



Maximum : 13°C
Minimum : 09°C
Humidity : 86%

SUNSET
Today 07:05 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:56 AM

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COVID-FORCED BEHAVIOURAL CHANGES TO STAY FOR LONG: REPORT

The radical behavioural changes that Covid-19 pandemic has forced on people as well as organisations following the lockdowns are here to stay for long-term, and will impact consumption patterns for a host of goods and services, according to a report. The most visible changes are in the media and information space that has seen massive adoption of digital format, said the report by domestic arm of the French advertising powerhouse Publicis Groupe. The findings of the report mark the "profound shifts in the wake of the Covid lockdowns and the resultant changes in the way...."

.....LIFE & TIMES
P5



News Digest

DSEK Okays Promotion Of 90 Teachers

Srinagar: Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) on Friday accorded sanction to the promotion of 90 teachers as headmasters. Principal Secretary School Education Department Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon had earlier directed the concerned officers to conduct DPC meetings regularly to address the pending grievances of employees of the school education department regarding their promotions, an official spokesperson said. Regarding the issue of pending salaries of RETs being converted into teacher grade II and III, he directed for immediate release of their salaries. **● P-02**

Gutlibagh Village Declared Red Zone

Srinagar: The district administration Ganderbal on Friday declared Gutlibagh village as a red zone and the adjoining villages as buffer zone after a positive case was detected in the area. District Magistrate Ganderbal Shafiqatqbal today declared Gutlibagh village as a red zone and the adjoining villages of Babawayil and Wayil as Buffer Zones, a day after a man tested positive for coronavirus in the village, an official spokesperson said today. Iqbal invoked prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPC and Disaster Management Act, 2005, banning inward or outward movement of any person from the red zone. **● P-02**

LG Inaugurates First Covid Call Centre

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday inaugurated the union territory's first Covid response call centre in Srinagar, an official spokesperson said. It also launched web and mobile applications which will help in real time integrated management of the coronavirus disease, he said. The call centre and the web and mobile applications were e-inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor G C Murmu, the spokesperson added. Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Shahid Iqbal Chaudhary said the magnitude of the COVID-19 crisis needed a central response. **● P-02**

Free Ration For BPL Families In Srinagar

Srinagar: The district administration on Friday announced to provide free ration to the below poverty line (BPL) families in view of prevailing situation and restrictions in place due to coronavirus pandemic. The distribution of foodgrains for the current month starts tomorrow and will be completed within two weeks, an official spokesperson said today. He said that under this initiative around 30 thousand quintals of foodgrains will be distributed free of cost amongst over 1.4 lac BPL families in the district. "The initiative will benefit just under 6 lac persons who will be provided 5 kilograms of rice per person per month," the **● P-02**

The Kashmiri Supermom Who Fought Her Children's Covid-19 Battle

WasimNabi

SRINAGAR: Departed tears that recently jetted out of Masrat's sleep-deprived eyes signified her immense gratitude for the bravehearts holding the fort during the current catastrophe. Some of those Covid-19 warriors formed a human wall on April 13, to give a hero's farewell to the young mother at Srinagar's JawaharLal Nehru Memorial (JLNM) hospital. Much of that respect came from Masrat's awe-inspiring motherhood display. With novel coronavirus

creating a new tribe of 'untouchables' in the society, this young mother from Srinagar's Natipora became a shield of her infected daughters. On March 26, when a team of tearful doctors declared her two daughters, aged 4 and 8, as Covid-19 positive cases, Masrat turned numb with shock, and struggled with her sinking heart. "I remember there was so much of panic in the hospital then," recalled Dr Bilquis Shah, nodal officer, JLNM hospital, Srinagar. "It was the initial stage in Covid-19 fight back and the hospital had started



Farewell Moment: Aleeza and Sehirsh receive bouquets on their discharge from JLNM hospital.

getting the viral foothold." Masrat's two daughters—Aleeza and Sehirsh—were among the 26 high-risk patients initially admitted in JLNM, declared exclusively for Covid-19 management, on March 25. And next day, their test came out positive. "The moment their results came, all of us were in tears," Dr. Bilquis continued. "It was very hard to tell a mother that her daughters have become the pandemic patients, when there was so much of corona scare in the air." What followed was perhaps

the traumatic experience for both healthcare specialists and the family in the hospital. Sensing something wrong, the kids started screaming and craving for their mother's reassuring embrace. Even as the doctors supervised these children with utmost care, they were inconsolable, especially the little girl. In the fight against the invisible enemy, Dr. Bilquis said, the crying children only became the face of a new human tragedy. At that moment, their Covid-19 'negative' mother threw herself in the **▶PAGE 02**

Kashmir Records Another Covid-19 Death, J&K Toll 5 MBA Student, Couple Among 19 More Test Positive

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir witnessed fourth death due to coronavirus Friday, even as 19 more people, all from Valley tested positive to the dreaded disease, taking the total number of infected people across the Union Territory to 333.

