



Maximum : 23°C  
Minimum : 11°C  
Humidity : 62%

SUNSET  
Today 07:22 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 05:33 AM



## ROBOTS CAN HELP REDUCE HUMAN CONTACT, TRANSMISSION OF DISEASE DURING COVID-19

Robots can act as an interface between a doctor and a patient wherein they can carry out diagnostic and treatment processes, reducing the human contact and risk of transmission of infection during the coronavirus pandemic, an expert in the field of Robotics has said. Bartłomiej Stanczyk, Robotics Engineer with ACCREA Engineering in Germany, was speaking during an e-discussion on the the topic- Using Artificial Intelligence to Tackle Epidemics: The COVID-19 Model. The event, organised by the Abu Dhabi-based TRENDS Research & Advisory.....

.....LIFE & TIMES  
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## News Digest

16 <sup>TH</sup> RAMAZAN		
IFTAR	SEHRI	
TODAY	TOMORROW	
FIQAH HANAFIYA	07:24	03:59
FIQAH JAFARIYA	07:34	03:57

### Kashmir's Marginalized Facing Starvation: NC

Srinagar: National Conference on Saturday expressed anguish over the "pathetic situation" the poor and the underprivileged are going through owing to lockdown across the valley. "It's really unfortunate that a huge number of people who have been left without work for the past 50 days are finding it impossible to make two ends meet. People, both from rural as well as

### 4 Held For Circulating Fake Currency

Srinagar: Police on Saturday arrested four people for allegedly circulating fake currency notes in north Kashmir's Bandipora district. Addressing a news conference, SSP Bandipora Rahual Malik said that acting on specific information, Police arrested four people, two from Bandipora and two from Kulgam and recovered fake Indian currency notes from their possession, reports said. He said police seized counterfeit currency notes worth Rs 5 lakh of 500, 2000, 100 denomination

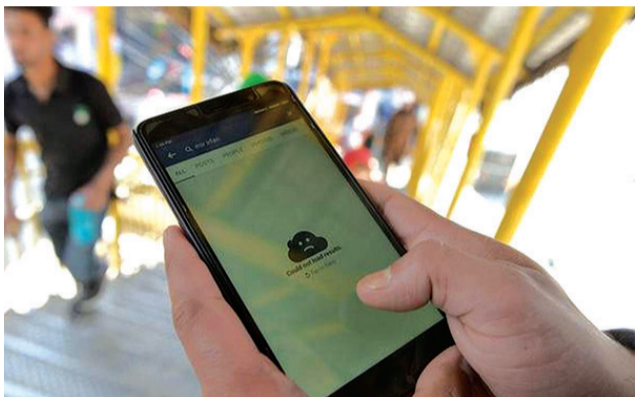
### Driver Killed As Tractor Turns Turtle

Srinagar: A tractor driver was killed on Saturday after his vehicle turned turtle in Bhangai village of Thanamandi in Rajouri district. 35-year-old Mohammad Aslam, son of Faiz Mohammad was killed on the spot when the tractor he was driving, turned turtle in Bhangai village area of Thanamandi, news agency KNO reported. Meanwhile, police have have taken cognizance of the matter.

### Strict Curbs Reimposed In Bhadarwah

Bhadarwah: Police and paramilitary personnel were deployed in greater strength on Saturday to curb free movement, a day after some people under quarantine were caught in a traffic jam in Bhadarwah of Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, officials said. Out of the total 20 districts in the Union territory, Doda and Poonch in Jammu division are coronavirus free with no reported case till date. Doda district was recently declared a green zone by the administration and simultaneously

## SMS, Mobile Internet Remain Shut in Kashmir On 4th Day



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR- Mobile Internet and SMS services continued to remain suspended on Saturday in the Kashmir valley after the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen commander, Reyaz Naikoo, earlier this week.

The situation in the valley, which has been witnessing lockdown since the third week of March due to COVID-19 pandem-

ic, was generally calm barring a few local protests in some villages of Pulwama in south Kashmir.

Seeing an improvement of the situation after Naikoo was killed on Wednesday, the authorities allowed private telecom operators to resume their services from Friday night but asked them to keep Internet connection barred.

Restrictions had been imposed in the valley after the death of Naikoo and additional

## Indo, Pak Troops Trade Fire Along LoC

Jammu:India and Pakistani troops continued exchanging gunfire along the line of control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to a defence spokesman Pakistani troops again violated ceasefire by firing and shelling Indian army posts along the LoC in Degwar sector of Poonch.

The Indian Army is retaliating befittingly, the spokesman said.

"At about 7.30 pm, Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling with mortars in Degwar. Indian Army is retaliating befittingly," he said.

The cross-border shelling is going on but there is no report of any casualty on the Indian side so far, the spokesman said.

Fear has heightened among villagers along the LoC in Rajouri, Poonch and Kupwara since three civilians were killed last month in shelling by Pakistan.

