



Maximum : 27°C
Minimum : 14°C
Humidity : 48%

SUNSET
Today 07:31 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:25 AM

OBSERVER

23rd year OF PUBLICATION

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CHINA, BETTER PREPARED FOR THE POST- COVID WORLD

Several weeks before the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, India's Minister for External Affairs, S. Jaishankar, had observed (at a lecture) that "what defines power and determines national standing is also no longer the same... Technology, connectivity and trade are at the heart of the new contestations...." The Minister could never have imagined that within a few weeks, his prediction would be overtaken by a tectonic shift in the global situation thanks to a virus and a pandemic. The Minister did mention a point about "known unknowns", but what he could hardly have anticipated is how radical the changes would be, thanks to the phenomenon of "unknown unknowns"

.....OPINION
P4

News Digest

28TH RAMAZAN

IFTAR	SEHRI
TODAY	TOMMOROW
FIQAH HANAFIYA	07:33 03:46
FIQAH JAFARIYA	07:43 03:44



B R Sharma Appointed PSC Chairman

Jammu: Government of Jammu and Kashmir has appointed B R Sharma, former IAS Officer, as Chairman Public Service Commission for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. As per an order issued here today in this regard, Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has appointed Sharma as PSC Chairman who shall hold the position of the Chairman, Public Service

Govt Transfers 4 KAS Officers

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday shifted four KAS officers in the interest of administration. In an order issued here today by the General Administration Department (GAD), Farooq Ahmad Shah, KAS, Custodian General, J&K, has been transferred and shall await further orders of adjustment in the GAD. Suriya Jabeen, KAS, Managing Director, JAKFED, has been transferred and posted as Custodian

Minor Hurt During Pulwama Clashes

Srinagar: Clashes broke out between protesters and government forces on Thursday during a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Karimabad area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. According to the reports, police and CRPF laid a siege around Karimabad village this afternoon after a militant attack in the neighbourhood village of Prichoo left a cop dead and another injured. When the joint team started searches,

15 ITBP Coys Withdrawn From J&K

Srinagar: The government of India has ordered withdrawal of 15 companies of Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) from Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, officials said Thursday. They said that among the 15 units comprising over 1,500 personnel, 8 are being withdrawn from Kashmir region, three from Jammu and four from Ladakh. The order by Ministry of Home Affairs follows withdrawal of 10 CAPF companies, three belonging to the CISF and the ITBP each besides two each

Amid Contagion Curbs, Siege Mentality Returns To Haunt Kashmir

Rakshanda Afrin

SRINAGAR: After a certain point in pandemic lockdown, Shagufta, 18, couldn't take her besieged routine anymore. Feeling vexed, she started raising her pitch against her parents, and refused to come out of her room for hours together.

In seclusion, she kept thinking of her classmates—with whom she shared the last 'normal' class before August 4, 2019.

"Although we're not new to lockdowns, but I and my classmates are finding it hard to adjust to these repeated restrictions now," said Shagufta, who was looking forward

to join college this year.

"Such a cursed life makes you captive in your own home."

Coming from the volatile Rajouri Kadal of Srinagar, the citadel of cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Shagufta's is a classic case of the 'siege mentality' — a peculiar socio-psychological state arising collectively, if a person is not free, the way he or she wants to be.

"I've witnessed the 2016 and 2019 lockdowns," she said. "To some extent, that besieged life was bearable. But I don't know why this present lockdown feels a different experience."

Expert Take

Living in such an atmosphere



of perpetual siege gives rise to 'besieged' minds, Dr. Mushtaq

Margoob told Kashmir Observer. Due to lack of freedom, he con-

tinued, such minds have been seen in erstwhile Soviet Union, North Korea and Syria.

"When a population is confronted with an insecure and uncertain situation, this troubled mentality seeps into almost every human endeavor," Kashmir's ace mental specialist said. "It impacts psychological as well as behavioural social patterns and practices."

Human beings are supposed to have some sort of control and some feeling about their future, but in a conflict situation, perception of world changes, he said.

