


 Maximum : 18°C  
 Minum : 09°C  
 Humidity : 75%  
 SUNSET  
 Today 07:02 PM  
 SUNRISE  
 Tomorrow 06:00 AM

# OBSERVER

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....LIFE &amp; TIMES

**P5**

## HERE'S HOW YOU CAN TEACH KIDS ABOUT CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

The novel Coronavirus has not just left our medical practitioners and researchers searching for solutions, but its also parents who find it hard to explain the phenomenon to young children, in a creative, calm way. As per ontological coach and author Geeta Ramakrishnan, while this Virus crisis will have a psychological effect on all of us, you want to make it as soft and digestible as possible for the little ones. "You can explain to your kids that Coronavirus is the name of an evil flu virus. When you usually get sick with flu, you get fever, cold and cough, and the doctor gives you medicines and you get better."

## News Digest

### Omar Backs PM Modi On Lockdown

Srinagar- National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said the decision to extend the lockdown till May 3 was a necessary step in view of the threat posed by COVID-19. "The extension of lockdown till May 3 isn't something we all wanted but given the threat we face from COVID-19, it's a necessity. Let's do everything we can to cooperate with authorities to avoid a further extension in May," he tweeted after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the extension of nationwide lockdown. Abdullah also urged people to help poor and weaker. **● P-02**

### Chief Electoral Officer Calls On LG

Jammu: Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir Hirdesh Kumar on Tuesday called on Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu here at the Raj Bhavan. Kumar briefed the LG about various activities undertaken for generating awareness of electoral process and sensitizing the voters and other ongoing activities of the Election Commission in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, an official spokesperson said. The LG asked the CEO to stress on the high importance of educating the voters about the value of their vote, besides increasing the enrolment of. **● P-02**

### Shopian Fruit Dealer Found Dead

Srinagar: Police recovered body of a fruit dealer under mysterious circumstances in south Kashmir's Shopian district on Tuesday. Reports said that the locals found the body of a man lying near a stream in Sedow area of the district this morning. The locals informed the police who reached the spot and took the body into custody. The slain man has been identified as Mohammad Maqbool Lone of Landora village of Shopian. A police official said that the cause of death was being ascertained.

### Woman Among 4 held For Drug Peddling

Srinagar: Police on Tuesday claimed to have arrested four alleged drug peddlers, including a woman from twin districts of Srinagar and Kupwara. In Srinagar, a police team intercepted three people at a checkpoint in Shergari area and recovered contraband substance from their possession, a police spokesperson said. All the three were arrested from the spot and shifted to the police station. The police spokesperson identified the trio as Madina, Zubair Ahmed Bhatt and Mudasiir Ahmed Sheikh, all residents of Allochi bagh. "Case FIR No. 20/2020 under relevant sections of law has been registered in police Station Shergari and further investigation into the matter has been initiated," the spokesperson said. In similar circumstances, **● P-02**

### J&K Records 5 New Covid-19 Cases, Tally Reaches 278

SRINAGAR: Two more contacts of a deceased covid-19 man from north Kashmir's Bandipora were among five more people, who tested positive to the dreaded disease on Tuesday, taking the count of infected people across the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory to 278.

"For now our luck seems to be holding!!! 8 new cases, 14 recoveries. New cases- 06 from Kashmir and 02 from Jammu Division. 14 recoveries, all from Kashmir," government spokesperson Rohit Kansal Tweeted.

However, on Monday Kashmir Observer had reported about the three cases from Srinagar, two from Chattabul and one Zoonimar.

On Tuesday, Valley recorded just three new cases, lowest in the recent days, while two fresh cases were reported from Jammu, reports said.

Gund Jehangir and Naidkhai area of Bandipora district recorded two fresh cases of Covid-19. One among **▶PAGE 02**

### LG Interacts With Doctors, Seeks Suggestions

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor G C Murmu on Tuesday interacted with doctors and sought their suggestions on the ways to contain the spread of COVID-19, a spokesperson said.

Reaching out to the doctors through a video conference, Murmu called for sustained efforts across the board and escalating the preventive efforts to fight against coronavirus effectively, he said.

The Lt Governor asked the doctors and paramedics to ensure their own safety while treating the patients and assured that administration would provide PPE, N-95 masks, gloves and other protective gear to them, the spokesperson said. Murmu told the doctors that measures are being taken to ensure availability of protective gears and critical equipment, but their use must be rationalized. During the interaction, various **▶PAGE 02**

### Man Booked, Quarantined For Hiding Travel History

JAMMU- A man was booked and quarantined after he came to Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district from a COVID-19 red zone in Srinagar but hid his travel history, officials said on Tuesday.

