soz said in a statement to Kashmir Observer.

"I rang up Dr. Farooq Abdullah," Soz said adding I welcome his release



and hope that he would realise, in full measure, his role at the present day Kashmir's 'cross road situation'.

"As the people know, we have fallen to bad times. So, we must close our ranks and realise our joint responsibility for future," he said.

"The moot point for mainstream leadership of Kashmir is to... PAGE 10

Ex-CJI Who Gave Ayodhya Verdict, Nominated To RS

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, who headed benches that pronounced several key judgements including in the sensitive Ayodhya land dispute case, was on Monday nominated to Rajya Sabha by the government.

Gogoi also led the benches that ruled on matters like Rafale fighter jet deal and entry of women in Sabarimala temple.

A notification announcing his nomination to the Upper House was issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on Monday night.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-clause (a) of... PAGE 10

India, Pak Troops Trade Fire Along LoC

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: India and Pakistan on Monday exchanged artillery fire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Pakistan Army engaged in mortar shelling and small arms firing at Indian posts along the LoC in Poonch in violation of a ceasefire agreement, a defence spokesman said.

The shelling and firing from across the border in Kirni and Qasba sectors started around 6.30 PM, prompting retaliatory firing by the Indian Army, the spokesman said.

He said there was no immediate report of any casualty on the Indian side. PAGE 10

157 Militants Killed In 2019: Govt

NEW DELHI: As many as 138 cases of infiltration by militants were reported along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) in 2019 and 157 terrorists were killed in the said period in Jammu and Kashmir, the government informed Parliament on Monday.

In a written response to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik said, "There have been 138 cases of infiltration by militants along Line of Control/International Border during the year 2019.

"Due to concerted and synergised efforts of security forces, 157 militants were neutralised in the year 2019 in Jammu & Kashmir."

Replying to another question, the minister said in the last five years -- 2015-16 to 2019-20 (up to January, 2020) -- 158 contracts were signed with Indian vendors and 100 with foreign vendors for capital procurement of defence equipment for the armed forces. The defence equipment procured from Indian vendors over the last five years included helicopters, radars, electronic... P10

Expelled PDP Leader Calls On PM Modi 'PM Assured Early Release Of Omar, Mehbooba; Others'



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday assured that all detained political leaders in Jammu and Kashmir, including former chief ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, would be released soon, PDP's Rajya Sabha member Nazir Ahmad Laway said.

Laway, who called on the prime minister at Parliament House, said he had a 20-minute meeting during which he apprised Modi about the latest situation in Jammu and Kashmir and requested him to release all detainees, including Omar, Mehbooba and former IAS officer Shah Faesal.

"I also requested (him) to... PAGE 10

Hirdesh Kumar Appointed New J&K CEO

NEW DELHI: IAS officer Hirdesh Kumar was on Monday appointed the new chief electoral officer of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Election Commission appointed Kumar as the new CEO replacing Shaileendra Kumar. Hirdesh Kumar, a 1999-batch IAS officer of the Jammu and Kashmir cadre, was selected from a panel of names sent by the J-K administration to the EC.

The Commission on Monday issued a notification announcing the appointment of Hirdesh Kumar and asked the Jammu and Kashmir administration to ensure that the new CEO takes charge "immediately". Sources in the poll panel said the Jammu and Kashmir... PAGE 10