The 75-year-old COVID-19 patient from Armpora Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district died at a hospital here, making it the fourth death in Kashmir due to the novel coronavirus. A 75-year-old man from Arampora locality of Sopore died of coronavirus at the SKIMS Bemina, one of the exclusively Covid-19 manage-

ment facilities, fifteen days after he was admitted at the hospital, reports said. The elderly man had tested Covid-19 positive earlier this month. "The man was 70 plus. He was hypertensive and also was suffering from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD Asthma)," Medical Superintendent Dr Shafa A Deva said. She said the body of the deceased would be handed over to his family for last rites with due compliance to the Ministry of Health guidelines.

With the elderly man's death, the toll due to Covid-19 has risen to four in Kashmir and five across Jammu and Kashmir UT.

Meanwhile, 19 fresh cases were reported in J&K, all in Kashmir Valley—nine of them are from Bandipora, eight from Shopian and 2 from Kupwara, news agency GNS reported.

A couple and a youth are among three new cases reported from worst hit Gund Jahangir village of Bandipora. They all are said to be contacts of previous patients. **▶PAGE 02**



A GROUP OF DOCTORS WALKING THROUGH the compound of SMHS hospital here on Friday. Pic Abid Bhat



A GROUP OF MASKED BOYS PLAYING CRICKET on a rainy day in Srinagar outskirts on Friday. KO-Photo Abid Bhat

Why Only 4000 Tests If Over 50,000 Under Lens, HC Asks Govt

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has directed Chief Secretary and Secretary Health and Medical Education to "urgently examine" the issue of "insufficient sampling" amid submissions that only around 4000 people have been tested for COVID-19 even as the government states that over 50000 people have been put under observation in J&K.

"Let this issue be urgently examined by the Chief Secretary, UT of J&K as well as Secretary, Health and Medical Education," said a division bench of Justice

Gita Mittal and Justice Rajnesh Oswal while hearing clubbed Public Interest Litigations through video conferencing. The submissions were made by advocate Ateeb Kanth who also pointed out that the report filed by the Health Department shows that only 157 technicians are available and it stands a reason for "insufficient sampling".

As a result, he said, despite the Government stand that 50,000 (now around 60000) people have travelled into J&K, only 4,000 people have been tested for COVID-19. The court also sought comments from "stakeholders" including the Indian **▶PAGE 02**

WE SHALL CONSIDER THE IMPACT of this order on the next date of hearing after full information has been placed before us,"

Business Tycoon Chaya Booked for 'Escaping' Red Zone

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: J&K Police has filed an FIR against the noted Kashmiri businessman Mushtaq Ahmad Chaya for "escaping" a Red Zone in Jammu and undertaking a travel towards Srinagar.

Police said Mr Chaya left for Srinagar along with few others and has reached his Zakoora home in Srinagar despite lockdown.

"As intimidated by SHO PS Trikuta Nagar, Jammu vide his signal dated 17-4-2020 that today one person namely Mushtaq Ahmad Chaya R/O Zakoora Srinagar who was staying at Farooq Abdullah Enclave, Bhatindi Jammu has deliberately left for Srinagar along with other persons from Red Zone Bhatindi," a Police missive sent to **▶PAGE 02**

Govt Puts 'Formal' Darbar Opening In Srinagar On Hold

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday deferred "formal" reopening of Darbar move offices in Srinagar till mid-June, citing the hampering of Covid-19 combat efforts.

Modifying its April 10 order, the government ordered that the formal opening of the Darbar at Srinagar will take place on June 15.

"All officers" assigned specific COVID-19 control tasks shall continue to function from their present location till further orders, so as to ensure that COVID-19 control efforts are not hampered on account of physical dislocation of officers/offices," reads the fresh order. As per an order issued here, it would be further reviewed on June 15. The Civil Secretariat at Srinagar

shall start partial functioning on 04.05.2020 with the staff and officers on 'as is where is' basis i.e. those who have already been or likely to get relocated before that date.

