

## News Digest

### Govt All Set To Roll Out E-Stamping In J&K

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Government is fully geared up to roll out the computerised Registration system through National Generic Document Registration System in the Union Territory. To make it convenient, transparent and public friendly, the Government has recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), the agency mandated by the Centre to act as the apex record keeping agency for rolling out E-stamping. To further gear up the process, Financial Commissioner Revenue and Inspector General of

### LG Visits Slain BJP Leaders Kin

SRINAGAR, JULY 14: Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu today visited the house of deceased BJP leader Sheikh Waseem Bari at Bandipora, who along with his father and brother was killed by the militants. The Lt Governor handed over the financial assistance of Rs 20 Lakhs to the Next of Kin (NoK) of the deceased and conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members of the victims. The Lt Governor strongly condemned the killings and said

### Stranded Srinagar Man Dies In Saudi

Srinagar: A Srinagar man who was stranded in Saudi Arabia due to Covid-19 pandemic died in a hospital there. Family sources said that 87-year-old Haji Abdul Ahad Malik, a resident of Housing Colony Sanat Nagar, Srinagar had gone to Saudi Arabia for Umrah pilgrimage in February and stayed there with his daughter and son-in-law after the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic. His daughter is a gynecologist based there. Sources added that his

### SKIMS Orders Patients Vacate Sarai-II

Srinagar: In wake of spike in admission cases of Covid-19 patients in Valley, Department of Hospital Administration, SKIMS, Soura ordered patients admitted in Sarai-II to immediately vacate rooms. An order issued to Security Officer SKIMS reads, In view of administrative emergency and shifting of Covid-19 patients to Sarai-II, you are advised to direct the patients/attendants staying at Sarai-II to vacate the rooms immediately without further notice. Pertinently on Sunday, authorities ordered enforcement of another lockdown after huge spike and subsequent deaths of Covid-19 patients recorded.

### 65 Fined For Not Wearing Masks

Baramulla: Authorities imposed fine on drivers for not wearing masks in North Kashmir's Baramulla district. A team led by ARTO Baramulla Jamshed Chowdhary initiated action against 65 drivers and even seized 4 vehicles and imposed fine on them. "All these drivers were fined for not wearing masks. The drive will continue. Today we collected a fine to the tune of Rs 50,000," Chowdhary said.

## Union Home Secy Chairs JCoS Meet

Cadre Review Of AIS', Transfer Policy For UT Officers Being Finalized

SRINAGAR: The Union Home Secretary, Ajay Kumar Bhalla today chaired the second meeting of Joint Committee on Service matter (JCoS) for Union Territory of J&K and Union Territory of Ladakh.

B V R Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary, J&K, Umang Narula, Advisor to Lt. Governor, UT of Ladakh alongwith Administrative Secretaries of Home Department, General Administration Department and Forest, Ecology & Environment Department participated in the meeting.

During the meeting, it was informed that Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has received cadre review proposals in respect of all three All India Services (AIS)- Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS),

## PAGE 1 Anchor 15 Years Later, Low-Intensity Tremors Testing Kashmir's Shaky Ground

Swati Joshi

JUST before the earthquake of 7.6 magnitude would wobble Kashmir in the rattling fall of 2005, Tufail Andrabi, 39, was casually conversing with his friends in his hometown Srinagar neighbourhood. But as ground beneath his feet shook, he saw his petrified family members and neighbours coming out of their houses by wringing their hands, beating their chests and praying with their quivering lips.

Many cried, some stood in what looked like a parting embrace, yet most hoped against the hope. "Nobody slept that night," Andrabi, now a software engineer, re-

called the trembling day of his life. "Never in my life had I experienced as intense quake as I did that day. And those periodic aftershocks further freaked everyone in that agonized autumn."

What surprised him that day were his downtown neighbourhood's rundown structures.

"That day most of us thought that they would crumble like a pack of cards anytime soon and bury us alive," Andrabi recounted the bygone horror with vivid details.

"But to everyone's wonder, while some new concrete structures developed cracks, those old structures remain sturdy."

Even today, as the low-intensity tremors are shaking the valley and



reminding many of that devastating fall, those heritage structures are still standing their ground.

With grim reminder, many wonder: Has Kashmir learned its lessons fifteen years after the quake

nightmare flattened the parts of frontier Kashmir—with northern Kashmir's Kupwara and Baramulla boroughs bearing the major brunt?

As a firefight response, the then PDP-Congress coalition government decided to use earthquake-resistant materials for construction of buildings.

"But the effect was short-lived," Saleem Beg, convener at Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), told Kashmir Observer.

People living in rural areas get permission from the village panchayat for any construction activities, he said, as they don't even know about earthquake-resistant material. "Since Kashmir has faced a de-

astating earthquake in the past, it should be well-prepared but even basic minimum thing is not done since 2005," Beg said.