There were a total of 646 incidents of ceasefire violation along the International Border (IB) as well as the LoC between January 1 and February 23 this year, Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik said in March.

Over 3,200 ceasefire violations by Pakistan's troops were recorded in 2019. There is a 198-km IB and over 510 km of LoC with Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir.

## 2 Nurses Among 13 New Covid-19 Cases, J&K Tally Reaches 836

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two nurses at the Super Specialty Hospital here besides an attendant on Saturday were among thirteen people who tested positive for coronavirus in Kshmir Valley, taking the number of Covid-19 infected across the Union Territory to 836.

Out of 463 samples tested at the virology lab at the Chest Disease hospital here, six turned out to be positive, reports said. Among those include two city residents, two staff nurses from Super Specialty Hospital Shireen Bagh here, an attendant of a patient from Shahlatoo Shopian and another from south Kashmir's Awantipora.

Similarly out of 947 samples processed Viral Diagnostic Lab of the SKIMS, six came out to be positive for the coronavirus and include four from Ganderbal district and two from Handwara, Professor Farooq Jan, medical superintendent of SKIMS told news agency GNS.

Sources said one positive case of Covid 19 has been confirmed at Basohli belt in Kathua district.

The person was under administrative quarantine, the sources added.

According to the media bulletin issued by the government today, 43917 samples out of 44753 have tested as negative till May 09, 2020. "Furthermore, till date 90541



AN EXPECTING MOTHER STANDS near a Covid-19 screening booth at a health centre in Srinagar on Saturday. Pic Abid Bhat

### 164 Walk Home After Quarantine

The authorities on Saturday discharged as many as 164 persons who completed their mandatory quarantine period at a government run facility in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. According to reports, all the 164 people hailing from Baramulla district were discharged from a college in Parihaspora Pattan after they tested negative for coronavirus. They were sent back to their homes with the advice that they should quarantine themselves in homes for next 14 days.

Tehsildar Singhpora, Nisar Ahmed told news agency

travellers and persons in contact with suspected cases have been enlisted for surveillance which includes 20092 persons in home quarantine, 167 in hospital quar-

antine, 459 in hospital isolation and 9244 under home surveillance. Besides, 60570 persons have completed their surveillance period," the bulletin adds.

## HC Seeks Govt's Response If PRC Has Lost Relevance In J&K

Agencies

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has issued a notice to J&K government, seeking its response on whether or not Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC) has lost its relevance following abrogation of Article 35(A) by BJP-led government last year.

A bench of Justice Rajnesh Oswal issued the notice to Secretary, General Administration Department, after arraying the officer as respondent in a petition filed by one Aradhay Gupta through his counsel who



contended that petitioner was born in Jammu and he has undergone all his studies in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that authorities were demanding Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC) so as to enable him to participate in the CET-2020.

He further contended that with the abrogation of Article 35(A), the concept of PRC has lost its relevance and as such the same cannot be demanded by the authorities.

"This Court is of the opinion that the important point of law is involved, which requires the response from the General Administration Department, as such Secretary, General Administration Department, UT of J&K is arrayed as party respondent," the court said and issued notice through e-mail to the secretary GAD for filing objections/ response.

### 'I'm Totally Healthy' Shah Breaks Silence on Health Rumours



NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday took to twitter dispelling recent rumours about his ill health saying he is "totally healthy" and not suffering from any disease. Shah said in a statement that the rumours about his

### J&K Govt Urges Airlifting Of Remaining Students From Bangladesh

Srinagar: A day after 168 medical students from Jammu and Kashmir were evacuated from Bangladesh, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday urged government of India to evacuate remaining students from the country in view of Eid-ul-Fitr festival.

In a letter addressed to Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Singh Shringla, the J&K Chief Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam says that as per the data with the government of Jammu and Kashmir, between 230-240 students were still stranded in Bangladesh and were agitating for their early return to Jammu and Kashmir.

## Union Minister Says India Has 'Ready Plan' To Recapture Pck

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The former army chief and Minister of State (MoS) for Road Transport and Highways VK Singh said that the government of India has a "ready plan" to recapture Pakistan-controlled Kashmir and action about it will be taken at an opportune time, reports said Saturday.

"I will not tell you that we are going to do this, or we will do that, or what we have to do. It will happen when the time comes. A



plan is ready. The day we see an opportunity, action will be taken," Singh said while speaking at the E-Agenda programme of New Delhi based Aaj Tak.

According to the report by India Today, Singh said that he was not going to say

## Train With Stranded J&K Students To Leave Bangalore Today

SRINAGAR: First special train with stranded students from Jammu and Kashmir will leave for Jammu from Bangalore city on Sunday.

According to officials here, a special train carrying 1112 stranded students of Jammu and Kashmir to leave for Udhampur from Bangalore city tomorrow (Sunday) morning. He said only students with prior registration would be allowed to board the train after proper ID verification.

