

Maximum : 18°C
Minimum : 8°C
Humidity : 46%

SUNSET
Today 06:55 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:13 AM

Contact: -0194-2502327
FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS &
YOUR COPY OF

www.kashmirobserver.net • twitter.com / kashmirobserver • facebook.com/kashmirobserver • Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016



COVID-19: MINDFULNESS APP MAY PREVENT ANXIETY, BURNOUT IN DOCTORS

As novel coronavirus cases continue to increase, health professionals on the front lines face frightening realities, rising anxiety and the very real potential for burnout, and to deal with such situations, mindfulness app can be helpful.....

COVID-19: WHEN THE EARTH DECIDED TO HIT BACK

Is our planet fighting back? Is mother nature regenerating and cleansing itself? You see, since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak, different people developed their own theories of what happened — some believe that.....

US USING 'WILD WEST' TACTICS TO OUTBID RIVALS FOR MEDICAL SUPPLIES IN WAR AGAINST COVID-19

From Europe to South America, US allies are complaining about the superpower's "Wild West" tactics in outbidding or blocking shipments to buyers who have already signed deals for vital medical supplies. In France and Germany, senior officials said the United States.....



News Digest

Gunfight Rages In Kupwara Forest

Srinagar: Government forces and militants on Saturday exchanged gunfire in the frontier Kupwara district, where search operations were underway since Wednesday morning. During the fourth day of searches, the government forces established contact with a group of militants, who were on the run after Wednesday's brief shootout near Line of Control (LoC) on Jungand forest in Teen Bahak area, news agency GNS reported. The government forces and militants exchanged gunfire at Rangdori Behak after coming face to face. The exchange of fire was going on when the last reports came in.

Low-Intensity Earthquake Hits J&K

Jammu: A low-intensity earthquake, measuring 4.0, hit Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, a Meteorological Department official said. The tremors were felt at 6.14 am and lasted for a few seconds, the official said. He said the epicentre of the quake was 60 kilometer below the surface of the earth at latitude 35.5 degrees north and longitude 74.8 degrees east.

DIPR Launches Website To Curb Fake News

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) on Saturday launched a website to counter fake news and misinformation and to generate awareness among the people in the context of COVID-19 pandemic. "Our initiative is to help you counter fake news. DIPRJK in its endeavor to help you with true information launches the website diprjfactcheck.in. Check what's fact & what's fiction. Our effort to kill fake news and empower the public with information", tweeted Syed Shehrish Asgar, Director Information. The department has informed that spreading fake news, misinformation and fear mongering can land a person in jail besides it is a punishable offence and knowingly or unknowingly forwarding any fake news is a crime. Citizens can report any fake news, misinformation, fear/hate mongering message received on Whatsapp or any other social media site on www.diprjfactcheck.in.

Medical Items Stolen From Health Center

Srinagar: Unidentified burglars stuck a health center in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district and fled with medical equipment, reports said Saturday. Burglars barged into the health sub-center at Saloora area of the district and stole a sugar testing machine, sanitizers and face masks. The health sub-center is now known as 'Wellness Centre', news agency KNT reported. Locals said that no staff was present in the centre when the burglars broke into it.

Situation Is Under Control: Div Com

SRINAGAR: As the Valley saw a major jump in coronavirus cases on Saturday, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole said that the situation was under control and the administration was prepared for any exigency. During a meeting with the KCCI representatives and members of civil society groups here today, Pole said that Covid-19 suspects, who have foreign travel history and are currently under quarantine, will be released in case they test negative, within three days, an official handout said. All of them, he said will be put under home quarantine for 14 days. Div Com also informed the civil society and trade body members that at present, positive Covid-19 cases have come from contact groups and all of them have P-02

7 Covid-19 Patients Test Negative

SRINAGAR: Seven COVID-19 positive patients undergoing treatment at a hospital here have tested negative for coronavirus in a subsequent test, a senior doctor at Jammu and Kashmir's Chest Diseases hospital said on Saturday. Dr Naveed Nazir Shah, head of the Chest Diseases hospital here, said another sample will be taken from these patients. "Once the (fresh) tests are negative, the patients will be discharged after completing the mandatory quarantine period," Shah said. He said there were 19 coronavirus positive patients admitted at the hospital and some of them will be discharged soon after following proper protocol. As many as 75 people have tested positive for coronavirus P-02

