



Maximum : 23°C
Minimum : 11°C
Humidity : 66%

SUNSET
Today 07:26 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:29 AM

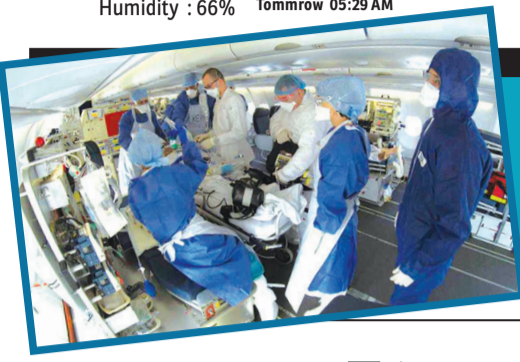
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SCIENTISTS DECODE HOW COVID-19 DISEASE KILLS PEOPLE

COVID-19 mostly kills through an overreaction of the immune system, whose function is precisely to fight infections, say scientists who have decoded the mechanisms, symptoms, and diagnosis of the disease caused by the SARS-Cov-2 coronavirus. In a study published in the journal *Frontiers in Public Health*, the researchers explained step-by-step how the virus infects the airways, multiplies inside cells, and in severe cases causes the immune defences to overshoot with a "cytokine storm". This storm is an over-activation of white blood cells, which release too-great amounts

.....LIFE & TIMES
P6



News Digest

21 TH RAMAZAN		
	IFTAR TODAY	SEHRI TOMMOROW
FIQAH HANAFIYA	07:28	03:53
FIQAH JAFARIYA	07:36	03:51

Police Gets Anti-Narcotics Task Force

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday approved creation of anti-narcotics task force (ANTF) wing in Jammu and Kashmir police to fight the drug menace in the Union Territory. The Home Department today accorded sanction to setting up of ANTF under the overall superintendence and control of Inspector General of Police, Crime Branch J&K. The new wing will have strength ● P-02

Hurriyat Condemns Beerwah Youth's Killing

Srinagar: Hurriyat Conference led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Thursday demanded punishment for the CRPF personnel responsible for the "cold-blooded murder" of a youth in Kawoosa area of Budgam district on Wednesday morning. In a statement issued here, a Hurriyat spokesperson expressed grief and sorrow over the killing of 24-year-old Mehraj-ud-din Peer of Budgam by CRPF in the holy month of Ramzan. ● P-02

Landslides Block Kashmir Highway

Srinagar: Fresh landslides triggered by heavy rains disrupted traffic on the strategic Srinagar-Jammu highway on Thursday, leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded. According to the reports, the 270-km-long Srinagar-Jammu highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir valley with the rest of the country, was closed yet again today after heavy rains triggered fresh landslides and shooting stones. A police official said that the vehicular movement on the ● P-02

CASO Carried Out In Sopore

Srinagar: Despite heavy rainfall, government forces on Thursday carried out cordon and search operation (CASO) in a village in Sopore area of Baramulla district. According to reports, a joint team of Army's 22 RR, SOG Sopore and 179 and 92 Battalion CRPF conducted door-to-door searches in Thakgund Behrampora village of Sopore this evening. The operation, according to local news agency KNO was launched after receiving inputs about the presence of militants in the area. ● P-02

Govt Forms Panel For Speedy Recruitments In J&K

Agencies
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday accorded sanction to the constitution of a committee in order to accelerate recruitment to government vacancies and to ensure certain principles of transparency in the staffing process. The four member committee would be headed Navin K. Choudhary (IAS), Chairman and Nodal Officer Principal Secretary to Government, Agriculture and Horticulture Department. Its members include Saurabh Bhagat (IAS), Commissioner Secretary Labour & Employment Department, Farooq Ahmad Lone (IAS), Secretary GAD and Achal Sethi Secretary Department of Law, Justice & P.A. The committee has been ● PAGE 02

Tracking The Fallen Guns: A Plagued Pattern Tailing The Suicide Note

Mrinal Pathak

WHEN Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Sub-Inspector Fatah Singh wrote the final words, "I am afraid, I may have Corona," before committing suicide in his barracks, it became yet another curt ending of a central policeman in Kashmir Valley.

A native of Jaisalmer Rajasthan and posted in Mattan Anantnag, Singh ended his life with his service rifle on May 12. Later that day, an Assistant Sub-Inspector of CRPF Bangali Babu of Madhya Pradesh posted in Neelam Cinema Karan Nagar also killed himself.

While the sample of Singh has already been sent for Covid-19 testing, the reason for suicide committed by the latter has still not been ascertained.

But those who track suicide and fratricide cases of Indian paramilitary forces in Kashmir see an old plaguing pattern in the recent twin self-killings.

