



Maximum : 23°C  
Minimum : 13°C  
Humidity : 66%

SUNSET  
Today 07:16 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 05:40 AM

# OBSERVER

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

KASHMIR

08 Ramazan-ul-Mubarak | 1441 Hijri | Vol: 23 | Issue: 93 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

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

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## COVID-19 THE SILVER LINING, POSITIVITY AND OPTIMISM

**C**ORONA – Fear is OK, Panic is Not. Many people across the globe are finding it increasingly difficult to deal with the stress created by the pandemic and fortified by the lockdown. The case is of even more concern in Kashmir valley given that it is not the first or the only lockdown, the inhabitants are going through. Likewise cases of domestic violence have spiked globally. It is important to keep ones mind calm to fight a disaster of the magnitude at hand.....

.....OPINION  
**P4**



## News Digest

08 <sup>TH</sup> RAMAZAN		
	IFTAR TODAY	SEHRI TOMMORROW
FIQAH HANAFIYA	07:17	04:08
FIQAH JAFARIYA	07:27	04:06

### Ban On Public Entry In Gurez Lifted

Srinagar: The administration in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Friday announced to lift the ban on entry of public in the picturesque Gurez valley from May 6. According to an order issued by the District Magistrate, Bandipora, Shahbaz Ahmad Mirza, all government employees, except from the education department, posted in Sub Division Gurez have been asked to report to Gurez from May 03 to May 05, while

### Night Ops At Parimpora Mandi Banned

Srinagar: The district administration on Friday banned night operation at the wholesale Parimpora market and restricted the business timing for just four hours in a day. According to an official spokesperson, night operations of the mandi have been banned altogether and that all new operational guidelines will remain valid until further orders. The decision in this regard has been taken after Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary's visit to the mandi today.

### Body Retrieved From River Jhelum

Srinagar: The body of a 46-year-old man, who had jumped into river Jhelum four days ago, was retrieved on Friday in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. The deceased identified as Imtiyaz Ahmad Hundo, son of Mohammad Abdullah Hundo (46), resident of Maharaj Gunj Srinagar, had jumped into river Jhelum almost four days back at Aal-Kadal Srinagar following which the rescue operation

### Rs 3000 Fine Slapped On Gas Agency

Srinagar: The administration in north Kashmir's Kupwara on Friday slapped a fine of Rs 3000 on a gas agency for providing LPG cylinders to consumers at exorbitant rates. Reports said that sub-district magistrate Lolab, Ejaz Ahmad Bhat on Friday caught the employees of Madina Gas Service on the spot when they were selling LPG cylinders for Rs 869 instead of government approved rate of Rs 660. The load carrier of the gas agency

# Lockdown Extended For 14 More Days, Till May 17

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government on Friday announced that a "limited" lockdown, including suspension of inter-state travel, air and train services, will continue to remain in force for another two weeks throughout the country from May 4 but some activities would be allowed after classifying areas into Red, Orange and Green zones.

The government order, which announced extension of the lockdown invoking the Disaster Management Act, said a limited number of activities will remain prohibited throughout the country, irrespective of the zone.

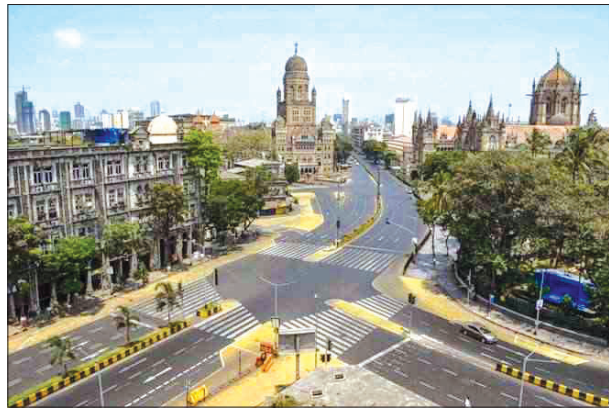
These prohibited activities include travel by air, rail, metro and inter-state movement by road, running of schools, colleges, and other educational and training hospital-ity services, cinema halls, malls, gymnasiums, sports complexes.

All social, political, cultural and other kinds of gatherings and religious places or places of worship for public will also remain shut, the order said but added that movement of persons by air, rail and road is allowed for select purposes, and for purposes as permitted by MHA.

The home ministry also issued new guidelines to regulate different activities in this period, based on the risk profiling of the districts of the country into new zones with 'Red' signifying a hotspot.

The statement said that the Union Health Ministry would be sharing classification of districts into zones to the states and union territories on weekly basis.

The statement said that out-



side the containment zone falling within Red zones, certain activities are prohibited in addition to those prohibited throughout the country which includes plying of cycle rickshaws and auto-rickshaws, running of taxis and cab aggregators; intra-district and inter-district plying of buses; and, barber shops, spas and saloons.

