



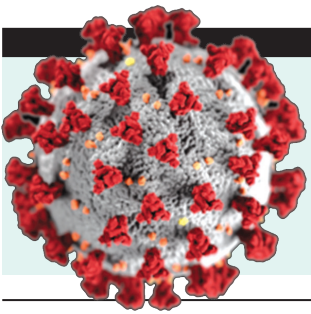
Maximum : 10°C SUNSET Today 06:46 PM Minimum : 7°C SUNRISE Tomorrow 06:29 AM Humidity : 80%

23rd year OF PUBLICATION KASHMIR OBSERVER

28 Rajab-UL-Murajjab | 1441 Hijri | Vol:23 | Issue:61 | Pages:08 | Price: ₹3

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OPINION / 04 COVID 19- BAD NEWS WRAPPED IN PROTEIN Scientists tell us that the world of nature is so small and interdependent that a butterfly flapping its wings in the amazon rainforest can generate a violent storm on the other side of the earth. This principle is known as the "Butterfly Effect". Today, we realise, perhaps more than ever, that ....



05/PANORAMA... PANIC IS SPREADING FASTER THAN THE VIRUS - AND THERE'S A SCIENCE BEHIND IT As cases of Covid-19 proliferate, there's a pandemic of fear unfolding alongside the pandemic of the coronavirus. Media announce mass cancellations of public events "over coronavirus ....

06/ SPORTS..... CANADA, AUSTRALIA WITHDRAW FROM TOKYO 2020 AS ORGANISERS PONDER POSTPONEMENT Canada and Australia said they would not be sending athletes to the Tokyo Olympics if the Games went ahead as scheduled this year as pressure on organisers to postpone because of the coronavirus pandemic reached fever pitch on Monday.....

News Digest

Indo, Pak Troops Trade Fire Along LoC, IB

Jammu: India and Pakistan troops on Monday exchanged artillery gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border in Poonch and Kathua districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistani Rangers resorted to unprovoked firing and shelling on forward areas along the International Border (IB) in Kathua district today, officials said. There was no report of any damage incurred in the firing, they said. The estranged armies also exchanged fire along the LoC in Poonch district, reports said. P-02

Elderly Man Mowed Down In Kupwara

Srinagar: An elderly man on Monday was knocked to death by a speedy vehicle in the frontier Kupwara district. 70-year-old Mohammad Abdullah Bhat was hit by a speedy car near Prangroo in Mawer area of the district this afternoon, news agency GNS reported. Bhat, who received serious head injuries, was removed to the district hospital Handwara, where she succumbed to his injuries. A police officer said that hunt has been launched to nab the driver accused in hit and run case. "A case under relevant sections of law has been registered and further investigations taken up," the officer said.

3 Drug Peddlers Held In Bandipora

Srinagar: Three alleged drug peddlers on Monday were arrested by police from Sumbal area of Bandipora district, reports said. Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat, Tanveer Ahmad Rather and Hilal Ahmad Wani, all residents of Bandipora were interacted by a police team near Wangipora-Bala checkpoint on Sunday and 101 bottles of Cocaine phosphate were recovered from their possession, Senior superintendent of Police (SSP) Bandipora, Rahul Malik told news agency KNO. Wani, he said was the main drug peddler of the area evading the clutches of law for long. "A Case under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Sumbal and further Investigation is on," Malik added.

'Lashkar Module' Busted In Kupwara, 6 Held

Srinagar: Police on Monday claimed to have busted a Lashkar-e-Toiba module by arresting six of its members with arms and ammunitions in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, reports said. The six were members of 'The Resistance Front', a newly formed militant outfit believed to be a shadow group of the LeT and were arrested in an operation spreading from Sopore in Baramulla district to Keran in Kupwara district near the Line of Control, the officials told news agency PTI. Acting on an input developed by police about transportation of arms and ammunition from Keran to Sopore hospital, the cops swung into action and formed four teams to undertake the operation, they said. P-02

Covid-19: 4329 UnderScanner In Jammu And Kashmir AuqibJaveed

SRINAGAR: At least five people with coronavirus like symptoms on Monday were admitted to Chest Diseases hospital here, while the reports of eight persons including a couple with travel history to Bangkok tested negative, even as the number of people under surveillance in Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory reached 4329 today. Dr. Saleem Khan, Nodal officer Government Medical College (GMC) told Kashmir Observer that five persons with Covid-19 like symptoms were P-02