"Kashmiris are already overburdened. And when the population is locked up constantly, they're

being deprived of mobilising their pent up emotions with their peer group, neighbours or relations."

According to the 2015-survey conducted by MSF, Doctors without Borders, nearly 1.8 million adults (45% of the adult population) in the Kashmir Valley show symptoms of significant mental distress.

"Diagnosable psychiatric or psychological problems are more prevalent in a conflict prone zone like Kashmir," the doctor, with over 28 years of clinical experience in Kashmir, said.

"As nobody knows how long it will continue, people mobilise their own inbuilt mechanism

2 More Covid-19 Deaths In Kashmir, Toll Reaches 20



Pic Abid Bhat

Funeral of a Covid-19 deceased woman being offered in Bemina area of city on Thursday.

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A 70-year-old woman, who had tested COVID-19 positive, died at a hospital here on Thursday, while another woman, who passed away on Wednesday, also tested positive for the infection, taking the novel coronavirus-related death toll to 20 in the Union Territory, officials said.

The 70-year-old from Patisabad area of central Kashmir's Budgam district died around

noon at the Chest Diseases Hospital here, they said.

The officials said the woman was initially admitted to the SMHS hospital on May 15, but after testing positive for the coronavirus, she was shifted to the Chest Diseases Hospital on May 18 as a case of COPD with restrictive lung disease and COVID Pneumonia.

She died at the intensive care unit of the hospital around noon after a sudden cardiac arrest, they said. The other woman (80) from Bemina in Srinagar was admitted at the

21 Cops, Intern Doctor Among 59 Test Positive

Coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir continued an upward trend on Thursday as 59 more people, including 21 policemen and an intern doctor tested positive to the virus, taking the

SMHS hospital with bilateral pneumonia and hypertension

Cleric Who Led Militant's Funeral Denied Bail

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A special NIA court in Anantnag has denied bail to a cleric, who was arrested on March 3 this year, 726 days after leading funeral prayers of a militant from his native village, Damhal Hanjipora in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

The funeral of the militant Amir Tantray, killed in an encounter with joint team of police and army on 25 October 2018 at Arwani Bijbehara, was held next day.

As per prosecution, when the militant's body was brought to his native village, the people of the area assembled. "The accused Mohammed Iqbal Bhat being cleric and one another cleric namely Tariq Ahmad headed and performed funeral of the deceased militant. In the meanwhile few miscreants raised anti-national slogans and raised slogans in favour of the Pakistan. They also instigated the youth for providing assistance in carrying out the militant activities," the prosecution said.

On receiving the information, the prosecution said that a case (FIR No. 107/2018) for the offence under section 153 RPC, 13 ULA(P) Act and 2 PINH was registered with Police Station D.H.Pora and investigation commenced.

"During the course of investigation statement of witnesses were recorded under section 161 Cr.PC. The accused was also found to have perpetrated the crime and as

Govt Issues Guidelines For Domestic Flight Operations



File Pic.

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- A day after announcing the resumption of domestic commercial passenger flights from May 25, the Civil Aviation Ministry on Thursday issued detailed guidelines for airlines, airports, passengers and other stakeholders on issues ranging from control on air fares to restrictions on number of bags.

The ministry said it will prescribe lower and upper limit on air fares and airlines will have to adhere to it "during the period of COVID-19 pandemic".

"On the day of commencement (May 25), limited operations (about one-third) would be permitted," it said.

It said passengers will have to report at the airport two hours prior to their flight's scheduled departure time and only those who have done web check-in will be allowed to enter the terminal building.

Only one check-in bag would be allowed and airlines will not provide any meal services in flights, the ministry said.

Boarding for a flight will commence 60 minutes before departure and the boarding

ALL SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL passenger flight operations have been suspended since March 25, when the Modi government announced the nationwide lockdown to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

Private School Teachers To Get Financial Help

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The private school teachers affected by the Covid-19 lockdown will receive one-time financial assistance from the Jammu and Kashmir government under the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF).

In an order issued, the government has asked the school education department to explore the possibility of providing one-time financial assistance to needy private school teachers.

