



Maximum : 19°C  
Today 07:03 PM  
Minimum : 11°C  
Humidity : 62%

SUNSET  
Today 07:03 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 05:58 AM

# OBSERVER

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

KASHMIR

22 Shaban-UL-Muazzam | 1441 Hijri | Vol: 23 | Issue: 80 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

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

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



### LOVE TO READ? HERE ARE SOME CAREER CHOICES

Reading is an activity not passivity. When we read, our senses are completely engrossed in the words and the ideas get transferred to our brains. People who are voracious readers get a chance to live multiple lives and view life from a larger lens rather than a myopic one. Readers turn out to be successful people as their broadened vision opens myriad choices for them. As an adolescent, my attention was incorrigibly drawn towards classic literature, I used to enjoy every word I read, I connected with the characters and felt a strong connection with them, I remember writing essays.

.....LIFE & TIMES  
**P5**

## News Digest

### 3 Houses Gutted in Noorbagh Blaze

Srinagar: Three houses where six families were residing got completely damaged in a blaze at Noorbagh area of Safa Kadal on Wednesday. The three houses of Ghulam Muhammad Kaloo, Mushtaq Ahmed Dar, and Habibullah Wani got completely damaged in the fire incident. "Six families were residing in these houses," they said. They said that fire tenders reached the spot to douse the flames (KNO)

### Govt Forces Attacked In Awantipora

Srinagar: Suspected militants opened fire on a patrolling party of government forces in south Kashmir on Wednesday, but there was no report of any casualty. The militants opened fire at the patrolling party at Barsoo in the Awantipora police district around 2.30 pm, a police official said, adding that no one was hurt in the incident. Soon after the attack, government forces cordoned off the area and launched a hunt for the attackers.

### Bangladeshi National Arrested Along IB

Jammu: A Bangladeshi national was arrested by security forces along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said. He was apprehended in an area under the Narayanpur Border Out Post in the district, they said. The man was subjected to questioning about his presence in the border belt, the officials said, adding that he has been arrested. He has been identified as Sadiq Bulbul of Dhaka, they said.

### Non-Local Labourer Found Dead

Srinagar: A non-local labourer was found dead in Qazigund area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Wednesday. The body was recovered by police today morning in Gassipora Wanpov village of the district, news agency GNS reported today. The deceased has been identified as Lalwa Sadhu son of Krishan Lal Sadhu of Bihar. Sadhu was working as a labourer in Gassipora Wanpov. Confirming it, a police official said that apparently Sadhu died due to cardiac arrest.

### Mortar Shell Triggers Panic In Poonch

Jammu: Panic gripped a border town in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday after a live mortar shell was found, but it was defused by security forces, officials said. People found the mortar shell in Mendhar town, triggering panic, they said. The information was given to Army which defused it safely, thereby averting a major tragedy, the officials added.

## Maulana Sa'ad Booked For Culpable Homicide



NEW DELHI- Tablighi Jamaat leader Maulana Sa'ad Kandhalvi has been booked for culpable homicide after some of the attendees of the religious congregation died due to coronavirus, police said on Wednesday. Kandhalvi had organised the religious gathering at Nizamuddin Markaz last month against the social distancing protocol imposed by the Centre to curb the spread of the deadly disease. **PAGE 02**

## Bandipora Milkman's Contact Tracing Starts

SRINAGAR: The administration in Bandipora district on Wednesday started door-to-door operation to trace contacts of a milkman, who tested positive for coronavirus on Tuesday. According to the reports, medical teams have started a major operation in Naidkhai area to trace the contacts, mostly females of a 35-year-old milkman who tested positive for coronavirus at the SKIMS hospital here. **PAGE 02**

## Siblings Flee From Quarantine Centre, Booked

SRINAGAR: Two brothers escaped from a quarantine centre in south Kashmir's Shopian district but were brought back to the facility and booked by the police, reports said Wednesday. The two brothers hailing from Malik-bugh village of Shopian fled from the quarantine centre on Tuesday. **PAGE 02**

## J&K Admin Rules Out Lockdown Relaxation

### All Kashmir Districts In Red Zones, Cases May Spike: Div Com

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday ruled out relaxation in the lockdown extended till May 3, saying that a significant spike might be witnessed in coronavirus cases in the coming days due to aggressive testing. Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole told Kashmir Observer that all the districts in Kashmir have red zones and due to which stricter norms will remain in place and there will be no ease in lockdown restrictions. The restrictions, he said will remain stricter in red zones within the districts. "First of all, the districts have to be categorized in red, grey and green zones. As of now, no district of the Valley falls in green zone. All the districts are in red zones," Pole said.



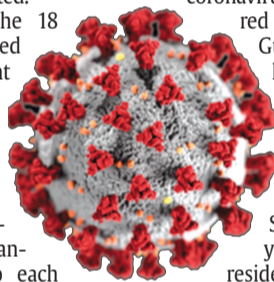
LOCALS DOUSING FLAMES RAGING FROM A RESIDENTIAL house in Noorbagh area of the city on Wednesday. Pic Abid Bhat

## J&K Crosses 300 Mark, 22 More Test Positive

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus cases crossed 300 mark in Jammu and Kashmir as 22 more people, 18 among them in Valley including a minor tested Covid-19 positive on Wednesday, a day after lowest number of cases were reported from the Union Territory. "22 new cases reported from J&K today. Jammu-4 Kashmir-18. All contacts of positive cases. Total number of positive cases now 300 Jammu-54 and Kashmir-246

from Jammu, reports said. The eight new cases from Ganderbal are contacts of a coronavirus patient from Guzhama village. They are four men and four females, including a minor girl. Here in Srinagar, a six-year-old girl, a resident of Vilgam Kupwara tested positive after coming in contact with a Covid-19 **PAGE 02**



**U RGE PEOPLE TO RELIGIOUSLY FOLLOW THE LOCKDOWN** guidelines so that we don't have these red zones in the Valley," he said.

