



Maximum : 18°C  
Minimum : 8°C  
Humidity : 56%

SUNSET Today 06:57 PM  
SUNRISE Tomorrow 06:09 AM

# OBSERVER

23<sup>rd</sup> year OF PUBLICATION KASHMIR

14 Shaban-UL-Muazzam | 1441 Hijri | Vol:23 | Issue:72 | Pages:08 | Price: ₹3

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



**CREATIVITY IS BORN FROM THE RIGHT PART OF THE BRAIN. HERE'S ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW**  
Neuroscientists who studied the brain activity of jazz guitarists during improvisations have suggested that creativity prompted from an unfamiliar situation is a "right-brain" activity. A brain-imaging study out of Drexel University's Creativity Research Lab ....



**COVID-19 AND THE STATE OF EMERGENCY**  
COVID-19, a pandemic, which has resulted in so much distress in the world, has brought almost every country to a standstill. Not only those which are grappling with this issue, are looking for all the means to contain its spread and put an end to it, but the rest are also worried about ....

**HOURS AFTER TRUMP THREAT, INDIA APPROVES EXPORT OF KEY DRUG**  
Hours after US President Donald Trump warned India of retaliation if it refused to deliver hydroxychloroquine, Indian government lifted a partial ban on the export of anti-malaria drug to aid America's fight ....



## News Digest

### Cross-LoC Shelling Continues In Poonch

Jammu:India and Pakistani troops traded gunfire for the second consecutive day Tuesday along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. "At about 7:45 am on Tuesday, Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing from small arms and shelling mortars along the LoC in Mankote sector of Poonch district," a defense spokesperson said. "The Indian Army is retaliating in a befitting manner." • P-02

### 2 OGWS Held in North Kashmir: Police

Srinagar: Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested two alleged overground workers (OGWs) from Sopore town of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. A joint team of special operations group (SOG) of police and army's 32 RR carried out a raid at Dangiwachi area of Sopore today and arrested two alleged OGWS, news agency GNS reported. A police official while confirming the arrests and said that two pistols have been recovered from their possession. He said that an investigation in this connection has been initiated.

### Photojournalist Thrashed In City Center

Srinagar: Kamran Raashid Bhat, a photojournalist associated with a national daily 'Dainik Jagran' was allegedly thrashed by Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) men outside his office at Red Cross Road in Srinagar on Tuesday. Kamran said that he was discharging his professional duty when some CRPF men pounced upon him and beat him to the pulp, news agency KNO reported. Despite pleading before them, Kamran said the CRPF men tried to snatch and destroy even his camera as well. Bhat has received bruises all over his body

### Woman Found Dead In Srinagar

Srinagar: A woman was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Anchar area of this capital city, reports said Tuesday. The locals spotted the body of a woman lying in Anchar area of the city this afternoon and immediately informed police about it, news agency CNS reported. A police team reached the spot and took the body in their custody, reports added. A police officer said investigations have been initiated into the mysterious death of the woman.

### 5 Gamblers Held In Sopore: Police

Srinagar: Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested five gamblers from Sopore town of Baramulla district. Acting on an input, a police team raided a gambling site and arrested five gamblers and recovered an amount of Rs20,750 from the spot, a police spokesperson said. He identified the alleged gamblers as Hilal Ahmad Sofi, Mohammad Yousuf Bhat, Ab Hamid Hajam, AbdulQayoom Sheikhhand Zahoor Ahmad Bhat. • P-02

## Bandipora Man Dies Of Covid-19, Toll Reaches 3 In Kashmir

### 15 More Test Positive To Infection, 37713 Under Lens

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir witnessed third death due to coronavirus on Monday, as fifteen fresh cases surfaced, nine of them in Valley, taking the toll of Covid-19 positive cases to 125 across the Union territory

According to the government, out of 125 positive cases, 118 are active, 04 have recovered and 03 others have died in the Union Territory.

A 52-year-old from Gund Jehangir village of Bandipora died of coronavirus at the SMHS here, hours after he was admitted at the hospital. With his death, the toll due to Covid-19 in Valley reached three today.

According to reports, the samples of the middle-aged man came positive this afternoon. He was laid to rest at his native village. Only five close relatives of the deceased were allowed to participate in the funeral prayers, after wearing proper protective equipment.

A 65-year-old man from Srinagar was the first fatality in Kashmir on March 26 followed by another man of same age from Tangmarg in Baramulla district who died on March 29.