The order states that

KP Groups Hail Domicile Law, Call It 'Historic Milestone'

JAMMU: While all the major social, political parties of Jammu and Kashmir have criticised the government over the new domicile law, many Kashmiri Pandit organizations on Thursday termed the decision as a 'historic milestone' and expressed their gratitude towards the Modi-led government at the centre.

According to an official spokesperson, several delegations of Kashmiri Pandit Community including All Parties Migrants Coordination Committee and Kashmiri Pandit Welfare Organization called

on the Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu at the Raj Bhavan on Thursday and expressed their gratitude towards Government of India and J&K UT Administration for the introduction of new Domicile Law in J&K.

"The members of these delegations termed the new Domicile Law of Jammu and Kashmir as historic. They also reiterated that the removal of Article 370 and Article 35A, which proved to be a stumbling block in the path of development, would take the UT to new heights of growth and

Cop Killed, Another Injured In Pulwama Attack



Pic: Shih Luvind

Observer News Service

Pulwama: A policeman on Thursday was killed and another injured

in a militant attack in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, barely 24 hours after two BSF personnel were shot dead in central

3 Militant Recruits Held In Kupwara: Police

Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested three youths who had purportedly posted photographs on the social media holding guns and announced that they had joined militant ranks. The trio was arrested from Gujarpatti Ganbugh area in Sogam Lolab in this north Kashmir's Kupwara district. SSP Kupwara Shri Ram Ambarkar said that on basis

KPC Condemns Harassment Of Journalists

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir Press Club on Thursday expressed its concern over the continued harassment of journalists by the police and said that such acts are a clear violation of press freedom.

In a statement issued to media, KPC said that a Kashmir based journalist Fahad Shah, has brought to the notice of the club that he was summoned by Jammu and Kashmir Police's Cyber Cell on Wednesday afternoon.

"As per his statement he was let go after over four hours and during his stay at the Police Station was questioned about the reportage in his newspaper of an encounter in Srinagar," the KPC said.

Citing earlier instances when other journalists were summoned by the police for their stories, the KPC said that it has condemned all such incidents

Humans, History, Headmaster: Kashmir in Virtual Classroom

Jyotsna Bharti

A group of young Kashmiris have found a voice online where they're humanizing the conflict-battered lives of commoners. The effort remains to highlight the shrugged off stories which don't find a mention in the full-of-happening news ecosystem of the valley.

At about the same time, the effort is being made by a Kashmiri woman to take education to the grassroots for enlightening and empowering the unprivileged community. And then, there's some budding Kashmiris making history appealing for netizens.

All this and more is happening on Instagram and getting eyeballs at a



time when the perpetual headlines is once again hogging headlines.

Humanising Valley

There're rags to rich stories, the inspiring accounts of underdogs making big in life, and the tales of

those who never got their due in the society grappling with searing struggles and strife.

All these stories have found home in the Instagram handle, called Humans of Kashmir.

It acts as a conveyor belt of many inspiring stories, which in the larger happenings of Vale often get sidelined.

Popularising Kashmiri

If you've a huge appetite for Kashmiri language, then you're going to love the Instagram handle of Kashmiri Dictionary.

It comes up with the most beautiful and crafted words of Kashmiri language every day with the explanation of the word too.

They also teach proverbs and sayings, making the entire

Landslides Close Highway, 2000 Vehicles Stranded

SRINAGAR: The Jammu-Srinagar Highway, only surface link connecting Kashmir Valley with the outside world, was again closed for traffic on Thursday afternoon.

Official sources said that the strategic highway was closed after landslides at Panthyal in Ramban district on the highway. Around 2000 vehicles, mainly trucks, are stranded due to the closure, they said.

"The highway is still blocked due to landslide and shooting stones at Panthyal," a police official said.

Around 2000 vehicles are stranded between Ramban and Jawahar Tunnel, the official said.

He said subject to fair weather and clearance of road the stranded vehicles shall be allowed to their



destinations tomorrow.

After remaining closed for several hours due to landslides at Morh Ghori, the Highway was opened on Wednesday afternoon.