2 Students Booked For 'Concealing' Travel History

SRINAGAR - Police has registered an FIR against two persons, hailing from Awantipora area of Kashmir, for concealing their travel history to avoid mandatory quarantine for those coming from coronavirus-hit countries. "Upon the information received from the magistrate that two persons of Awantipora area have concealed their travel history in order to evade necessary quarantine process, a case under relevant sections of the law has been registered against them at police station Awantipora." P-02

20 Detained, Case Filed Against 16 For Violating Sec 144

SRINAGAR: In a major crackdown against the people violating prohibitory orders imposed in wake of coronavirus pandemic, police on Monday detained twenty people from Sopore while a case against sixteen others was registered in Shopian district of south Kashmir. According to reports, at least 20 people on Monday were detained by police in Sopore town for allegedly violating orders issued by the administration under section 144 CrPc, banning assembly of more than three people P-02

HC Creates Fund To Tackle Coronavirus

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Monday decided to create a dedicated fund to combat coronavirus pandemic and provide relief to Covid-19 victims. In a full court meeting, the High Court decided that the Chief Justice and all the Judges of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court shall make a contribution of Rs 25000 each. While as all the District Judges of J&K and Ladakh shall contribute Rs 15000 each. It was further decided P-02

Borders Sealed, Flights Cancelled; J&K Quarantined Govt Releases Rs 40 Crore To Tackle Pandemic

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As all domestic flights were being cancelled from Tuesday night, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Monday decided to seal interstate borders and restrict the movement of vehicles across the districts in a bid to contain the spread of deadly coronavirus.



TOURISTS WHO HAD REMAINED IN SRINAGAR BEING SHIFTED out of their hotel on Boulevard for onward journey.

The decision in this regard was taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Secretary, B V R Subrahmanyam in Jammu official spokesperson said. The meeting decided to completely seal interstate borders with Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh UT. Similarly inter district movement of vehicles would also be restricted as per requirement, the spokesperson said. However, all essential vehicles would ply normally and the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway would also be regulated.

The Chief Secretary directed strict checking at entry points of Qazigund and Lower Munda besides at other entry points, airports and bus stands, amid reports that some travellers were skipping screening and self-declaration at arrival points or falsifying information about their travel. "Action should be initiated against those putting others at risk," Subrahmanyam said.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Home, Shaleen-Kabra; Principal Secretary, Housing & Urban Development, Dheeraj Gupta; Principal Secretary, Planning & Development & Information, RohitKansal; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, SanjeevVerma; Inspector General, Jammu zone P-02

Domestic Flights To Be Grounded From Tonight

Agencies

NEW DELHI- In wake of fast-spreading coronavirus cases in India, the central government has suspended all domestic commercial flights with effective from midnight 24 March. The government, however, did not clarify on the deadline of the suspension period.

India, which has already banned international flights for a week from Sunday, has taken this decision to restrict travel amid the coronavirus pandemic. "The operations of domestic schedule commercial airlines shall cease with effect from the midnight that is 23.59 hours IST (Indian Standard Time) on March 24, 2020," a ministry spokesperson said. "Airlines have to plan operations so as to land at their destinations before 23.59 hours on March 24, 2020," the spokesperson added.

However, the spokesperson clarified that the restrictions would not apply to cargo flights. Earlier in the day, aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had clarified on Twitter that all cargo flights - domestic and international - can operate as usual. DGCA had also announced a slew of measures for airlines and airports on social distancing, which include ensuring adequate space between passengers and check-in counters and leaving one seat vacant between two passengers, among others.

THE MEETING ALSO DECIDED THAT ADVANCE RATION for two months of April and May would be issued to all eligible consumers. Besides, one month's ration for Mid-Day Meals would also be given in advance to all parents of eligible children.