Of the 15 cases reported on Tuesday, nine are • PAGE 02



SECURITY PERSONNEL ENFORCING CURBS IN SRINAGAR, AS Coronavirus Cases Continue To Soar Despite Lockdown. Pic Abid Bhat

**A WOMAN FROM EIDGAH SRINAGAR ALSO TESTED POSITIVE TO COVID-19. She had come in contact with the previous patients from the area, reports said.**

### No Medicine Shortage: Govt

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday rubbished news report claiming that the Valley was facing shortage of medicines due to the lockdown to combat coronavirus spread. In a statement issued • P-02

### Intensify Contact Tracing Dulloo

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday directed officials to intensify contact tracing of the COVID positive patients on a war footing basis, as the cases • P-02

### Mass Promotion For Jammu School Students

SRINAGAR: The authorities in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday decided to give mass promotion to the students from classes 1st to 9th and for class 11th in Jammu • P-02

### Shab-e-Barat Gatherings Banned

SRINAGAR: The district administration has prohibited all sorts of religious congregation and public movement on the occasion of Shab-e-Barat in Srinagar.

"In view of the prevailing health situation because of COVID-19 outbreak the DM @listen Shahid has issued an order prohibiting

all sorts of religious congregation and public movement on the occasion of Shab-e-Barat in Srinagar," Srinagar district administration said in a tweet.

The order issued by Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Shahid Iqbal Choudhary under Section 144 of CrPC states that • PAGE 02

### 34 More Discharged After Quarantine

SRINAGAR: The district authorities on Tuesday discharged another batch of 34 more people who completed mandatory two-week quarantine period in this capital city upon their arrival in the Valley last month.

All except one in this group belonged to Srinagar district, an official spokesperson said today. Upon being discharged all these persons were ferried home. Concerned supervising officers oversaw their discharge and their transportation.

### 2 Bandipora Villages Red Zones

BANDIPORA: The district administration on Tuesday declared two more villages in this north Kashmir district as 'Red Zones' to prevent the spread of Covid-19 after two villages tested positive to the virus. • P-02

The injured was rushed to SDH Bijbehara for treatment. However, doctors there referred him to GMC Anantnag for specialized treatment," they said.

### 2 City Areas Sealed After Cases Detected

SRINAGAR: The district authorities on Tuesday declared two areas of the city -- Eidgah and Lal Bazar -- as containment zones and sealed them to prevent the spread of the • P-02

### Poplar Felling Draws Mixed Reactions

SRINAGAR: Kashmiri Netizens are locking horns over the government's latest order to fell some "tens of thousands of female poplars within 10-days", according to a report published in a leading Indian daily, The Hindu.

### 6 Inmates Released From Kupwara Jail

SRINAGAR: Authorities in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Tuesday released six jail inmates on the recommendation of high powered committee to decongest the jails in • P-02

## 5 Militants Killed In Kupwara Gunfight Laid To Rest

### South Kashmir Families To Wait For DNA Tests

SRINAGAR: Five militants killed in Sunday's firefight with army in the frontier Kupwara district on Tuesday were laid to rest, while the families from twin districts of Shopian and Kulgam have been told to wait for DNA test to verify their claims that three of the slain were their kin.

Bodies of all the five militants were buried at Noun Gali, a faraway place from main town Kupwara today by a group of locals after the officials conducted post-mortem and collected samples for DNA test, news agency GNS reported. The samples were collected by a team of doctors taken to the place by the police. Besides medico formalities, a police officer said that legal formalities were also conducted.

The DNA samples have been collected after three south Kashmir families approached police claiming three of the five slain militants were their kin. All the three families were seeking custody of the bodies for performing last rites.

The families, who had received information through anonymous sources about the killing of their kin, have given physical description and photographs to police to substantiate their claims, sources said. The families have now returned back to their villages and have to wait for report of the DNA test.

"As soon as DNA reports are received, these families or any other interest family would be called for matching of the samples. On • PAGE 02

## IFJ Campaign To End Ban On 4G Internet Titled 'Postcards From Kashmir'

Agencies

Srinagar: The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) along with South Asia Media Solidarity Network (SAMSN) has launched a campaign to bring to light the severe impact on journalists of the ban on high-speed mobile internet (4G) in J&K and has urged the government of India to lift the restrictions.

"The world needs to know the severe impact on the lives of civilians and journalists as a result of this shutdown. We need solidarity and collective action to end this viola-

tion of human rights and journalist rights immediately," said IFJ and SAMSN in a joint statement.