However, some activities have been allowed in the Red Zones with restrictions that includes movement of individuals and vehicles is allowed only for permitted activities, with a maximum of two persons (besides the driver) in four-wheeler vehicles, and with no pillion rider in the case of two-wheelers.

### What's Allowed & What's Not

What activities will be allowed in green zone:

All activities are permitted except the activities which are prohibited throughout the country, irrespective of zones.

Buses have been allowed to operate with 50% seating capacity. Bus depots too can operate with 50% capacity.

Movement of people is allowed for essential requirement and health purposes.

All goods traffic is to be permitted, including those to neighbouring countries.

Travel by air, rail, metro and inter-state movement by road.

Running of schools, colleges, and other educational and training/coaching institutions.

## Special Trains To Ferry Stranded Students, Migrants

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Friday allowed the use of trains for ferrying people stranded due to the nationwide lockdown to their respective states, an official said.

Addressing a press conference, Joint Secretary in the MHA Punita Salila Srivastava said stranded people such as migrant workers, tourists, pilgrims and students can now be transported using trains.

"States and the Railway Board will make the necessary arrangements for the same," she said.

Underlining that some problems are cropping up in the

movement of trucks and load carriers, Srivastava said the MHA has again written to the states, reiterating that no separate pass is needed for trucks and load carriers.

### J&K Govt Starts Registration For Stranded Residents

A day after centre gave its nod to the return of migrant workers, students and other persons to their respective destinations; the Jammu and Kashmir administration Friday issued helpline numbers and started online registration to facilitate return of the stranded residents of the Union Territory. The administration appointed seven officers

## From Delhi To Lakhanpur: The Unending Agony Of Kashmiri 'SOS' Girls



Jyotsna Bharti

NEW DELHI: Seven stranded Kashmiri girls who earlier posted a SOS-video on social media for evacuation from their Delhi hostel have now landed themselves in another trouble after they were stopped at Lakhanpur area of Jammu for "violating the SOP" on their way to home.

The fretful girls told Kashmir Observer from Lakhanpur border that they had left for home on Thursday morning and were cut short after their bus reached the gateway of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday afternoon. Citing the security concerns, the girls didn't share further details and cut the call.

Earlier, in the video, these girls had appealed UT officials for immediate evacuation, saying, "We don't have anyone here. Please

evacuate us. We are running out of ration and can't afford rent as demanded by our landlord."

These girls were evacuated from their hostel by a person named Aslam Chaudhry.

"After I watched their video, I approached them and gave them foods and medicines as their hostel owner was very cruel and inhuman to them," Aslam told Kashmir Observer over phone from Delhi.

"I offered them my house to stay with my family during the holy month of Ramzan," he added. "But all they asked me to evacuate them."

Aslam said that he wasn't allowed to enter the hostel area because of his "Muslim identity". "But somehow I managed to get through and helped them," he said.

Earlier, many videos went viral on social media where Muslim vegetable vendors and

### J&K Students Stuck In MP Wait For Return Home

A large number of Kashmiri students stranded in parts of Madhya Pradesh due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown have been waiting for their safe return to the native places.

Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh recently wrote a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, requesting him to make necessary arrangements for the nearly 400 Kashmiri students stuck in Madhya Pradesh. Singh said that as Jammu and Kashmir is under the central rule, it is the Centre's duty to help the people from that region stranded in different parts of the country.

An assistant professor at a private college in Indore, Javid Ahmad Mir, is running a campaign for the return of the students from Jammu and Kashmir. "In Indore alone, nearly 55 students from Jammu and Kashmir have been stranded since over a month"

### 4 Children, 5 Members Of Family Among 25 New Covid Cases

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Four children and five members of a family of an ISM pharmacist were among 25 more people who tested positive for the novel coronavirus in Kashmir Valley on Friday, taking the number of COVID-19 infected persons in J&K to 639.

The youngest among the children is an 8-year-old girl from Anantnag while three others are aged between 12 and 16.

Officials told GNS that besides new cases, there have been 31 recoveries also, taking the number of patients who have recovered 247. "Recoveries overtake"

## Centre Declares 4 Kashmir Districts As Red Zones

Observer Web Desk

SRINAGAR: Ahead of the end of the extended lockdown, the Union Health Ministry has listed four districts of Kashmir Valley among 130 districts in the country in red zone.

The Union Health Ministry Friday listed has 130 districts in the country in red zone, 284 in orange zone and 319 in green zone on the basis of incidence of cases of COVID-19, doubling rate, extent of testing and surveillance feedback.

This classification of districts is to be followed by states and UTs till a week post May 3, when the second phase of lockdown will end, for containment operations. The list will be revised on a weekly

basis or earlier and communicated to states for further follow-up action.