Mohinder Lal, a resident of Baradari in Reasi, took lift from cargo vehicles and reached home but failed to inform the authorities, they said.

By hiding his travel history he put his family members and general public at risk, the officials said.

After receiving information about Lal, police and health officials immediately put him under quarantine and registered a case against him, they said.

The district administration had issued an advisory that people coming the Reasi must inform the authorities about their travel history, **▶PAGE 02**

### LOCKDOWN EXTENDED

## Relaxation in Regions Sans Hotspots After April 20

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday extended the nationwide lockdown for another 19 days till May 3, and proposed certain relaxations after April 20 in places with no hotspots as also which have less likelihood to turn into a hotspot.

In a 25-minute televised address on the last day of the ongoing three-week lockdown, he said extensive guidelines on the second phase of the lockdown will be issued on Wednesday, asserting that his biggest priority is to save lives and minimise the hardships being faced by daily wagers and farmers.

Admitting that the lockdown has come at a huge economic cost, Modi, however, asserted that India has chosen the correct path, and managed to avert to a large extent the damage caused by the pandemic in many countries.

He also noted that most of the state governments, experts and other stakeholders recommended the extension of the lockdown to contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. There are 10,363 confirmed cases of coronavirus with 339 deaths due to COVID-19 so far in India, as per the Union health ministry data. **▶PAGE 02**



A CRPF TROOPER STANDS GUARD IN THE RED ZONE declared locality of uptown Srinagar on Tuesday. Pic Abid Bhat

### Govt Issues SOP For 'Red Zones'

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Government on Tuesday issued standing operating procedure (SOPs) to be followed in the areas declared as 'Red Zones' in an attempt to combat spread of coronavirus in the Union Territory. In an order issued by the Chief Secretary, B.V.R.

Subrahmanyam guidelines have been issued for the areas notified as Red Zones by the UT administration, an official spokesperson said. According to the SOPs, the Red Zone will see a 100% lockdown and shall be completely sealed for any movement across its boundaries, whether outward or inwards. The Red Zone will possibly have only one opening which

will be manned by Naka party and Magistrate.

"Stickers indicating Red Zone would be present at the point of entry / exit. The only movement across the red zone boundaries would be for medical supplies, essential commodities, medical emergencies, fumigation/sanitation, and enforcement/survey personnel," the official spokesperson said. **▶PAGE 02**

**DURING THIS TIME (TILL MAY 3), WE MUST CONTINUE MAINTAINING** discipline in the same way we have been doing so far. A single new patient anywhere, should be a matter of concern for us... Any new hot spot will pose a new challenge,"

### 204 Prisoners Released From J&K Jails

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: As many as 204 prisoners, including 45 who were arrested under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA), were released this month to decongest jails across Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, a senior government official said on Tuesday.

In addition, the Home department has also revoked the PSA of 41 prisoners who are held in different jails outside the Union Territory and ordered their release, the official said.

"A total of 204 prisoners have been released from vari-

ous jails of the Union Territory between April 1 and 13. They include 45 prisoners arrested under the PSA, 78 undertrials through the undertrial review committee, nine undertrials falling under section 107, 109, 151 of the CrPC," a senior government official said.

Among the 204, 16 prisoners were released on parole, he said.

On April 1, a three-member high powered committee headed by Executive Chairman J-K State Legal Services Authority (SLSA), Justice Rajesh Bindal along with Principal Secretary, **▶PAGE 02**

### Bring Back Students, Pilgrims Or We Quit: LAHDC, Kargil

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The elected members of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Kargil on Tuesday threatened mass resignation if the pilgrims and students of the Union Territory quarantined in the country and abroad are not brought back within a week.

A meeting of the elected representatives was held at the office of Chairman LAHDC, Kargil in which three resolutions were passed unanimously and the demands were sent to Lieutenant Gov-

ernor Radha Krishna Mathur for quick perusal. The meeting was also held by President Municipal Committee Kargil and President and General Secretary of Panchayat Coordination Committee Kargil.

The first resolution sought evacuation of pilgrims who have completed their quarantine period and those who are stranded in Iran. The second resolution called for evacuation of students and other citizens from outside UT and permission for stranded passengers to move within the UT.

"In the meantime, if any untoward incident happens to any citizen of Ladakh anywhere in the country **▶PAGE 02**

### 13 Patients Discharged After Recovery

SRINAGAR- Thirteen persons, who had tested positive for COVID-19 were discharged from Srinagar Hospital on Tuesday, after they recovered from the infection following treatment, said an official.