The campaign, "POSTCARDS FROM KASHMIR", started from April 4. It highlights the "critical need for high-speed communications during the COVID-19 pandemic" even as journalists the world over are switching to online mode in a bid to break the transmission chain of the deadly disease.

The campaign carries stories of journalists from Kashmir reflecting how journalists bore the brunt of the communication shutdown imposed on the eve of abrogation of

Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir on August 5. The internet shutdown for more than six months by the government of India is the longest ever in a democracy. While some communications have been gradually restored, the block on high speed mobile 4G internet in Kashmir remains. On April 3, this ban was again extended to April 15.

"Even before some communications were restored, the blackout was already the world's longest communication shutdown in a democracy. India continues to lead the world in the number of • PAGE 02

## Faultlines In Kashmir's COVID-19 Frontline

Hirra Sultan

SRINAGAR: Every morning Dr Shameema gets up and changes not in her room but in the spare washroom outside the premises of her home.

She longs to give her year-old baby one hug before she heads out for the perilous duty, but she decides against it.

The most she carries with her is her phone, loose change and a sanitiser. No purses, water bottles or tiffin accompany her anymore. One can read worry written all over her face.

"Every doctor is taking as many precautions as possible," Dr. Shameema told Kashmir Observer. "With us at the forefront, we can-

not risk taking the virus home." Kashmir's conflict-hardened medics, experienced in tackling a warlike situation back home, are today anxious about a microorganism that has already consumed over 70,000 people across the globe.

Dr Shameema is married to another doctor and the couple has been having elaborate discussions since the apprehensions of Covid-19 started in Kashmir.

They mutually agreed on what clothes they would take out with them, and everything else, mandatory to keep the virus at bay.

"We are all afraid of what would happen if we get infected," she said.

Her husband, Dr. Asim, has already taught his toddler • PAGE 02



## CRPF Trooper Shot Dead In South Kashmir's Bijbehara

Agencies

SRINAGAR - A paramilitary CRPF trooper was killed in a militant attack in Bijbehara area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Tuesday.

Reports said that the suspected militants fired upon the CRPF party at Goriwan, Bijbehara critically injuring a trooper identified as Shiv Lal Neetam, reported news agency GNS.

"The injured was rushed to SDH Bijbehara for treatment. However, doctors there referred him to GMC

Anantnag for specialized treatment," they said.

Medical Superintendent of GMC Anantnag, Dr Abdul Majeed Mehrab said that the trooper was declared brought dead at the health facility. He said that the trooper had received critical bullet wounds in his chest.

A senior Police officer also confirmed the death of the CRPF man in the attack.

Meanwhile, government forces launched searches in the area to nab the attackers.

## Mehbooba Shifted To Her Residence, Detention Continues

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR - In a partial relief, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, who was detained under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA), was shifted to her official residence that has been converted into a subsidiary jail where she would continue to be in detention.

Mufti, who heads the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) that was in alliance with the BJP till June 2018, was detained on August 5 last year when the Centre abrogated the special status of the erstwhile state and divided it into two Union Territories.

Initially, she was taken into preventive custody. Later on February 6 this year, she was slapped with the PSA along with another former chief minister Omar Abdullah, who was released recently.

According to an official order issued by the home department of the Union Territory, "The government hereby orders the change of place of lodgement of Ms Mehbooba Mufti... to subsidiary jail, Fairview, Gupkar Road, Srinagar, with immediate effect."

Mufti, who has completed eight months in detention, was lodged at a government bungalow on • PAGE 02

## Iran Calls For Swift Return Of Stranded Indian Citizens

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The Islamic Republic of Iran has called upon India to swiftly evacuate Indian citizens from the holy city of Qom stranded after the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic.

In a meeting with Indian ambassador to Iran Gaddam Dharmendra, Qom governor-general said that the Indian citizens residing in the holy city of Qom have been settled in 50 different accommodations, official news agency of the country IRNA reported.

He said that with the spread of the coronavirus disease in Iran in late February, the settlement and

quarantining the Indian citizens in the hotels of Qom, as well as rendering treatment services to the patient ones were put on the agenda of the Iranian officials.

The governor-general, according to the report said that Tehran has even used the Iranian airlines to return the Indian citizens to their home country.

Noting that the first cases of infection to the coronavirus disease were found in Qom, he said that special measures have been taken to protect the health of the foreign citizens.

Although the governments put their own citizens first in rendering health services, Iran did not do so and the foreign • PAGE 02