Special train to Udhampur will leave at 11 AM from Bengaluru city railway station. We have made all the necessary arrangements for operating the train, a railway of-



icial said. He said students have been informed to reach Baiyappanahalli Police Station (K R Puram) Tin Factory ground by 7: 30 Am Sunday where from Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTCL) will carry them to railway station.

ertinently, this is the first batch of stranded students who are being taken back to home

## People With Travel Passes Put Under Quarantine

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Despite having a valid official pass to move between Jammu and Kashmir, hundreds of travellers have ended up at administrative quarantine centres set up by the government on the outskirts of the winter capital as part of its efforts to combat the coronavirus.

The move is agitating the people who questioned the logic behind sending them to an institutional quarantine when they are given the passes in extremely exceptional situations, like a medical emergency or joining

their duties after completing the formalities due to a lockdown.

One such quarantine centre is set up at Excise and Taxation Training Institute in Nagrota, 15 km from Jammu city, where 35 persons, including women and a seven-year-old girl, are anxiously waiting for their sample reports – the outcome of which will decide their future at the sprawling facility.

While a majority of them are expected to be released after their test reports are negative, four labourers from Amritsar in Punjab who had travelled from Srinagar to Jammu in a truck without

## Is Pandemic Changing Perceptions About Political Lockdown in Kashmir?

Mrinal Pathak

SUDDEN snapping of mobile internet and cellular calling in Kashmir lately made Rahul Sharma, a 26-year-old NIT graduate from New Delhi, to break ice on Kashmir.

He talked about his 'caged' Kashmiri friends, the repeated casualty of internet, curbs on public movement, weary students wondering about their online classes and careers, and the constant hostage sense unleashed in the valley, with his family, like never before.

Before pandemic lockdown, Sharma would support the political lockdowns in Kashmir for "national interest". But after living as a captive in

his own home for nearly two months now, he started "feeling" for the lockdown-plagued populace of the valley.

"I would support lockdown in Kashmir as long as I was living as a freeman," Sharma said, matter-of-factly. "But once I suffered the fate of common Kashmiris, I had a change of heart. I believe the proof of the pudding is in the eating."

Amid pandemic, the current political lockdown enforced after the passage of the most wanted insurgent of Kashmir recently has come as a plagued reminder of the state of affairs in the valley.

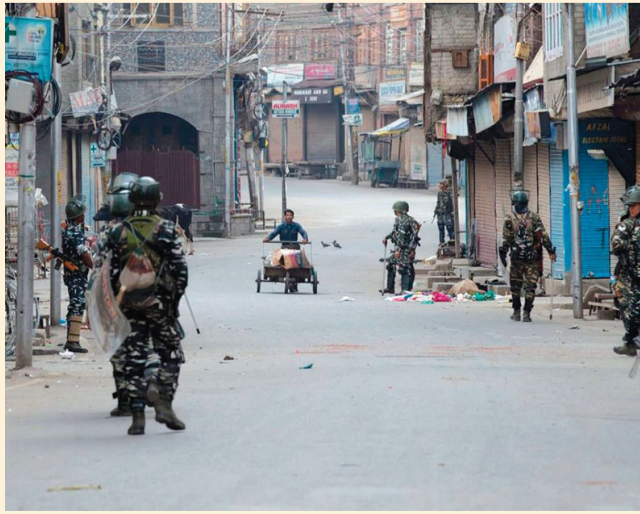
"At a time when all of us are sailing in the same boat," Sharma continued, "there should a collective resolve to improve things in the val-

ley. Let's not support these repeated restrictions in the name of security there anymore."

Even as some lockdown-hostage Indians are showing a 'change of heart', the rightwing TV news and social media-driven campaign continue to dominate the discourse with its 'vocal narrative'.

But away from virtual "eco-chambers" and "kangaroo courts", as many people dismiss them, the real life change is slowly taking place.

"While most of us are new to these curbs," said Dr. Ramesh Gupta, a Haryana-based political science professor, "I'm amazed how Kashmiris are braving the continuous state of lockdown from last August. While we all should learn



from their resolve, we must also raise our voices for a meaningful change in their lives."

Many of these fresh voices are asserting their tacit support at a time when the problems due to the earlier restrictions in Kashmir got compounded after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi imposed the nationwide lockdown to limit the spread of the deadly virus.

Some of these issues are now striking a perceptive change in locked down Indians.

Internet Woes

"It's unthinkable for me to live without internet for even an hour," said Meenakshi Joshi, a college student from Uttar Pradesh. "How Kashmiris are living without it

makes my head spin. I believe we, Indians, need to raise our voice against such injustices."

After restoring 2G internet earlier this year, the authorities once again snapped it recently. While the broadband services have been resumed, the high-speed or 4G internet remains suspended since August 5, 2019, when New Delhi rendered J&K's special status null and void.

Despite the fact that majority of employees are working from home currently, J&K government on April 28, 2020 extended the ban on 4G internet till May 11, 2020.

"The most essential element required to enable people to work from home is the high speed of the internet," Joshi, the