Though the epicenter of the 8 October 2005 earthquake was Muzaffarabad, but it affected many parts of Kashmir.

Tangadhar in Kupwara and Uri in Baramulla were the worst affected towns in the valley.

According to the Earthquake Disaster Risk Index Report 2019, about 1500 deaths were reported and 4,50,000 building collapsed in Kashmir due to the 2005 earthquake.

The report blamed the "poor performance" of the masonry for the major devastation.

The report, however, »PAGE 02

## 7 More Deaths Take J&K Toll To 195

SRINAGAR: Seven more patients including a CRPF constable died of Covid-19 in the last 24 hours taking the death of total in Jammu and Kashmir to 195.

Among the fresh fatalities includes a 60-year-old man from Tangmarg area of Baramulla district who died at SKIMS Soura here.

According to SKIMS Medical Superintendent Professor Farooq Jan the sexagenarian had "bilateral community acquired pneumonia (CAP) with ARDS with BHP".

"The patient was admitted in medical emergency on July 13 as a suspected case. His sample was taken on the same day. The patient was very sick and expired on July 14 at 4:00 a.m.," he said.

Earlier, a 65-year-old covid-19 patient from Shopian district died at SKIMS Bemina hospital here, one of the exclusive facilities for the management of the covid-19 patients

the death, Dr Shifa Deva, Medical Superintendent SKIMS Be-

mina said that the sexagenarian man was admitted to the hospital on July 10.

"He already had Coronary bypass surgery and was also suffering from pneumonia. He died today," she added.

Also, a 47-year-old agriculture officer from Jammu's Talab Tillo died at Government Medical College Jammu, two days after he tested positive for the covid-19.

Principal GMC Jammu Dr Nasib Chand Digra said that the man was admitted to the hospital on July 12 and was put on ventilator last night. "He died (at 7: 40 a.m.) today," he said.

A senior doctor at GMC Jammu said that the 47-year-old, Agriculture Officer at Directorate of Agriculture Talab Tillo Jammu, was suffering from bilateral CAP, Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) and hypertension.

"He had high grade fever and cough. He remained on oxygen since the time of admission," the doctor added. »PAGE 02

HE WAS A CASE OF HTN, T2DM, CKD, ESRD, (bilateral community acquired pneumonia (CAP)," Professor Farooq Jan, Medical Superintendent of the hospital, told GNS. "He expired at around 4:00 a.m. today,"

## 346 New Covid-19 Cases Take J&K's Tally Past 11K Mark

44 From Central Jail Anantnag, 23 SFs Personnel Among New Cases;

SRINAGAR: Forty-four prisoners lodged in Central Jail Anantnag and at least 23 paramilitary personnel were among 346 novel coronavirus cases reported in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, taking the overall tally of Covid-19 patients to 11173.

Among the fresh cases, 56 were reported from Jammu and 290 from the Kashmir Valley.

Giving district-wise break-up of the cases, officials said that Srinagar reported 127 of

them, Anantnag 58, Pulwama 39, Bandipora 16, 14 each in Budgam and Doda, eleven each in Baramulla, Shopian and Jammu, ten each in Kathua and Rajouri, Kulgam 7, Kishtwar 5 Ganderbal 4, three each in Kupwara and Reasi besides one each in Ramban, Samba and Poonch.

According to Dr. G H Yattoo, Nodal Officer Coronavirus Control Measures at SKIMS Soura out of 2424 samples which were processed »PAGE 02

## BJP's JK Chief Tests Positive, Singh, Madhav Go Into Quarantine

SRINAGAR: BJP's Jammu and Kashmir chief Ravinder Raina tested positive for Covid-19 on Tuesday, sparking panic among the party rank and file, forcing the top leaders including Ram Madhav, Dr Jitendera Singh and Avinash Rai Khanna to go into self-quarantine.

Raina has been camping in north Kashmir's Bandipora district for the past five days in the wake of the killing of local BJP leader Wasim Bari, his father and brother on July 8. On Sunday, Raina accompanied BJP General Secretary Ram Madhav, MoS in PMO Dr Jitendera Singh, BJP's J&K affairs in-charge Avinash Rai Khanna to Bari's Muslimabad residence in Bandipora.

Raina took to Twitter and wrote: "Hello friends, I was in Kashmir/Bandipora for five days after the killing of BJP leader Wasim Bari, Omar Sultan and his father by the militants. Today I had mild fever. When tested, the report came as Covid-19 positive. No other symptoms."