Covid-19 Cases Spike In J&K, 19 More Test Positive

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday recorded highest spike in coronavirus cases as 19 more people, including 16 from the Valley tested positive, taking the total number of cases in the Union Territory to 94. Of these, 16 fresh cases were reported from Kashmir, reports said. Most of the cases recorded today are from the three northern districts of Kupwara, Bandipora and Baramulla. Two people from Shopian and one from Pulwama are also among those who tested positive to Covid-19. Of them, eight are admitted to Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla, five in SKIMS Soura and three at Chest Disease Hospital, one of the Covid-19 designated management facilities. A 66-year-old man from Heeri village of Kupwara, his wife and a young son are among the six people who tested positive to coronavirus today. Three others include two women from Handwara, and a man from Tangdhar. "All of them have history of stay at Markaz Nizamuddin New Delhi. They were already under quarantine but as per protocol, contact tracing is being carried out on a war footing. All of them are doing well by God's grace and we wish them a speedy recovery," Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Anshul Garg told news agency GNS. The four cases from Bandipora include two men in their forties who had travel to Jammu and participated in a religious function while two others—30-year-old man and a teen are contacts of previous Covid-19 patients. In Baramulla, the three new cases are relatives of the Covid-19 patient, a teacher by profession, whose father died of the infection recently. P-02



HEALTH WORKERS ON STANDBY AT A QUARANTINE CENTER In Srinagar On Saturday. Pic Abidbhat

287 More Released After Quarantine

SRINAGAR: Authorities on Saturday released another batch of 287 persons from quarantine, taking the total number of people who successfully completed the two-week isolation period in the city to 1,413, officials said. The 287 persons most of who are students and had returned from Bangladesh were discharged from various quarantine facilities, they said. They said this was the fourth group to be released from quarantine in four days. On March 31, seventy-eight persons were discharged, while 236 were allowed to return to their homes on April 1. The next day, 324 were released and on April 3, another 488 were discharged after completing their two-week quarantine periods. P-02

HC Seeks Report On PPE Availability, Needs Of Frontline Workers

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Saturday sought a report from the administration on the availability of safety equipment to healthcare professionals and ensuring provision of care to families of healthcare and government employees or officials engaged in the fight against COVID-19. It also called for considering the possibility of running 24-hour canteens in health institutions to enable provision of the necessities of the healthcare and other personnel engaged in addressing the COVID-19 issues. Hearing a plea via video conference, the coram comprising Chief Justice Jammu and Kashmir High Court Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Rajesh Oswal appreciated the efforts of governments of J&K and Ladakh on the coronavirus pandemic and lauded the role of district administrations, police and legal services authority in ensuring continuity of essential services to the people. The coram directed P-02

LG Seeks Help Of Religious Leaders

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor G C Murmu on Saturday asked religious leaders to advise their followers against holding any congregations and spread awareness about maintaining social distancing to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. "The government alone cannot fight the emerging situation unless the public participates and cooperates with the government in its efforts to prevent and contain this pandemic," Murmu said interacting with leaders and heads of various religious groups and organisations of different faiths through video conferencing here. He said religious and spiritual leaders have a crucial role to play in order to bring about a conscientious behavioral P-02

Homecoming Halt: Anxiety Gripping Kashmiri Students in Rajasthan

Izhar Nazir Ali

SRINAGAR: The hope of returning home is fading among hundreds of Kashmiri students who have completed mandatory quarantine period in Jaisalmer city of Rajasthan after their return from Iran last month. "With every passing day, we are losing hope," a fourth year female student at Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS), told Kashmir Observer. "We don't know if we could ever go back to our homes. We have been left in lurch, abandoned." Hailing from Budgam district of central Kashmir, she was one among the hundreds of Kashmiri students evacuated from novel coronavirus hit Iran on March 14, and taken to Army Wellness Centre Jaisalmer for quarantine.

A week after completing mandatory quarantine process, she and her friends continue to remain 'unattended, uninformed' at the center. All the evacuated students, she said went to undergo quarantine process for their safety and well-being of others. However, prolonged stay was not something the students were mentally prepared for, especially when all the students have tested negative to coronavirus. "Now, we have been left in dark, unattended and uninformed. We have no idea what's going on here as the authorities are not being honest with us," she said. "There are many students who are unable to cope up with the situation. Some experience panic attacks, some even cry at the night. The situation here is bad and depressing."



A file photo of Iran evacuated students at Jaisalmer on March 18.

