

Maximum : 24°C
Minimum : 13°C
Humidity : 62%
SUNSET
Today 07:39 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:20 AM**SOCIAL DISTANCING
DELAY BY ONE DAY MAY LEAD
TO VIRUS SPREADING FOR
2.4 EXTRA DAYS**

Every day a city delays in implementing social distancing measures after the appearance of its first case of coronavirus infection may add as much as 2.4 days to the duration of the outbreak, says an analysis of COVID-19 spread in 58 cities.

According to the study, published in the journal Emerging Infectious Diseases, places that take longer to implement social distancing measures may spend more time with the virus rapidly spreading than those that act more quickly.

Researchers, including those from The University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin), looked at data from cities throughout China and analysed when the first cases were detected, when social distancing measures were implemented, and when the outbreak was considered contained.

"Every day saves time, saves effort, saves people becoming infected and probably saves lives," said Lauren Ancel Meyers, a professor

News Digest**Govt Undecided Over
School Reopening**

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir government said Wednesday that it has not taken any decision to re-open the schools on June 15 in Jammu and Kashmir. This was stated by Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, KK Sharma, who is also in charge of School Education Department, an official spokesperson said. He, however, said that instructions have been issued to schools to ensure sanitization of school premises in view of Covid-19 across J&K.

**SC Rejects Plea For
Renaming India**

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Wednesday said the Centre should treat as a representation a plea which sought a direction to amend the Constitution and replace the word India with 'Bharat' or 'Hindustan'. The plea filed before the apex court by a Delhi-based man has claimed that such an amendment will "ensure the citizens of this country to get over the colonial past". It contended that replacing the word India

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**Nine New Covid-19
Cases In Ladakh**

Jammu: Nine more persons tested positive for coronavirus in Ladakh, taking the total number of cases in the union territory to 90, officials said on Wednesday. All the new positive cases -- seven in Kargil and two in Leh districts -- have been shifted to an isolation ward from quarantine facilities and the contract tracing is under progress, health department officials said. They said one COVID-19 patient from Leh district was discharged from Mahabodhi hospital on Tuesday

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**Explosives Recovered,
4 Held: Police**

Srinagar: Police on Wednesday arrested four people for allegedly possessing explosive material in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. In a handout issued this evening, a police spokesperson said that based on a credible information, police raided house of Adil Maqbool Wani in Nanil and recovered 24Kgs of explosive material concealed in nylon bags. During preliminary investigations, the police spokesperson said it was learnt that three other persons

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**Tanker Overturns In
Samba, One Killed**

Jammu- A Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) gas tanker skidded off the road and fell into a 15-foot deep ditch in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, killing one person and injuring another, officials said. The tanker, which was on its way to Srinagar, turned turtle near Charawa village on the Samba-Majalta-Udhampur road. Immediately after the accident, rescue teams from the HPCL along with duty magistrates, police, Fire and Emergency Services and SDRF personnel reached the spot and evacuated residents from nearby houses as a precautionary

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**Modi, Trump Discuss
Sino-India Border
Row In Ladakh**

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The border stand-off between India and China, the ongoing civil disturbances in the US and need for reforms in the WHO were among a host of issues that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump discussed during a telephonic talk on Tuesday.

In the conversation, President Trump extended an invitation to Modi to attend the next G-7 summit to be held in the US, the Ministry of External Affairs said. On Saturday, Trump pitched for expansion of the G7 comprising the world's most advanced economies by including India and three other countries.

"The two leaders also exchanged views on other topical issues, such

**China Rejects Third
Party Intervention**

China on Wednesday emphasised that there was no need for the intervention of a "third party" to resolve its current standoff with India as the two neighbours have full-fledged border-related mechanisms and communication channels to

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as the COVID-19 situation in the two countries, the situation on the India-China border, and the need for reforms in the World Health Organisation," the MEA said.

The talks between the two leaders came days after India rejected Trump's offer of mediation to end the tense border standoff between India and China in eastern Ladakh. India had also rejected Trump's claim that he spoke to Modi on the eastern Ladakh standoff.

In the conversation, Modi expressed concern regarding the ongoing civil disturbances in the US, and conveyed his best wishes for an early resolution of the situation, the MEA said.

"President Trump spoke about the US Presidency of the Group of Seven, and conveyed his desire to expand the ambit of

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**Govt Revokes PSA
Of Shah Faesal, 2
PDP Leaders**

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday revoked the controversial Public Safety Act (PSA) against former IAS officer-turned-politician Shah Faesal and two PDP members, including the maternal uncle of former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, officials said.

According to separate orders issued by the Home Department of the Union Territory, the PSA against Faesal, who was a 2010-batch IAS officer, Sartaj Madani, uncle of Mufti, and Peer Mansoor, her political advisor during her tenure as chief minister, was revoked "with immediate effect".

While the PSA against Faesal was extended on May 14, it was also extended against Madani, who was lodged in an official bungalow, on May 5 and Mansoor, held up at MLA hostel, on May 15 for a period of three months.

After Wednesday's order, Mufti, whose official residence was designated into a sub-jail, National Conference (NC) general secretary Ali Mohammed Sagar, son of NC parliamentarian Akbar Lone,

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Doctors stage a protest against the assault on their colleagues by state forces. File Pic Abid Bhat

**Epidemiologist
On Covid Duty
'Thrashed' By CRPF**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A prominent epidemiologist and a frontline Covid-19 warrior on Wednesday was hospitalised after being allegedly beaten up by paramilitary CRPF personnel in central Kashmir's Budgam district

Dr Muzaffar Jan, a prominent epidemiologist was on way to Budgam to attend his duties when CRPF personnel intercepted him near Chadura market and thrashed him with batons, CMO Budgam, Dr Tajamul Hussain Khan told Kashmir Observer. The doctor, he said was beaten to pulp by paramilitary men despite him proving his identity, producing movement pass and explaining

his purpose of his journey.