SC Asks States, UTs To Consider Releasing Prisoners To Decongest Jails

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI- The Supreme Court Monday directed all states and Union Territories to constitute high-level committees to consider releasing on parole or interim bail prisoners and under-trials for offences entailing up to 7-year jail term to decongest prisons in the wake of coronavirus pandemic. The top court said overcrowding of prisons is a matter of serious concern, particularly in the present context of coronavirus (COVID 19). In regard to the provisions of Article 21 of the Constitution of India, it has become imperative to ensure that the spread of coronavirus within the prisons is controlled, the court said.

"We direct that each State/Union Territory shall constitute a High Powered Committee comprising of (i) Chairman of the State Legal Services Committee, (ii) the Principal Secretary (Home/Prison) by whatever designation is known as, (iii) Director General of Prison(s), to determine which class of prisoners can be released on parole or an interim bail for such period as may be thought appropriate," it said. The top court said it would be open for the High Powered Committee to determine the category of prisoners who should P-02

Kashmir Trade Bodies Endorse Lockdown

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two major trade bodies of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday endorsed government announced shutdown and urged people to stay indoors in an attempt to prevent spread of coronavirus pandemic. President Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI) Sheikh Ashiqin a statement issued here said that the conglomerate has taken a pledge to support the administration to eradicate this virus from J&K. "But government needs to take some steps immediately for ensuring smooth lockdown. They need to ensure that ample foodstuff, baby food, medicines are available in the localities and people shouldn't strive for it," Ashiq said. P-02

Shab-e-Meraj Prayers Low-Key Affair

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: The Shab-e-Meraj (night of ascent) prayers in Kashmir on Sunday night were a low-key affair amidst the coronavirus scare, officials said on Monday. They said no night-long prayers were held at any major mosque or shrine in the valley. The officials said Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Walf Board had on Saturday announced the suspension of celebrations and congregational prayers on Shab-e-Meraj in view of the virus threat. However, low-key celebrations and prayers were held at some mosques in the valley, but the gatherings were small and prayers short, the officials said. Shab-e-Meraj is observed P-02

Rajya Sabha Approves Rs 1-Lakh Crore Budget For J-K

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The Rajya Sabha on Monday approved a bill for the budget of Rs 1-lakh crore for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for 2020-21. After approval, the bill was returned to the Lok Sabha. Replying after a discussion on the Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bills, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur said only 10 per cent of the funds will be spent for security purposes in the union territory and the remaining have been earmarked for developmental objectives. Thakur said the government has made a provision of over Rs 1 lakh crore towards the union territory's budget in 2020-21, as against Rs 88,911 crore in the previous financial year.

According to him, one crore people from Jammu and Kashmir were earlier left out of the Centre's flagship health scheme Ayushman Bharat, but now every resident of the union territory will be covered. Pointing out that six roadshows were held in the union territory recently, he said the Centre is committed to attract investments worth thousands of crores into Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted that three circuits have been announced for Jammu and Kashmir, with a view to draw tourists in large numbers. The Upper House also approved and returned to Lok Sabha another bill for the budget of Ladakh, as required under rules for money bills. The bills were approved with voice vote after a debate P-02



Authorities Monday started enforcing a lockdown to help check the spread of coronavirus in the valley.

J&K On Ventilator, Situation Worsens, Says Azad

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI- Senior Congress leader GhulamNabi Azad alleged on Monday that Jammu and Kashmir was on "ventilator" after the government put it under a "political quarantine" for the last seven months and a half, saying the situation there was worse than what it was even 30 years ago. Initiating a debate in the Rajya Sabha on the Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bills, the Leader of Opposition in the Upper House of Parliament hoped that the next budget for Jammu and Kashmir would be passed in the Assembly there and all political detainees would be released immediately to help revive political activity in the state. He also demanded an early grant of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir,

which has been divided into two Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, since October 31 last year. Azad alleged that there was no development in Jammu and Kashmir ever since it was bifurcated into Union territories and deprived of statehood, contrary to the claims made by the BJP-led Centre. He said it would have been better if the budget for Jammu and Kashmir was discussed in the Assembly there, adding that it was being deliberated upon at a time when the entire world was under the grip of the coronavirus and making efforts to get out of it. "A quarantine has been imposed, but Jammu and Kashmir is in a political quarantine for the last seven months and a half. We need to get out. "The situation in Jammu and Kashmir now is even P-02