Pandemic and the alleged official apathy is not the only worry students are facing thousands of miles away from their homes. The soaring mercury too is giving them sleepless nights. "The temperature is rising every passing day. We aren't used to stay in 35 Degree Celsius. It is really hard for those students who come from hilly areas," said another student of TUMS. "It has been 21 days now at the quarantine center. We are P-02

Kpc Flays Gag Order On Doctors Dealing With Pandemic

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir Press Club has taken serious note of the attempts by authorities to throttle information on coronavirus amid the unprecedented lockdown across the region. Highlighting a recent gag order issued by Director Health Services, Kashmir directing doctors and paramedics not to share information with media about the ongoing crisis, the KPC said stopping information flow amid the unprecedented situation is

highly condemnable. It said putting out information during pandemic through authentic print and electronic media is of vital importance as it helps to stop flow of unverified information and rumours. "The Kashmir Press Club notes with concern that the order invariably is nothing but a crude attempt at further stifle the freedom of press in the region. Kashmir media has been playing its role responsibly by highlighting lack of facilities and protective gears for frontline P-02

THE KPC EXPECTS THE CONCERNED government authorities to exchange information related to coronavirus crisis with media and journalists with more vigor as only free and transparent flow of information would facilitate an objective and accurate body of work by the journalists",

Restore Statehood, Hold Elections: Omar Abdullah

SRINAGAR: As the Centre amended domicile law after sharp criticism from various parties, J&K's former chief minister Omar Abdullah Saturday demanded restoration of statehood and elections. In a series of tweets the National Conference (NC) vice president wrote that, "I haven't yet spoken my mind about the central governments' decision made on August-05 last year." Omar demanded the restoration of statehood and elections in Jammu and Kashmir. The former chief minister, who was released from detention of almost eight months, on March 24, had stated that he won't speak about August 5 decision of last year till fight against pandemic is over. However, for the first time after his release, Omar demanded the state-

hood and election to be conducted within the UT. Taking to his twitter handle, Omar termed the amendment in domicile law a sudden change in mind of central government and asked the citizen's to decide the laws that will govern them in times to come. In a tweet he said, "It's high time the people of J&K get to decide the laws that will govern them rather than being subjected to the whims & fancies of the centre where orders are issued in the morning & changes to the same order issued in the evening. Restore statehood, conduct elections". He also said that the twitter isn't the right platform to discuss the things. In his series of tweets, Omar said he is yet unable to find an appropriate platform to discuss what his remarks are about the decision of central government made P-02

Centre Amends J&K Domicile Law

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government amended its two-day-old order on Friday night and reserved all jobs in Jammu and Kashmir for the domiciles of the Union territory -- people who have stayed there for at least 15 years. On Wednesday, while laying down the rules for domiciles, the government had reserved jobs up to group 4 only. However, following angry reactions from local political parties, an amended gazette notification, titled the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of State Laws) Order-2020, was put out, reserving jobs for the domiciles of the UT, which was formed in October last year after N withdrew the special status of the erstwhile state and announced its bifurcation. P-02

Domicile Law Drafted By A Failed Law Graduate: Amitabh Matoo

Noted academician Amitabh Matoo says that the draft regarding the domicile law for J&K has been prepared by a Section Officer who probably failed in his law degree. Under the domicile law, anyone who has resided in J&K for 15 years or has studied in the state for seven years, and appeared in either the Class 10 or the Class 12 examinations, will be eligible for domicile certificates. This would allow them to apply P-02

Mainstream Parties Call Amended Domicile Law 'Cosmetic'

Several political parties in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday reacted sharply to the amendments in the domicile law for the Union Territory, saying they were cosmetic and token concessions which fell short of the expectations. National Conference (NC) vice president Omar Abdullah said the people of Jammu and Kashmir should get to decide the laws to govern themselves rather than being subjected P-02

South Kashmir: 4 Militants Killed In Kulgam Gunfight

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have killed four Hizbul Mujahideen militants responsible for killing civilians in the twin districts of Kulgam and Anantnag in south Kashmir. Acting on specific information about the presence of four militants, a joint search operation was launched by police, army and CRPF in Hardmand Guri village Kulgam during the intervening night, a police spokesperson said. The militants hiding in the village, he said fired at the search team when they started advances. "The fire was retaliated leading to the outbreak of encounter. In the ensuing gunfight, four militants were killed," the police spokesperson said. He identified three of the slain militants as Shahid Sadiq Malik and Waqar Farooq Itoo of Dambhal Hanjpora, Mohammad Ashraf Malik of Arwani An-

antnag. The identity of the fourth militant was yet to be ascertained. "As per the records, the slain militants were affiliated with HM and involved in several crime cases including civilian atrocities," the police spokesperson said. The police spokesperson claimed that the slain militants started killing civilians when the police and central forces were busy in assisting administration in combating coronavirus. "They killed two civilians at Kulgam and another in Anantnag," the police spokesperson said, adding "Incriminating materials, arms and ammunitions including 01 AK-47, 01 SLR, 01 Insas Rifle and 01 Pistol were recovered from their possession." The police spokesperson urged people not to venture around the gunfight spot till it is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any.