Dismal Data

Last year, on January 07, 2019, the central government informed Rajya Sabha about the "suspected" suicide of over 80 soldiers, out of which a large number of cases were reported in J&K.

Earlier, in July 2014, the government informed Rajya Sabha that 597 armed forces personnel committed suicide in a period of five years - 2008-2013.

Madness behind the Method

Sewadari system under ineffectual leadership and humiliation at the hands of the senior officers are known to create resentment among forces.

In past, many reports blamed these factors for soldier suicide. However, many defence experts suggest that the major reason behind suicides is the living condition of these paramilitary personnel, posted in the tough terrains of the J&K.

In recent times, former Border Security Force (BSF) Constable Tej Bahadur Yadav triggered a massive controversy when he uploaded a video on his Facebook handle in January 2017, alleging that the government had failed the forces and the facilities provided to the troops were "substandard".

The video became an internet sensation. Later, the BSF denied the allegations and sacked Yadav after a three-month-long proceeding at a summary court-martial held in Samba. ● PAGE 02



Representation Image

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Madness behind the Method

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STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO PREVENT SUICIDE INCLUDE PROFESSIONAL psychological counseling, workshops on mental health, meditation being made part of the unit routine, yoga classes, improvement in living conditions and liberalised leave policy,"

India Slams Pak Over Gilgit-Baltistan Infra Projects

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday took strong note of Pakistan awarding a mega contract to build a dam in Gilgit-Baltistan, saying carrying out of such projects in territories under Pakistan's 'illegal occupation' was not proper.

The Pakistan government has signed a whopping Rs 442 billion contract with a joint venture of a Chinese state-run firm and a commercial arm of Pakistan's powerful military for construction of the Diamer-Bhasha dam.

"Our position is consistent and clear that entire territory of the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have been, are and will continue to be integral and inalienable part of India," MEA Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said.

"We have consistently conveyed our protests and shared concerns with both Pakistan and China on all such projects in the Indian territories under Pakistan's illegal occupation," he said.

Last week, India conveyed its strong protest to Pakistan for its efforts to bring "material change" after the country's top court allowed holding of elections ● PAGE 02



Representation Image

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Militants Flee After Overnight Gunfight In Kulgam

SRINAGAR: Unidentified militants gave slip to government forces after engaging them in a brief gunfight in Yamrach area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Thursday.

The militants, believed to be two to three in number, escaped taking advantage of darkness, a police officer told news agency GNS.

Earlier a joint team of Police, army's 34RR and CRPF had launched a joint cordon-and-search-operation in Yamrach village following specific inputs about the presence of militants. ● P-02

Srinagar Airport Ready To Resume Flight Operations: Director

Touch Free Arrangements To Be Made In View Of Covid-19

Izhar Nazir Ali

SRINAGAR: The Srinagar International Airport is ready to resume upto 40 percent touch free flight operations after receiving a nod from the government of India, a senior official said Thursday.

"As far as Srinagar Airport is concerned, we are ready to resume the operations. Social distancing marking has been completed between 50-60 percent. And by Sunday, rest of the work will be completed. Touch free operations will be started. From entry in the terminal till boarding, the passenger will not come into physical touch with anyone," Director Srinagar International Airport, Santosh Dhoke told Kashmir Observer.

The airport officials, he said were constantly following the guidelines issued by the Ministry of civil aviation and the MHA. According to these guidelines, Dhoke said, 30-40 percent flight operations might be resumed initially, subject to the directives of the government of India.

"Web cameras have been installed where tickets and boarding passes will be produced. ● PAGE 02



CIC To Hear RTI Applications From J&K, Ladakh Today

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Central Information Commission will start hearing appeals and complaints of RTI applicants pertaining to Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh from Friday, nearly nine months after the transparency provisions of the erstwhile state were revoked and the central act was enforced there, officials said on Thursday.

The commission is hearing appeals and complaints via video and audio links. While the country had enacted the Right to Information Act in 2005, the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state had its own law, the Jammu and Kashmir RTI Act, 2009. The Centre had bifurcated the state into two Union Territories --

Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh -- from October 31, 2019 after passing of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019 in August last year.

Consequently, the Jammu and Kashmir Right to Information Act 2009 and the Rules thereunder were repealed and the Right to Information Act 2005 and the Rules thereunder were enforced from October 31, 2019.

The Personnel Ministry had given an action plan to the Central Information Commission asking it to take over all the pending appeals and complaints pending before the Jammu and Kashmir State Information Commission.

While states have their own Information Commissions, the matters pertaining to Union Territories are handled by the Central ● PAGE 02

J&K Tally Reaches 983 As 12 More Test Covid-19 Positive

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus cases inched closer to thousand on Thursday as twelve more people tested positive for virus in Jammu and Kashmir, taking the number of infected people across Union Territory to 983.