"More Positive Developments: 13 more COVID +ve patients discharged from CD (Chest Diseases) Hospital Srinagar after treatment/recovery. Good Job everyone." Government spokesman Rohit Kansal said in a tweet.

Leading pulmonologist of Kashmir Dr Naveed Shah, who is heading the COVID team at Chest Disease Hospital, said while it was a satisfying moment, there should be no lowering of the guard.

"A satisfactory moment... relieved 13 covid patients for home quarantine... not to lower our guard... stay home .. stay safe, maintain social distance, obey advisories. Together v can overcome all challenges," he tweeted.

Two minor sisters, who had contracted the infection from their grandfather, were released for home quarantine in Monday.

### Helpline For Covid-19 Related Issues Set Up

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday established a helpline to address Covid-19 related issues in the Valley.

The facility set up on the directions of Advisor to Lieutenant Governor Baseer Ahmad Khan will look after all the issues, grievances, complaints and other matters related to Covid-19 particularly in the Kashmir division, an official spokesperson said.

Two officers, Syed Farooq Ahmad (7006776586) and Anil Gupta (9797776541), have been detailed for the helpline/helpline which can be reached at 0191-2549353 or covid-carekashmir@gmail.com

The helpline/helpline can also be approached for redressal of administrative, collaborative and coordination matters by all the concerned.

### Aggressive Sampling Picking Up: Health Dept

SRINAGAR: The health department said on Tuesday that an aggressive sampling process has been launched in all the districts across Kashmir division and the department was aiming to take 800 samples per day.

"The process will provide a big relief to the COVID-19 patients and we will also be able to provide rapid response in their treatment," Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr Samir Mattoosaid today.

He said that the sample collection across the province has risen significantly in the last five days as the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir has trained 157 Lab technicians from the Valley.

"It has enormously decreased the burden of shifting of suspects to CD hospital and SKIMS for testing," he said, adding "Special Collection **▶PAGE 02**

## Uneasy Calm In Kupwara As Guns Fall Silent

Agencies

SRINAGAR: An eerie silence prevailed along the Line of Control (LoC) as the mortar guns of India and Pakistan armies remained quiet during the last 48 hours in north Kashmir.

Three civilians, including a woman and child, were killed on Sunday when the two estranged armies engaged in a fierce firefight along the LoC in frontier Kashmir district of Kupwara. Despite Pakistani guns fell silent since Sunday afternoon, people are reluctant to go back to their homes. Meanwhile, the residents of affected areas, who didn't leave, are praying for peace and demanded construction of bunkers.

The villagers said that it was the heaviest shelling by Pak troops in the area since ceasefire agreed by

India and Pakistan in 2003 on LoC and International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir. "This was the first time that shells have fallen deep inside Kupwara villages," they said.

Five heavily-armed militants and as many soldiers were killed in an encounter which ensued after alert troops foiled a major infiltration bid from Pck in Keran sector on April 5.

Official sources said that Pakistan troops are violating ceasefire to facilitate militants to infiltrate into Kashmir valley. "A large number of militants are waiting at launch pads in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (Pck) to sneak into this side," they said.

However, they said despite facing all odds, Indian troops remained on high alert along the Line of Control (LoC) to foil any militant attempt to infiltrate into this side.

### JKAP Demands Concrete Bunkers In Border Areas

SRINAGAR: Expressing serious concern over the loss of precious lives due to frequent skirmishes along the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir, Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) on Tuesday demanded immediate construction of underground bunkers in order to save the life of inhabitants of forward areas in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a joint statement issued here, the JKAP leaders extended solidarity with the bereaved families of three deceased including a minor boy **▶PAGE 02**



A GIRL STUDENT DOWNLOADING STUDY material at her house in Natipora area of the City on Tuesday. Pic AbidBhat

## DC Orders Police Probe Into Trucker's Assault

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: The district administration has directed police to probe the alleged assault on a trucker by government forces in Sopore town of this north Kashmir district last week.

According to reports, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla G.N Itoo shot a letter to SSP Sopore expressing his anguish over the alleged assault on an Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) tanker driver identified as Babu Ram near the sub-district hospital Sopore on Saturday last.

The trucker was on way to Jammu from Kupwara when he was intercepted by government forces, reports said.

The probe was ordered by Itoo after receiving an email complaint from DGM, Retail Sales, IOC, Jammu, **▶PAGE 02**