



Maximum : 16°C
Minimum : 09°C
Humidity : 78%

SUNSET
Today 07:04 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:57 AM

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ONLINE PREDATORS PUT MILLIONS OF CHILDREN AT RISK DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC LOCKDOWN

Millions of children around the world are at increased risk of online sexual exploitation, violence and cyberbullying as they spend more time on virtual platforms due to the closing of schools amid COVID-19 lockdown, the UN has said. More than 1.5 billion children and young people have been affected by the closing of schools worldwide and many are online now taking classes and socialising, the UN's children's agency UNICEF said. "Spending more time on virtual platforms can leave children vulnerable to online sexual exploitation and grooming, as predators look to exploit the COVID-19 pandemic. A lack of face-to-face contact with friends and partners...."

.....LIFE & TIMES
P5

News Digest

28 Lockdown 'Violators' Held

Srinagar: Police on Thursday arrested 28 people for allegedly violating prohibitory orders in Handwara tehsil of the frontier Kupwara district. 28 people were arrested and four shops were sealed in Handwara by police today for violating government orders imposed in view of coronavirus pandemic, a police spokesperson said. He said the arrests were made despite police making time to time announcements urging people to comply with the lockdown orders. Police urged people to follow the government orders so that the deadly disease could be controlled.

200 Professors Promoted

Jammu: Department of Higher Education on Thursday ordered promotion of 200 Associate and Assistant Professors serving in various Government Degree Colleges across the Jammu and Kashmir. "Department promoted 54 Associate Professors as In-Charge Principals while as 30 Assistant Professors were promoted in the Academic Grade pay of Rs 7000 and 109 Assistant Professors were promoted in the Academic Grade Pay of Rs 8000," an official statement said. With the promotion of 54 Associate Professors (including in 50 new degree colleges), all the 148 Government Degree Colleges of the J&K have now got independent Principals. Further with the release of higher grade, a long pending demand of Assistant Professors has been addressed, the P-02

'Mentally Unfit' Woman Found Dead

Srinagar: A mentally unsound woman on Thursday was found dead in a stream in central Kashmir's Budgam district, reports said. A police team recovered body of a mentally unfit woman from a nallah after locals spotted it, news agency GNS reported. The deceased is a resident of Waterh village of the district. A police official said that after medico-legal formalities, the body was handed over to the family for last rites.

3 Gamblers Arrested From Bemina: Police

Srinagar: Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested three gamblers in a raid in Bemina area of the city. Acting on an input, a police team raided a gambling site and arrested three gamblers from Bemina area, a police spokesperson said today. He said playing cards and an amount of Rs 3010 were recovered from the alleged gamblers. Police identified the accused as Fayaz Ahmad Katjoo, Manzoor Ahmad Goroo and Noor Mohd Dar, all residents of Bemina. "Case FIR No. 54/2020 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Parimpora," the police spokesperson added.

Is 4G Ban Failing Kashmir's Covid-19 Fight Back?

Jyotsna Bharti

Srinagar: On the evening of April 15, as a government review committee sat to decide the fate of the high-speed internet in Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Murtaza became hopeful in his hospital chamber. The 2G internet had played a big spoiler in his efforts to get online interactions with overseas experts and download research matter and guidelines on the Covid-19 crisis.

However, the evening of April 15 looked promising for this PPE-donning Covid-19 warrior in Kashmir. And given how Supreme Court of India had recently served a notice to the union territory government about the high-speed internet in the region further assured him of its full restoration. But to his chagrin, and that of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, many of whom took to social media to accuse New Delhi of being

'insensitive during the global health crisis', the young doctor had to make uneasy peace with the status quo, once again. That evening, instead of long-awaited high-speed internet, came another date of the review: April 27. "Problem is," Dr. Murtaza said, "they've made 4G internet a repeated casualty of security situation in Kashmir, when it's a basic human right for all of us." The doctor unwittingly invoked

the Indian apex court's recent ruling wherein it termed the internet as the "fundamental right" for every citizen. "But in Kashmir," the doctor continued, "the internet remains caught between the wishes and whims of Babus, who're bent to administer Kashmir through repeated internet gags. They should understand that such iron curtain move to manage Kashmir and its inherent problems won't