## Of Withering Wait & Worry: Kashmir's Captive Chronicles

Omer Farooq

SRINAGAR: Since the outbreak of the global pandemic, Shameema from Sopore is continuously suffering from searing stress and high blood pressure. Behind her troubled state of mind and body is the growing concern for her son, Abdullah Bin Muhammad, who's languishing in Kotbalwal Jail, Jammu under the charges of Unlawful Activities Prevention Act. Shameema has already lost her son, Ibrahim Janwari, in a 2012 gunbattle with troops. And now, her main breadwinner's detention is taking a huge toll on her health. Her son was arrested in January 2019 and shifted to Kot Balwal, Jammu. Amid Covid-19 scare, Shameema is getting worried about the "unhygienic conditions" in the jail.

"My brother is suffering from a stomach ailment and chest disease from so many months now," said Ubaidullah, Shameema's youngest son. "As food quality and mandatory social distancing is not possible in a crowded lockup, my mother frets for her son's wellbeing." **A Sister's Stress** On July 13, 2019, Nazima's brother, Muhammad Huzair Bhat, from the Sangrama area of North Kashmir, was slapped with stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) and shifted to Kotbalwal Jail, Jammu. "As no healthy food is served to Kashmiri captives, my brother has developed a skin problem in prison," said Nazima. "And since he's the youngest among siblings, our mother has developed an acute state of depression." Nazima's captive



### Special Report

brother recently sent a word to her from his prison cell. "Everything is good," he told his sister. "But," Nazima said, "he feared that if anyone gets infected in prison, the virus will spread like a wildfire." **A Father's Fear** Muhammad Ramzan's son and the

family breadwinner, Imtiaz, is languishing in Sub Jail Kupwara under PSA since last year. The only son among five sisters, Imtiaz married an orphan girl in 2018. "Before imprisoned, he was nursing stomach and occasional fever problems," Ramzan, a resident of North Kashmir's Zainageer area, told Kashmir Observer. After the COVID-19 outbreak, the father got worried about "lack of medical facilities in jail". "Around 30 captives share a barrack," the father said. "And this makes the chances of spreading of the virus maximum." **A Daughter's Distress** Zafar Ul Islam, a 38-year-old preacher of a local mosque in Sopore continues to be under detention since the abrogation of Article 370. He was slapped with PSA and shifted to Agra where he **PAGE 02**

## A Reporter's Diary

Jyotsna Bharti

I live in one of the swish areas in Mumbai – the dream city now fighting to survive the Covid-19 crisis. Ever since the pandemic enforced a lockdown, the vibrant city with ivory towers and big enterprises looks lifeless. The mundane routine which we once knew has gone into hibernation. I'm told it's a long haul! Already 22 days have passed, since I've been locked in my apartment, watching the pervasive desolation hushing and haunting the city, which apparently never slept before. For a change, I hear birds chirping, while I stand near window sipping my hot chai expecting for a warm company from it. I watch out for hours at late nights. I see these long buildings standing just dead. Alarming ambulances rumbling on abandoned roads further surge the sense of siege. This is a new pulse of life, driven by a shortage of groceries, life resources, and sanitisers. What once was a promising living has now become a grim survival.

## 'I see Kashmir in Mumbai'



Author's window view from her Mumbai Apartment

This desolation drifts me to the faraway land where people are struggling to survive. I think about Kashmir, which I was planning to visit this spring, the season of tulips, the almond blossom and a promise of life after dead winter. As I watch the struggle from my window these days, I imagine myself a girl caught in curbs in mountains which Kashmiris call their home. Her daily struggle leaves me dazed, as I perceive myself a prisoner in my own home now. I think of these iron grills in my window as some prison partition, coming in the way of my liberty. Then I think of girls of my age in the valley, their aspirations, their dreams, their dreams. How does it feel to live such a life? Most of us didn't have any idea, until, as they say, chickens come home to roost. In this hopeless hour, I see Kashmir in Mumbai. I'm reminded of Appa's promise to visit Dal Lake this year. This was my major motivation, my big boost. But now, as life has taken an unexpected turn, I immersed in the beautiful thought of Kashmir's ecstasy, only to think of that landlocked region cursed with perennial lockdown. Behind the serene face, I see **PAGE 02**

## Ban On High Speed Internet In Kashmir Extended

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday ordered continuance of ban on the high speed internet across the Union Territory till April 27, despite growing chorus and sharp criticism by the human rights bodies amid the coronavirus pandemic. Principal Secretary, Home Department, Shaleen Kabra in an order issued today extended the ban on high speed internet across the Union Territory till April 27, reports said. Accord-

ing to the order, internet speed on mobile phones in the region will be restricted to 2G only. The order cites usage of social media applications for circulation of photographs of militants, mobilization of crowds, infiltration attempts by militants, civilian killings as some of the reasons to extend high speed internet ban. The order also refers to the funeral of a militant attended by 500 villagers "defying the lock-down and throwing social-distancing norms to the wind." As on date, it said, access to internet is available **PAGE 02**

