

Maximum : 23°C Today 07:00 PM SUNSET
Minimum : 11°C TOMORROW 06:03 AM SUNRISE
Humidity : 45%



99.8 PC WORKFORCE IN IT SECTOR INCAPABLE OF REMOTE WORKING: STUDY

Amid the ongoing nationwide lockdown when all organizations in the IT sector are engaging its employees in remote work or work from home, a study has revealed that only 0.2 per cent workforce in the IT industry is highly productive.

News Digest

Soldier Injured In Cross-LoC Firing

Poonch- An army man was injured in cross-border firing in Poonch district of Jammu region, Official said on Saturday.

Militants Flee After Gunfight In Kulgam

Srinagar- The militants managed to escape after a brief gunfight with State forces in Nandimarg in the Damhal Hanjipora area of the south Kashmir's Kulgam district, a police official said on Saturday.

Father Dies of Electric Shock, Son Injured

Srinagar: An elderly man on Saturday was electrocuted to death while his son was injured in Binner area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

Alleged Jaish OGW Held In Jammu

Jammu- An alleged overground worker (OGW) of Jaish-e-Mohammad militant outfit was arrested from a village near the International Border here, a police official said on Saturday.

2 Drug Peddlers Arrested: Police

Srinagar: Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested two notorious drug peddlers and recovered contraband substance from their possession in Sopore town of Baramulla district.

Lockdown Set To Be Extended As Cases Cross 8000 Mark In India

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The nationwide lockdown to contain the deadly coronavirus looks set to be extended by two more weeks till April-end after a consensus emerged among states on Saturday for continuing the curbs amid the tally of confirmed infections crossing 8,000 with a record increase of over 1,000 cases within 24 hours.

While Prime Minister Narendra Modi asked state governments to take steps to curb the lockdown violations and ensure adherence to social distancing, he also announced a shift in focus from 'Jaan hai to jahaan hai' (health is wealth) to 'Jaan bhi, jahaan bhi' (lives as well as livelihoods).

The next 3-4 weeks would be critical to determine the impact of steps taken till now to curb the virus spread, Modi told the chief ministers.

During their interaction, several chief ministers demanded financial and fiscal relief from the Centre to fight the pandemic, while Modi suggested measures to incentivise direct marketing of farm produce to help farmers, among other steps to help the country remain healthy and to prosper too.

Modi also said the crisis is an opportunity to become self-reliant and turn the nation into an economic powerhouse.

Maharashtra, which became the third state to announce an extension in the lockdown after Odisha and Punjab even before an official extension to the nationwide lockdown, was PAGE 02



LOCAL VOLUNTEERS FUMIGATING A TEMPLE in Maisuma locality of Srinagar on Saturday.

Grannies Of Covid-19 Patient Among 17 New Cases, J&K Tally At 224

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two grannies of a young Covid-19 patient from Kupwara are among the fresh 17 cases recorded across Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, taking the count of infected persons across the Union Territory to 224, officials said.

J&K. 5 from Jammu Division and 12 from Kashmir. Total positive cases now 224.

Detailed bulletin follows," Government Spokesperson Rohit Kansal Tweeted today.

The 12 new cases of Covid-19 surfaced in twin districts of Kupwara and Bandipora and Shopian and

Budgam districts of south and central Kashmir.

70-year-old and 80-year-old grandmothers of a Covid-19 patient, a 23-year-old youth, also tested positive to the deadly infection today in Muqam Shahwali area of Kupwara. The third PAGE 02



HC Seeks Status Report On 4G Services Restoration

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has asked for a status report on restoration of 4G services after it was informed that non-availability of high-speed Internet was hampering studies of students who were confined to their homes because of the lockdown to curb coronavirus cases.

A division bench headed by Chief Justice Gita Mittal passed these directions after hearing amicus curiae Monika Kholi on a Public Interest Litigation.

Justice Mittal has been regularly reviewing the responses of the administrations of JK and Ladakh in tackling the

coronavirus situation. She has been holding regular video-conference hearings with all stakeholders involved in the fight against COVID-19.

During the video-conference held on Friday, Kohli made a vehement submission that on account of non-availability of the 4G services, the students in the Union Territories were unable to access the educational courses being sent by institutions.

The noted lawyer drew attention of the court that all colleges and schools on the directions of the universities and CBSE were providing study material and classes online but students of the two union territories PAGE 02

THE CBSE, THE KENDRIYA Vidyalaya Sangthan and other school boards and universities have begun holding online classes for its students from earlier this month.

Medics Taken Hostage At Budgam Village

SRINAGAR: A medical team was on Saturday taken hostage by locals in a village in Central Kashmir's Budgam district.

A medical team from Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Chadoora went to Sheikhpora village for screening of a person but the team was kept hostage inside the house, news agency KNO reported today.