A DOCTOR AT SMHS SRINAGAR SHOWING her resolve to defeat the virus inspite of challenges- KO Photo Abid Bhat

WE'VE BEEN SAYING THIS FROM DAY ONE THAT 4G MATTERS THE MOST DURING this health crisis," said Dr. Shabnam, another Covid-19 warrior from Kashmir. "But the administration seems to have some other plans."

Only A COVID-19 Vaccine Will Allow Return To 'Normalcy': UN Chief

UNITED NATIONS- A COVID-19 vaccine may be the only thing that can bring back "normalcy," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Wednesday, hoping for just that before the end of the year.

A safe and effective vaccine may be the only tool that can return the world to a sense of 'normalcy,' saving millions of lives and countless trillions of dollars," he added during a video conference with the 50 or so African countries that are members of the United Nations. He called for its accelerated de-

velopment and accessibility to all, adding it must have a "universal global benefit" and "allow us to control the pandemic." "We need an ambitious effort to ensure that international stakeholders operate through a harmonized, integrated and leveraged approach to maximize the speed and scale needed for the universal deployment of such a vaccine by the end of 2020," he insisted.

Guterres said his appeal on March 25 for 2 billion in donations for a comprehensive UN humanitarian response to the pandemic had so far raised about 20 percent of that amount.

Through the World Health Organization, the United Nations has been able to equip 47 African countries with COVID-19 tests, he said.

The UN chief also praised the efforts of several African P-02



António Guterres, the secretary general of the United Nations

Coronavirus Tally Reaches 314 In J&K As 14 More Test Positive

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir show no sign of decline as 14 more people, including a minor girl and her father tested positive for Covid-19 in Kashmir valley, taking the number of infected people across the Union Territory to 314, officials said.

"14 new cases- all from Kashmir Division. Total cases now 314. Jammu Division-54 and Kashmir Division-260. Further details in daily bulletin," Government spokesperson Rohit Kansal tweeted. With these 14, the total number of confirmed coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir has gone up to 314 - 260 from Kashmir and 54 from Jammu.

Out of 314 positive cases, 272 are active as 38 have recovered and 4 have died.

Among the fresh cases reported today, ten are from north Kashmir's Bandipora, two from Srinagar and one each from Ganderbal and Budgam districts of the Valley, reports said.

Budgam Cop Tests Positive

SRINAGAR: A policeman from central Kashmir's Budgam district tested positive for coronavirus on Thursday.

The cop hailing from Rath-suna village of Budgam tested positive for coronavirus P-02

Srinagar's two new cases came from Safakadal locality of the Old City, where a P-02

8 J&K Districts In Union Health Ministry's Hotspot List

SRINAGAR: Eight districts of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory have been identified as COVID-19 hotspots by the Union Health Ministry, reports said.

According to the details, eight districts of J&K figure in the list of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare's COVID-19 hotspots. Of them, six have been classified as hotspots with large outbreak of COVID-19 and two as hotspots with clusters, news agency KNO reported today.

According to details, Srinagar, Jammu, Bandipora, Baramulla, Udhampur and Kupwara districts have been identified as hotspots with large outbreak of COVID-19 cases. The remaining two districts -Shopian, Rajouri- have been identified as hotspots with clusters.

It is worthwhile to mention here that 90 Red Zones have been identified in Jammu and Kashmir so far, in order to prevent the spread of the deadly coronavirus, 14 hotspots for COVID-19 P-02



In the era of social distancing two elderly Kashmiris sit on the banks of desolate Nageen Lake

...HC To J&K Jail Authorities

Ensure Measures To Prevent Covid-19 Spread

Agencies

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Thursday directed the jail authorities to take all measures to prevent spread of coronavirus in the area of lodgement.

