



Maximum : 22°C  
Minimum : 10°C  
Humidity : 54%

SUNSET  
Today 07:20 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 05:36 AM

# OBSERVER

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

KASHMIR

13 Ramazan-ul-Mubarak | 1441 Hijri | Vol: 23 | Issue: 97 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

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

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



## COVID VIRUS AFFLICTED 2020 LOOKS LIKE 1918 SPANISH FLU DESPITE SCIENCE'S MARCH

Washington- Despite a century's progress in science, 2020 is looking a lot like 1918. In the years between two lethal pandemics, one the misnamed Spanish flu, the other COVID-19, the world learned about viruses, cured various diseases, made effective vaccines, developed instant communications and created elaborate public-health networks. Yet here we are again, face-masked to the max. And still unable to crush an insidious yet avoidable infectious disease before hundreds of thousands die from it.....

.....LIFE & TIMES  
**P6**



### News Digest

| 13 <sup>TH</sup> RAMAZAN |             |                 |
|--------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
|                          | IFTAR TODAY | SEHRI TOMMORROW |
| FIQAH HANAFIYA           | 07:21       | 04:02           |
| FIQAH JAFARIYA           | 07:32       | 04:01           |

### Mobile Telephony, Internet Suspended

Srinagar: Mobile internet services in Kashmir were suspended on Wednesday after top commander of Hizbul Mujahideen Riaz Naikoo, along with his associate Adil, was killed in an encounter with forces in Pulwama district, officials said. The pre-paid mobile and mobile internet services were suspended as a precautionary measure, they said.

### 600 Kashmir Residents Have Reached Srinagar

Srinagar: Shahid Choudhary, Srinagar District Magistrate and Development Commissioner on Wednesday said that over 600 people who were stranded in other states have reached Srinagar. "More than 600 residents arrived back this Sehri. Certainly lot of hardships to be back home. Thankful to all the colleagues for the night out to keep them comfortable. More on way," Choudhary tweeted. On May 5, Rohit Kansal, spokesperson of Jammu and Kashmir. P-02

### Real Kashmir Coach To Return To Scotland

Srinagar: Stranded in Srinagar for over a month due to the coronavirus-forced national lockdown, Real Kashmir's head coach David Robertson and his family will return to Scotland on Thursday, ending an anxious wait to attend to his sick mother. Robertson, his wife Kim, son Mason, who plays for the club, and three support staff reached Jammu on Wednesday by an official club bus which left. P-02

### Kerala Records No Fresh COVID Case

Thiruvananthapuram: No new positive cases were reported in Kerala on Wednesday, while samples of seven people returned negative and only 30 COVID-19 patients are under treatment. There are no new hotspots either in the state. Six people from Kottayam, including one from Idukki and another from Pathanamthitta have been declared cured on Wednesday, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said. The total positive cases touched 502, while 30 people are under P-02

## Hizb Commander Riyaz Naikoo Killed In Pulwama Encounter

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: - A top Hizbul Mujahideen commander Riyaz Ahmad Naikoo was on Wednesday killed in an encounter with armed forces in his home village in Pulwama district.

Authorities soon snapped cell phone and mobile internet services across Kashmir valley and clamped a curfew as a precautionary measure, in anticipation of possible protests, police said, adding that there are strict restrictions on the movement of people.

Naikoo, 35, was one of the most wanted militants in Kashmir and his death is a serious blow to Hizbul Mujahideen. Confirming he killing In-



spector General of Police Kashmir Vijay Kumar said Naikoo and his associate Adil were killed in the gunfight.

Naikoo, operational commander of the banned Hizbul Mujahideen, was trapped in Beighpora village P-02

### Police Version

Police in statement issued on Wednesday evening said that on specific inputs two cordon and search operations were launched by J&K Police and SF at Sarshali and Beighpora in Awantipora. These cordon and search operations led to encounters as the hiding terrorists fired upon the operation parties.