"He was beaten so much that he couldn't walk properly. He has suffered muscle tear, soft tissue injury and he's experiencing problem in breathing, all because of the kicks and punches of the CRPF personnel," Khan said.

The senior epidemiologist, Khan said was let off by the CRPF men only after some passerby intervened and pleaded his release. He said due to the beating, Dr Jan was hospitalised at District Hospital Budgam.

"It is a shameful and condemnable act on the part of CRPF. We treat their jawans and they beat our colleagues. These barbaric acts are not acceptable," CMO Budgam said.

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**Afghan War Veteran,
Among 3 Militants Killed
In Pulwama Encounter**

An army convoy leaving a village in Pulwama after 3 militants were killed in a gunfight on Wednesday. Pic. Shah Junaid

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A militant who had fought in Afghanistan, was killed on Wednesday with two of his associates in a gunfight with government forces in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, barely a day after two militants were slain in a similar encounter in Tral.

Acting on inputs over the presence of militants, special operations group (SOG) of police, army's 55 RR and personnel of CRPF183 BN laid a siege around

**India, Pak Troops
Exchange Fire Along LoC**

India and Pakistan troops on Wednesday continued exchanging heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan army continued its ceasefire violation by resorting to intense firing along the LoC in Poonch district

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**Private Transporters Suspend
Truck, Tanker Services In J&K**

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Private transporters on Wednesday announced the suspension of tanker and truck services in Jammu and Kashmir but said their doors are open if the administration is interested in addressing their genuine demands through negotiations.

They also said that the government would be responsible for any shortage of essential commodities as most of these tankers and trucks are engaged in transportation of essential supplies.

The agitating transporters, who among other things are seeking an economic package for the industry

ported news agency GNS.

With the latest fatality, the death toll due to the virus in J&K has gone upto 34. So far Srinagar

district and Baramulla have reported highest number of the fatalities--7 each, followed by Anantnag five, Kulgam four, two

each from Shopian, Budgam and Jammu while one death each has been reported from Bandipora, Kupwara Doda and Udhampur.

**Govt Cautions Students Over
'Unauthorised' Pak Kashmir Colleges**

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Centre has advised students of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh against taking admissions in colleges or universities in Pakistan-controlled-Kashmir (PcK) as the educational institutions there were not recognised by India.

In a public notice, published in local dailies here, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) cautioned the students of J&K and Ladakh about "unapproved technical institutions" operating in PcK.

"Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PcJK) is an integral part of the Union of India and the educational institutions including universities, medical colleges, and techni-

cal educational institutions situated in PoJK are neither established by Government of India nor recognized by statutory authorities such as University Grants Commission (UGC), AICTE and Medical Council of India (MCI) etc," reads the notice issued by Member Secretary, AICTE.

The notice advises the students not to take admission in any college, university or technical institution for courses in engineering and technology, architecture, town planning, pharmacy, hotel management and catering technology, applied arts, crafts and design, management, computer applications and travel and tourism.

"... for which advisories are issued by various other

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Sanika Athavale

Rushing to and fro urban and rural Kashmir every day, Naveed Bukhtiyar (24) has been trying to identify 'deserving' families while working as the state coordinator for Karwan-e-Mohabbat.

As soon as pandemic lockdown was enforced, his friends had become accustomed to waking up to the pictures of isolated human settlements he would post in the wee hours of the morning. The posts were pictures of four-wheeler trucks stocked with ration kits, the sight of broken roads, the elbow grease involved in packing essential items, among many others.

Changemakers Of Uri: Inside 'Godforsaken' Land's Relief Operation

Just before the holy month of Ramzan had culminated, Naveed and his team of volunteers were able to help around 90 and 400 families in Sopore and Uri respectively. They undertook the painful yet requisite task of identifying the poorest of people in these settlements and prioritising the needs of some over the rest in this sub-group.

"We gave extra attention to the needs of widows, the physically-challenged, cancer patients, and senior citizens," Naveed said while speaking to the Kashmir Observer.

Uri tehsil in Baramulla district is



Pic By: Sanika Athavale

akin to an armed camp. Most times, especially during winters when the roads are blocked, the local residents look for soldiers to help them in their daily activities since infrastructure to empower the common citizen is absent.

"Villages along the Line of Control (LoC) between India and Pakistan have remained in the prisons of neglect and omission," Naveed said. "Garkote, Mothal, Sukhdar, Dachi, Bandi, Dudran, Sultan Daki, etc. are inhabited by the most impoverished Kashmiris and we have been able to achieve some success

in providing ration there."

Changemakers like Naveed have been carrying out relief-work along the LoC during heavy shelling between the armed forces of India and Pakistan.

Working in similar conditions, a duo from Sultan Daki, comprising a middle school teacher and a young college graduate, have helped 70 families in procuring essential supplies during the pandemic.

Speaking to the Kashmir Observer, Junaid Ahmad Mangral asserted that the biggest and only real victim of the lockdown is the labourer class.

"Kashmir is an expensive place to live," Junaid said. "They [labourers] were already in a precarious condition pre-lockdown, and now they are worse than ever."

Uri, he said, is populated by poor people, as 60-70 percent of its residents are below the poverty line (BPL).

The duo wanted to start relief work much earlier but during the early days of the pandemic, they feared that they might contract the virus in that process. It took some time, but they soon accepted COVID-19 as their new reality and began self-motivated volunteer work following their epiphany.

Their village, Sultan Daki, had been declared a red zone,

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