A bench of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey passed the directions in at least three bail applications. "Pending decision in the application, the Jail Authorities shall ensure that all preventive measures for spreading of Corona Virus in the area of lodg-



File Pic

ment is taken," the court said. "They shall also ensure strict adherence to the guidelines issued by the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs and provide P-02

ALSO, THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY delay in shifting sick person to a Nodal Medical Institution in case of any possibility of infection is seen."

ATMs, Banks Shut In Kupwara Red Zones

SRINAGAR: The district administration in north Kashmir's Kupwara on Thursday ordered closure of all the banks and ATMs in the areas declared 'red zones' after cases surfaced from there.

Deputy Commissioner P-02

14 Head Home After Quarantine In Amritsar

JAMMU: Fourteen people, including nine medical students, who were quarantined in Punjab's Amritsar for nearly a month after arrival from Pakistan, were sent back to their homes in Kashmir valley, officials said on Thursday. P-02

Rapid Anti-Body Testing In Red Zones Soon

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday announced to start very soon rapid anti-body testing in all the 80 'red zones' identified by the authorities.

Chairing a meeting today to review containment policy measures in Red Zones, the Divisional Commissioner P-02

2300 Lockdown Violators Held

JAMMU: Over 2300 people have been arrested by police in the ongoing crackdown against the lockdown violators across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, police said Thursday.

As many as 2303 people have been arrested for defying the government orders, while 1012 first information reports P-02

GMC Denies Test Kits Shortage

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday denied media reports that a consignment of test kits from ICMR meant for Srinagar were diverted to Jammu.

Principal GMC Dr Samia Rashid said today that the testing kit consignment was first delivered in Jammu and the P-02

Govt Asks Airlines To Refund Tickets Booked During Mar 25-Apr 14



Press Trust Of India

The Civil Aviation Ministry on Thursday said the passengers who had booked flight tickets during the first phase of lockdown for travel up to May 3 must get a full refund from the airlines without any cancellation charges if they ask for it. Several passengers have been

complaining on social media as domestic airlines have decided not to give refunds in cash for cancelled flights due to the lockdown and instead issue credit for future travel.

India imposed the first phase of lockdown from March 25 to April 14 to curb the spread of coronavirus. The second phase of lockdown is from April 15 to May 3

Cyber Police Files 8 FIRs Over Fake News

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The cyber wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police has registered eight cases against social media users for allegedly posting fake news and promoting militant activities in the valley, police said on Thursday.

"During the recent monitoring and patrolling of social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp and LinkedIn, some of the users were found posting fake news, fake documents, incriminating / hateful posts and posts to glorify militants or promote militants' ideologies by using fake identity," a police official said.

He said these kinds of posts not only destabilise the social fabric and disturb order in the society, but also escalate militant activities. P-02

Army Chief in Kashmir Amid Growing India-Pak Tension Along LoC

SRINAGAR: Army chief General M M Naravane reviewed the security situation in the Kashmir Valley on Thursday, a defence spokesperson said here.

The Army chief is on a two-day visit to the Valley, Colonel Rajesh Kalia said, adding that he was accompanied by Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Y K Joshi and Chinar Corps Commander Lt Gen B S Raju during his visit to the formations and units in the hinterland.

"The Chief of Army staff was briefed by the Chinar Corps Commander at Badami Bagh Cantonment on the overall situation per-



taining to the Line of Control and the hinterland," he said.

Gen Naravane applauded the jawans for their morale P-02

Ex-Deputy Mayor Freed After 8 Months

SRINAGAR: Former Deputy Mayor of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Sheikh Imran on Thursday was released from the Central Jail here after 8 month detention.

Imran, who was ousted from the post of Deputy Mayor after a no-confidence motion, was released today from Central Jail and taken to a police station, news agency KNT reported. He was later set free to go home.

The former Deputy Mayor is also facing heat from the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) over the illegal appropriation of the subsidy given to his P-02