As per the list, four districts of Kashmir- Srinagar, Bandipora, Anantnag and Shopian have been included in red zone.

The twelve other districts have been classified as orange zones which include Baramulla, Kupwara, Ganderbal, Jammu, Udhampur, Kulgam, Budgam, Samba, Kathua, Rajouri, Ramban and Reasi while four districts have been classified as Green Zones which include Pulwama, Kishtwar, Doda and Poonch.

The total number of positive cases in Jammu and Kashmir is 639. Of the total number of cases, 581 are from Kashmir and 58 from Jammu. The new classification

## LoC Flare Up: 3 Soldiers Among 7 Injured In Cross-LoC Shelling

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Three soldiers and two minors were among seven people injured on Friday as India and Pakistan troops traded heavy gunfire along the line of control (LoC) in Uri sector of Jammu and Kashmir.

The exchange of fire between the two estranged enemies started around 10:00 am along the LoC in Hajipore sector of Uri, witnesses told Kashmir Observer. However, as the day approached, firing and cross-LoC shelling intensified and the

deafening explosions created panic in Charunda, Batgran, Hathlanga, Mothal, Sahoora, Silikote, Balakote, Nambra, Garkote and other areas of the border town, they said.

In Charunda, a village worst hit over these years in the Indo-Pak border skirmishes, three people, including two minors were injured when a mortar shell exploded near their house before exploding with a bang.

The injured have been identified as four-year-old Touseef Ahmad Khatana, 12-year-old Shanaza Bano and

### CASO Launched In North Kashmir's Handwara

KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR: Government forces on Friday launched a search operation in dense Rajwar and Mawar forest areas of north Kashmir's Kupwara district. According to reports, army, special operations group (SOG) of police started a

## 18-Year-Old Girl Dies In Baramulla GMC Baramulla Orders Burial As Per Covid-19 Protocol

SRINAGAR: An 18-year-old girl with symptoms of novel coronavirus died "on arrival" to GMC hospital Baramulla on Friday.

While doctors have taken her sample for coronavirus, her body was handed over to the family but asked to strictly follow protocol for Covid-19 patient.

Medical Superintendent GMC Baramulla Dr Syed Masood Bukhari said that the 18-year-old from Khuroo Langate Handwara died of a heart attack.

"She died on arrival," he said. On inquiring, he said, "the girl as per the family had high fever and breathlessness from last

ten days and she was taken to Handwara hospital. However, the family thought to take her to GMC Baramulla."

The swab sample of the teenager for coronavirus has been taken and sent for test, he said.

"We have handed over the body and all measures are taken for a COVID-19 patient would have to be adhered to," he said, adding, "We counseled the family for the importance of conducting last rites strictly as per Covid-19 protocol. We have also informed deputy commissioner Kupwara, as well as BMO, concerned regarding the last rites as per the Covid-19 protocol." (GNS)

## The Scholar In Dungeon: 'A Gem Of A Person, A True Intellectual'

Mrinal Pathak

NEW DELHI: Before arrested by Delhi Police on the night of April 11, 2020 for her alleged role in Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) campus flare-up, Safoora Zargar, 27, was living a scholar's dream.

She was assertive, articulate, and academic to a core.

As an art and culture enthusiast, this Kashmiri girl hailing from the Chenab Valley of Jammu and Kashmir was keenly reading history and sharing laughter with her friends, before a certain situation made her an emergency media face of the student community.

Her batchmates describe Safoora,

a final year student of Masters in Philosophy, JMI, as a "no nonsense girl who couldn't take injustice".

"As an upright individual," Safoora's friend from her Faculty of Natural Sciences told Kashmir Observer, "she was always at the forefront to plead the students' case. But we never knew that she would face a witch-hunt for her pro-student activism."

As a "kind-hearted" girl, said a former JMI student, Safoora was a strong advocate of women's rights in the varsity.

"She led various campaigns against the assault of female students in the university," the girl student said. "She could never make peace with any kind of injustice."



When protests against the controversial National Register of Citizens (NRC) and Citizenship Amendment

Act (CAA) broke out in Delhi earlier this year, Safoora's campus felt ripples too.

But unlike other universities in Delhi, as JMI does not have a students' union, students and alumni of the institute formed an unofficial Joint Coordination Committee (JCC), with Safoora its Media Coordinator.

"She's being targeted with false cases by the Delhi Police," said a JCC member. "Her role was only limited to give press releases to various media outlets. She doesn't deserve to be hounded for that!"

The pregnant scholar was taken into custody on April 11, 2020, and was subsequently locked in the Tihar Jail on April 16.

Terminating her arrest as an inhuman act, a student of the Sociology Department, while fighting