During these encounters four terrorists were neutralized. In Sharshali encounter 02 terrorists of LeT were killed. The identification of killed terrorists is being ascertained. Incriminating material including arms and ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter. P-02

### 2 Militants Killed In Khrew Encounter

PULWAMA: In yet another fierce encounter in the district Pulwama, apart from the one, in which Hizb commander Riyaz Naikoo and his associate were killed, two more militants were killed in the district, on Wednesday. The encounter took P-02

### A Humble Village Boy To A Dreaded Militant

Naikoo was the last major name among militants active in South Kashmir. IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar once said, that "If we are able to kill Riyaz Naikoo, Hizb would almost be wiped out from South Kashmir". Naikoo had replaced Sabzar Ahmad Bhat P-02



Road leading to Beighpora where Naikoo was killed- KO Photo Abid Bhat

### Indo-Pak Troops Trade Fire

SRINAGAR: Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged fire along the Line of Control in Kashmir on Wednesday with India blaming Pakistan for violating ceasefire.

At about 3.40 pm, Pakistan initiated unprovoked firing with small arms in Shahpur sector of the Poonch district, an army spokesman said.

"The Indian Army is retaliating befittingly", he said.

On May 1, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in a demarche had lodged a strong protest with the Pakistani high commission over the killing of an Indian citizen in a ceasefire violation by Pakistan. The unprovoked ceasefire violation by Pakistan forces on April 30 took place in Krishna Ghati Sector of Jammu and Kashmir where P-02

### Mehbooba Mufti's PSA Extension Ideas Can Not Be Chained or Killed: PDP

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Wednesday flayed the BJP government over furthering PSA detention of party president Mehbooba Mufti and other senior political leaders for three months, terming such an action vindictive and reiterated that muscular approach will not take Jammu and Kashmir anywhere as this has been tried for many decades and hasn't yielded any positive outcome.

Reacting over the government order in question, PDP spokesman



said that even after being imprisoned for nine months since Jammu and Kashmir was plundered of its unique position; the extension of PSA for three more months against PDP President has hinted that government has some more dreadful developments in its kitty to shock the already perturbed P-02

### Pak PM Says, India Could Launch 'False Flag Operation'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday claimed that India could use the current tension to launch a "false flag operation" against his country on the pretext of infiltration.

Khan took to Twitter after India said Pakistan was behind the unrest in Kashmir, leading to a spike in the verbal duel between the two sides.

"I have been warning the world about India's continuing efforts to find a pretext for a false flag operation targeting Pakistan. Latest baseless allegations by India of 'infiltration' across LoC are a continuation of this dangerous agenda," Khan tweeted. Khan also claimed that the violence in Kashmir was local. He once again accused India's ruling party of following policies that could imperil the peace in South Asia.

"The international community must act before India's reckless moves jeopardise peace and security in South Asia," said Khan.

Pakistan Muslims League-Nawaz president and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Shehbaz Sharif also fired a salvo against India. "Allegation of 'terror launching pads' by India is meant to whip up propaganda against Pakistan!" he said. PTI

## Covid-19: 34 More Test Positive In Kashmir, J&K Tally At 775

SRINAGAR- Thirty four more people tested positive for the novel coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, taking the number of the Covid-19 patients in J&K to 775, said an official.

"Thirty five new cases have been reported from Jammu and Kashmir in the last 24 hours," the official said adding that two patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals.

Of fresh cases, 32 were reported from Kashmir and two from Jammu division.

In Kashmir Valley, 11 cases were reported each from Srinagar and Anantnag districts, five from Shopian, three Kupwara and one each from Ganderbal and Kulgam dis-

tricts. Two cases were reported from Jammu district. The total number of positive cases in Jammu and Kashmir has now risen to 775..

Of the total number of cases reported so far, 710 are from Kashmir and 65 from Jammu. Eight people (seven in Kashmir and one in Jammu) have died and 322 patients (269 from Kashmir and 53 from Jammu) have recovered. The number of active cases stands at 445 (434 in Kashmir and 11 in Jammu).

More than 82,000 people have been kept under surveillance including those who are either in government established quarantine facilities or in home isolation.

### THIRTY FIVE NEW CASES HAVE BEEN reported from Jammu and Kashmir in the last 24 hours,"

### Fresh Curbs On Civil Movement From 7 Pm To 7 Am

In view of the movement of Stranded persons from outside the valley, the busses carrying them are entering the valley mostly after 6.00 PM. These stranded passengers have to follow various SOPs with regard to COVID-19 management. These persons are being dispatched to their respective districts mostly after 7.00 PM which has necessitated that there shall be no civil movement from 7.00 PM to 7.00 AM. Accordingly the District Magistrates have imposed restrictions during these night hours. The people have accordingly been advised not to venture out of their homes during night hours so that the stranded passenger can reach their destination in a hassle free manner.