An official from SDH Chadoora said that "as soon our PAGE 02

Of Quarantined Love, Window Talks, Masked Workforce



Jyotsna Bharti

As surging COVID-19 cases are sweeping major media attention in pandemic times, the newsy region of Kashmir is equally trending for other significant happenings.

Some of that unconventional

news, as it appears these days, is about the mental health specialists—advising people to hit the old routine to keep their sanity intact in the pandemic lockdown.

While in other news, Raj Bhanu is acting as a tough headmaster on the private PAGE 02

Asymptomatic Cases Can Infect Others: DAK

With more than 70 percent Covid-19 cases in Kashmir valley showing no symptoms, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Saturday said asymptomatic cases of the novel coronavirus can infect other people and spread the disease.

"Asymptomatic cases are silent spreaders of the disease," said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan. PAGE 02

Covid-19: HC Seeks Report On Implications Of "Darbar Move"

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Saturday sought a detailed report from various government departments on how the planned "Darbar Move" will impact the Union Territory's fight against the coronavirus outbreak.

The Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Rajnesh Oswal, was hearing through video conferencing and video calls a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) pertaining to the spread of the coronavirus.

The administration had on Friday ordered the formal

opening of the 'Darbar Move' and offices in summer capital Srinagar on May 4, but said employees will work on "as is where is" basis.

To take a considered opinion as to whether any direction can be passed to postpone the 'Darbar Move' till the outbreak is contained, the Bench asked secretaries of different departments to file separate reports on the impact of the exercise on the myriad aspects of governance and the fight against COVID-19, the disease caused by coronavirus.

The direction has been issued to the Secretary, General Administration PAGE 02

16 More Discharged After Quarantine

SRINAGAR: The district authorities on Saturday discharged another batch of 16 people who completed mandatory two-week quarantine period in this capital city upon their arrival in the Valley last month.

The group was under thorough medical supervision throughout their quarantine period and was discharged after clearance from doctors and health PAGE 02

3 Lockdown Violators Held In City

SRINAGAR: Police said on Saturday that three alleged lockdown violators were arrested from many parts of this capital city.

Manzoor Ahmad Tantray, Javid Ahmad Mir and Ghulam Mohd Rah were arrested by police in the areas falling under police post Chantpora for violating prohibitory orders imposed under Section 144 CrPC to contain spread of coronavirus, an official spokesperson said.

Accordingly, cases vide PAGE 02

Keran Encounter: Does It Signal A New Phase Of Kashmir Militancy

Riyaz Wani

At a time when J&K and the country are pre-occupied with fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, five soldiers and five militants lost their lives in a hand to hand combat in Operation Randori Behak in Keran sector near Line of Control.

The operation is the biggest in Kashmir since the revocation of Article 370 in Kashmir in August last. Security forces haven't suffered

such a huge loss in an encounter in a long time. Also, the encounter has taken place at a time when militancy in Kashmir had been giving all indications of being in retreat.

But Keran encounter has turned these calculations on their head. It has made it clear that the militancy is here to stay as the infiltration remains an ongoing phenomenon, the hi-tech border fencing not

withstanding. And the militants that are crossing over are highly trained and battle-hardened, considering the fact that they killed four paratroopers who are alleged to have participated in September 2016 surgical strike against Pakistan. What is also important is that the two of the militants are alleged to be Kashmiris from Kulgam and Shopian in South Kashmir.

If that be so, it shows that Kashmiri youth are once again crossing the border for arms training



File Pic.

in Pakistan or Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, a phenomenon that had all but stopped over the past decade. The youth would join militancy and train locally. But these armed youth have had little more than a symbolic value as their rudimentary training often PAGE 02

Srinagar-Leh Highway Reopens After Four Months

Press Trust Of India

KARGIL: The 434-km Srinagar-Leh national highway, considered as the lifeline of the Union Territory of Ladakh, was reopened on Saturday to ferry essential commodities after remaining closed for over four months owing to heavy snowfall along the Zojila Pass.

In view of the coronavirus outbreak, the Ladakh administration on Friday had decided to only allow limited traffic, including trucks and oil tankers, to replenish essential supplies in the cold desert which usually remains cut off from the outside world during the winter months.

The strategic highway, the only road connecting Ladakh with Jammu and Kashmir, was reopened to carry essential commodities to Ladakh



File Pic.

region. The highway was closed in December last year due to incessant snowfall at 11,500 feet high Zojila Pass, an official of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) said.

As per the directions from Divisional Commissioner, Ladakh, Saugat Biswas, there was an emergent need to carry essential commodities to Ladakh UT, the official said, adding, Keeping that in mind, a team of project Beacon cleared PAGE 02