"Twelve new cases have been reported from Jammu and Kashmir in the last 24 hours," the officials said, adding that nineteen more patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals.

Among the new cases, eight are from Valley while four others are from Jammu region.

Among the 12 cases, five were reported from Srinagar, three from Rajouri—all men aged 24, 28 and 56 respectively—two from Shopian—25-year-old woman from Heerpora and 28-year-old man from Urpora—and one from Pulwama—25-year-old woman.

One among the Srinagar cases is a 50-year-old woman from Kanipora Srinagar and her test came positive at SKIMS. The tests of four other residents of this capital city came positive at a private laboratory, they said. Udampur resident's case was confirmed at SKIMS. ● PAGE 02

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Pic: Abid Bhat

13 More Recover From Covid-19

THE SKIMS Medical College and Hospital, Bemina today discharged thirteen more patients after recovering from covid-19. They include eight from district Bandipora, four from Budgam, one from Baramulla. The patients had been admitted in the hospital after testing positive more than two weeks back at various referral centers. The hospital informed that the number of patients who recovered reached to one hundred thirty-six out one hundred seventy eight with the recovery percentage 76%.

Jammu Receives First Special Train With 1018 Passengers

Observer News Service

JAMMU- As part of government's initiative of bringing back the stranded people of J&K to their homes in the wake of COVID-19 Lockdown, Jammu today received first COVID special train carrying 1018 passengers while 7 buses carrying 175 people including 11 minors stranded in Jammu have left from Bhatindi to Kashmir.

Deputy Commissioner, Sushma Chauhan along with other senior officers received the Rajdhani train and had a brief interaction with the passengers.

Chauhan, while wishing safe and comfortable further journey to the passengers, appealed them to cooperate with the district authorities in ensuring strict adherence to the guidelines issued by Ministries of Home Affairs and Health & Family Welfare regarding COVID-19. "Following the guidelines is the only option to contain the spread of this Pandemic", she added.

She informed that the administration has ensured that ● PAGE 02

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613 Gurez Residents Return Home

AS many as 613 residents of picturesque Gurez Valley returned to their homes on Thursday after remaining stranded for a long time in north Kashmir's Bandipora district. A cavalcade of 75 vehicles carried these 613 people to their homes in Gurez after a team of doctors at Lal Quila Morh at Pethkoot village screened them and cleared their travel, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Reyaz Ahmad Beigh said. He said the vehicles were also thoroughly fumigated before allowing them to proceed towards their destination. He said ● P-02

In Pandemic, Contemporary Kashmiri Writers Getting Added Audience

Rakshanda Afrin

FOR last five years, Seerat Wani would wrestle with her procrastinating personality to read *Curfewed Night*, the book she bought from New Delhi's famed bookstore, Baharsons, tucked in legendary Khan Market. But the 28-year-old MBA degree holder from Srinagar's Peerbagh would always find distractions, until the pandemic lockdown came and ended her impasse.

"We aren't new to lockdowns in Kashmir," Wani said, with an assertive tone. "But then, this lockdown is different. It's about mandatorily home sitting, and maintaining social distancing. And her back to her ancestral home in downtown Srinagar, where as a kid in nineties, she would often peek through her window to witness the turbulent streets.



this is when I finally found time for Basharat Peer's acclaimed book."

Calling it a "time machine trip", Wani said that *Curfewed Night* took

"The book maps your feelings and circumstances without resorting to make-believe literary twists," she said. "I'm happy to finally read it." Wani is not alone to break ice on her tardy reading willpower in viral lockdown. Like her, Hubaib Aslam, 29, would hardly pick up a book to read, despite having his father's rich library at home. "Honestly, I was never a book person," Aslam, a contractor from Srinagar's Bemina, said. ● PAGE 02

Kashmiri Woman Dies In Tragic Dubai Road Accident

Car Burst Into Flames After A Four-Car Smash On Sheikh Zayed Road

Observer News Service

DUBAI: Daughter of a prominent Kashmiri businessman was among three people killed in a horrible multi-car crash in Dubai on Wednesday.

"A man and two women were killed when their car caught fire after a four-vehicle smash on Sheikh Zayed Road in Dubai", police said.

The accident occurred on Shaikh Zayed Road after Dubai Parks and Resorts area on Dubai- Abu Dhabi border.

The accident happened when the victims' vehicle halted due to another traffic accident on the road and another vehicle crashed into their car from behind which caused the fire.



"One car burst into flames and three people in it were killed", Dubai police said.

Those who died in the tragic accident included daughter of a renowned Kashmiri business man Abdul Rashid Mir, reports said.

Mir, is the founder Chairman, of Cottage Industries Exposition Limited, (CIE). ● PAGE 02