## Govt Issues Guidelines For Stranded Kashmiris

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In view of COVID-19 Management, to regulate the movement of students, workers, pilgrims and other persons stranded outside India, in other states, UT's of the country, under various government orders issued in this regard, from time to time, the residents of Kashmir Division have been asked to adhere to the following set of guidelines laid down in this regard.

Accordingly, the persons/ residents of Kashmir Valley stranded outside the country, who intend to return to the Valley, have been asked to register in the respective Embassies of the countries.

While the persons stranded in other states and UT's (except Punjab and Himachal Pradesh) of the country, have been asked to register themselves with the Nodal Officer, designation for this purpose under government order issued on 30 April. While persons stranded

in Himachal and Punjab have also been asked to approach the designated Nodal Officer.

Similarly, the persons stranded in Jammu have been advised apply online on the official website of Divisional Commissioner, Jammu at www.divcomjammu.gov.in.

Besides, Labours, workers stranded in Kashmir division who intend to return to their home towns can register themselves on www.jktpo.in.

The cases involving medical exigency, death of a close relative and the government officials stranded in Kashmir who have to attend their duties in Jammu can apply online on the official website of Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir at Kashmirdivision.nic.in.

For additional assistance such persons can contact government officers Mr. Tahir on Mobile Number 9419004030 and Mr. Zahid Rashid at 9149654809 or can visit these officers, in person. P-02

## How Can Schools Reopen Safely? UN Agencies, World Bank Lay Down Guidelines

Warning that widespread closures of educational facilities present an unprecedented risk to children's education and wellbeing, the UN agencies have laid down guidelines for reopening of schools that have been closed in most parts of the world due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

According to the guidelines framed by UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank and the World Food Programme, the best interests of children and overall public health considerations, based on

an assessment of the associated benefits and risks to education, public health and socio-economic factor, must be central to national and local authorities' decisions to reopen schools.

The guidelines note that while there is not enough evidence yet to measure the impact of school closures on the disease transmission rates, the adverse effects of school closures on children's safety and learning are well documented. Gains made in increasing access to children's education in recent decades risk being lost

and, in the worse cases, reversed completely.

As per UNESCO estimates, over 154 crore students are severely impacted by closure of educational institutions across the world amid the COVID-19 outbreak.

"Widespread closures of educational facilities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic present an unprecedented risk to children's education and wellbeing, particularly for the most marginalised children who rely on school for their education, health, safety and nutrition.

"Schools do much more than teach children how to read, write and count. They also provide nutrition, health and hygiene services, mental health and psychosocial support; and dramatically reduce the risk of violence, early pregnancy and more.

"And it's the most vulnerable children who are the hardest hit by school closures, and we know from previous crises that the longer they are out of school, the less likely they are to return," the guidelines read.

According to a UNESCO representative, the guidelines P-02

## Case Of Kashmir Bar President J&K HC Adjoins Hearing Due To Poor Video Connectivity

KO Monitoring Desk

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court while hearing a habeas corpus petition through video conferencing challenging the detention of the President of Jammu and Kashmir Bar Association adjourned the hearing on account of poor connectivity. The petitioner, Mian Abdul Qayoom had filed an appeal against the order of the single judge refusing his plea.

The bench comprising Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul & Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey observed that "We, while sitting at two different places through Video Conferencing, faced great difficulty in the process of hearing the matter via Video Conferencing. Despite that being the position, we were continuing hear the parties, but Mr B. A. Dar, learned Senior Additional Advocate General, got disconnected on account of poor connectivity," India Legal Bureau reported.

B A Dar, Senior AAG, representing the Union Territory owing to the difficulty faced during video conferencing sought ten day's time to file his reply. The bench having concern of the difficulty faced by the parties on account of the non-availability of proper video conferencing facility but at the same time being aware of the fact that the case ought to have been heard, listed the matter for next hearing on May 18.

The bench further P-02

## Time Limit For Annual GST Returns Extended

SRINAGAR: Government has announced further relaxations for filing of Annual returns for Goods and Services Tax (GST) and movement of goods in the country.

Official sources said that the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has extended the time limit for furnishing of the annual return and GST audit for the financial year 2018-2019, till 30 September, 2020.

"Government has also given an extension till 31st May for all the e-way bills generated on or before the March 24th, whose validity were to expire between March 20th and April 15th. This relaxation will allow seamless movement of goods and P-02