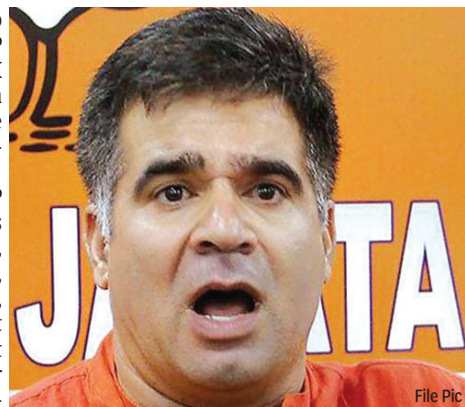
Raina's tweet triggered fear in the entire BJP unit of Kashmir with people voluntarily going for Covid-19 mapping. "I will also go for Covid test as I was with him these days in

Bandipora and also in Srinagar," said BJP spokesman for J&K Altaf Thakur. "For a time being, I have gone into self-quarantine."

Sources in the BJP said that hundreds of party workers, middle-rung leaders, district presidents, zonal heads met Raina over the past five days in Srinagar and Bandipora district. "There is total chaos all around in BJP's Kashmir unit," he said.

A senior party leader and BJP top brass including Ram Madhav, Dr Jitendera Singh and Avinash Rai Khanna have also decided to go for Covid testing as they spent almost an hour with Raina in Bandipora. Khanna said. As a precaution he and all those who were present at a condolence meeting at slain BJP leader. "We have gone into a self-quarantine," Khanna said.

Meanwhile, the party's Kashmir unit has appealed to all the workers who came in contact with the



BJP chief, to go for Covid testing. A statement issued by the party's media in-charge Manzoor Bhat said that all the workers who met BJP chief at Bandipora and Srinagar must come forward and conduct Covid tests.

A party source said that many leaders and workers met Raina without any protection, especially face masks and there is every possibility that they may have contracted the virus. "The party chief may become a super spreader for the virus within the BJP's Kashmir chapter," he said. -With inputs from KNO.

HELLO FRIENDS, I WAS IN KASHMIR/BANDIPORA FOR FIVE days after the killing of BJP leader Wasim Bari, Omar Sultan and his father by the militants. Today I had mild fever. When tested, the report came as Covid-19 positive. No other symptoms."

## HC Irked By Poor Internet Speed, Summons J&K Home Secretary

SRINAGAR- Having "struggled" to conduct online hearings due to curbs on internet speed in Jammu and Kashmir, High Court Chief Justice Gita Mittal has summoned Home Secretary Shaleen Kabra to appear before a bench on Thursday via video conferencing and apprise it about the impact of the restrictions on e-connectivity of courts.

Passing an order on a "Court on its Own Motion" on Monday, a division bench of Chief Justice Mittal and Justice Sanjay Dhar expressed concern over urgent issues involving the rights of the residents of the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Giving a background in its



three-page order, the division bench said that virtual hearing has been necessitated because of the strict lockdown being enforced, following a sharp spike in coronavirus cases.

"However, we find today that despite best efforts on the part

of our IT experts, it has been impossible today to have even a bare semblance of a hearing. We have struggled to have virtual/or audio connectivity with the amicus curiae (Monika Kohli) and the several counsels appearing before us. Even the »PAGE 02

## LG Conducts Aerial Survey Of Wular Lake

SRINAGAR: Active public participation is imperative for developmental process and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir is laying special focus on it. This was stated by the Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu during his visit to Bandipora district where he interacted with various delegations to take stock of the developmental needs of people of the district.

He was accompanied by Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Bas-eer Ahmad Khan; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K. Pole; IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar; Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Owais Ahmad and heads of various departments.

The Lt Governor also e-inaugurated six developmental projects worth Rs 8.52 cr and laid foundation stones of five projects worth Rs 21.52 cr for Bandipora



SRINAGAR CITY CENTRE wore a deserted look on Tuesday following reimposition of lockdown by the district administration to flatten the curve. KO photo Abid Bhat

## Central Law On Rights Of Disabled J&K Govt Comes Up With Draft Rules

SRINAGAR: Nearly eight months after re-organisation of the erstwhile state of J&K, the administration of J&K Union Territory has come up with draft rules for implementation of "The Right of Persons with Disabilities Act-2016".

The draft rules have been put in public domain by Social Welfare department, which deals with matters concerning persons with disabilities, for feedback/suggestions.

The Rules deal with the rights, entitlements and structures at different levels for persons with disabilities in J&K UT.

According to the rules, the research committee on disability will comprise of an administrative secre-

tary, Health and Medical Education department, or head of an institution dealing in the field of science and medical research, who will function as its ex-officio chairperson.

It shall have representatives from Directorate of Health Services, Government Medical College Jammu/Srinagar, Director Social Welfare Kashmir/Jammu and others.

The panel shall also have five members as representatives from a registered Union Territory level organization representing each of the five groups of specified disabilities in the Schedule of the Act, who will be nominated by government.

According to the rules, the Deputy Commissioners of the »PAGE 02