Govt Orders Resumption Of Offices From April 20
SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday ordered resumption of all offices across the Union Territory from April 20, while the education institutions and training institutes have been closed **● P-02**

"All Administrative Secretaries shall furnish list of officers/staff who shall work from Srinagar and Jammu respectively to the General Administration **▶PAGE 02**

Curbs In Srinagar To Continue Till May 3

SRINAGAR: The district authorities on Friday renewed prohibitory orders, banning public movement and operation of business and other establishments in district Srinagar till May 3 in view of the coronavirus pandemic. District Magistrate Srinagar, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary **● P-02**

1200 J&K Workers In Punjab Go On Hunger Strike

PATHANKOT: Nearly 1,200 workers from Jammu and Kashmir, who have completed their quarantine period of fourteen days in different camps in Punjab's Pathankot district, are on a hunger strike for the last **● P-02**

Post-Prayer Clashes In Sumbal, 6 Cops Injured

SRINAGAR: At least six policemen on Friday were injured in clashes that erupted in Sumbal area of Bandipora district after a group of people offered congregational defying the prohibitory orders in place. **● P-02**

Pharmacist Suspended For Refusing To Serve Covid-19 Patients

SRINAGAR: The district administration in Kupwara on Friday suspended a pharmacist after he refused to serve meals to the covid-19 patients being treated at a hospital in the frontier district. **● P-02**

Govt Eases Construction Norms, SOPs Issued

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has relaxed restrictions on the construction activities in the Union Territory on the condition that the executing agencies will follow the norms of social **● P-02**

Anjuman To Suspend Religious Activities In Ramzan

SRINAGAR: Jammu Kashmir Anjuman-e-Sharie Shiyaan on Friday announced to suspend all religious activities during the holy month of Ramzan, amid the threat of Covid-19 spread. **● P-02**

KO Reporter Detained For Being Out In Lockdown

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A prominent journalist from Ganderbal district was arrested by Sumbal police while discharging his professional duty. He was slapped with various charges and lodged in police station Sumbal. Mushtaq Ganaie, who works for Kashmir Observer, was arrested on Saturday afternoon when he was traveling home near Sumbal. "My car was intercepted by a police party at a naka and I was asked to give reasons for my being out in the lockdown. I showed my identity papers and explained the reason even as a press tag was pasted on my car windshield" Mushtaq said.

He said while I was showing my papers, the SHO of Police Station Sumbal arrived there and ordered that I should be taken to the police station. "When I argued with him he abused me and refused to listen to my pleas that I was on job like him", Mushtaq said. The journalist was later booked on charges of "creating hurdles in police officer's duty" and detained for two days in the lock-up. An FIR bearing number: 60 of 2020 was registered against him. "I was not able to contact any one as my phone was confiscated", he alleged. Journalist was released two days later after his family members approached court and got bail orders. Kashmir Observer made **▶PAGE 02**

Two Unknown Militants Killed In Shopian Encounter CRPF Trooper Injured In Pulwama Shootout

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two unidentified militants were killed in a gunfight with government forces in south Kashmir's Shopian district, while a CRPF trooper was injured in a militant ambush in Pulwama district, officials said Friday.

Acting on specific inputs about the presence of militants, a joint team of special operations group (SOG) of police and army laid a cordon around Dairoo village of Keegam in Shopian this morning, a police official said. When the joint team started advances, the mili-

tants hiding in a residential house opened fire at them in a bid to escape from their dragnet.

"The fire was retaliated leading to an encounter. In the exchange of fire, two militants were killed," the official said.

The bodies of the militants were recovered from the debris of the house that was blasted by the state forces.

The identity of the slain and their group affiliation are being ascertained, officials said.

Meanwhile, a CRPF trooper was injured this evening when militants opened fire upon a mobile checkpoint established by **▶PAGE 02**

SPO's killers Shot Dead In Gunfight: Police

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir police on Friday claimed to have killed two alleged militants responsible for assassination of a policeman and injuries to another in Kishtwar area of Doda district. On Monday, special police officers (SPOs) Pashid Iqbal and Vishal Singh were patrolling Tander, Dachan area of Kishtwar when they were **● P-02**

Army Chief Reviews Security Situation Along LoC In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR- Army chief General M M Naravane reviewed the security situation along the Line of Control in the Kashmir Valley on Friday, a defence spokesperson said here. On the second day of his two-day visit to the valley, Naravane reviewed the security situation along the LOC, including counter-infiltration measures, said Colonel Rajesh Kalia. He said the Army chief, accompanied by the Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Y K Joshi and Chinara Corps Commander Lt Gen B S Raju, visited the formations and units. The local Commanders briefed Naravane on the existing secu-



urity situation and the measures in place to foil infiltration bids by terrorists, Kalia said.

The Chief of Army Staff was briefed on the cease fire violations, retaliations, counter infiltration operations and operational preparedness, he said. During an interaction **▶PAGE 02**