

## News Digest

### LG Visits Kupwara, Reviews Works

SRINAGAR, JULY 18: People's participation and empowerment of grass root institutions are prerequisite for the sustainable development of any region. Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu made these remarks during his visit to the frontier district Kupwara where he held a Public Outreach programme and interacted with around 20 public delegations to take stock of the local issues and developmental needs of the area.

The Lt Governor observed that the UT Government is implementing the best practices in people centric governance with progressively increasing people's participation and improved public service delivery system through transparent, accountable and citizen-friendly administration. Member Parliament, **P-02**

### Clashes During CASO In Anchar Area

Srinagar: Clashes erupted in Anchar area of Soura here in Srinagar outskirts after combined forces cordoned off area and started conducting searches Sources said that Forces cordoned off Anchar area after receiving inputs about the presence of militants. The search operation was launched during early Saturday morning. Sources added that as the searches were conducted, people, mostly, youth hit to roads and hurled stones on Forces personnel. In retaliation Forces fired tear-smoke shells. Locals said that Forces personnel damaged various parked vehicles. One of the vehicles belonged to a Journalist. Police, however, said that windshields of some vehicles were damaged, as stone-throwers targeted them.

### One-Way Traffic On Srinagar-Leh Highway

Ganderbal: A day after massive landslide at Bunibagh area of Kangan in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, one-way traffic was restored on Srinagar-Leh national highway on Saturday. The highway was blocked on Friday due to a landslide in which a residential house and at least a dozen shops were damaged. An official said that men and machinery were pressed into service to clear the debris on the road to restore traffic movement on the highway. "With the efforts of local administration, SDRF, army, BRO and police debris was removed and one-way traffic movement was restored on the highway," he said. SDM Kangan, Hakeem Tanveer Ahmad said that the highway was restored for one-way traffic in the **P-02**

### Driver Dies After Tractor Turns Turtle

Anantnag: A tractor driver died on spot in South Kashmir's Budgam district on Saturday after his tractor turned turtle. The incident occurred at Kandiwara Kokarnag area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district. Police sources said that driver lost control over tractor while it was surmounting a slope and turned turtle. The driver came beneath the tractor and died on spot. Police sources identified the victim as Rouf Ahmed Bhat son of Abdul Razak, a resident of Kandiwara Kokarnag.

## PRIs To Get Mining Rights Through Short Term Permits

PRIs Exempted From Payment Of Advance Royalty, Will Remove Shortage Of Construction Material

#### Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Administrative Council (AC), which met here under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, G C Murmu, approved the amendment of Jammu and Kashmir Minor Mineral Concession, Storage, Transportation of Minerals and Prevention of Illegal Mining Rules, 2016.

The amendment will enable grant of Short Term Permits to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) on land up to 1 hectare, till 30th September, 2021. It also exempts PRIs from payment of advance royalty to Geology and Mining Department before commencing mining.

The Administrative Council further allowed Department of **PAGE 02**

## 'Vital Drug' Remdesivir's Unavailability Leaving Kashmir 'Breathless'

Auqib Javeed

WHEN senior Hurriyat leader and president Anjumane-Sharie Shiayan lately felt suffocated, doctors at Sheri Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) prescribed Remdesivir injection, a "vital drug" for the COVID-19 positive patients.

But when his attendants approached the hospital administration, they were told that the "much-needed" drug is not available.

"We checked every medical shop in Srinagar but we didn't get it," Syed Baqir, the ailing leader's attendant, told Kashmir Observer.

According to top health officials—most of whom are declining to share their name for comments owing to some new administrative gag order—the valley still lacks the vital drug stock.

"Remdesivir injection was made recently and it'll take some time to be available in Kashmir," a top



health official from SKIMS told Kashmir Observer.

"While we aren't sure whether the drug will work or not, but our purchase section is already procuring the stock."

If Remdesivir's effectiveness is still doubtful, then why're doctors prescribing it?

"Well," the health official said, "we're looking into it."

**Drug Drive**  
Despite doubts, some people

have already activated their social media handles to place requests for the drug. Some are even sharing their nightmarish experiences related to it.

Lately, two Kashmiri brothers who lost their mother to COVID at SKIMS narrated a harrowing treatment towards their late mother on social media.

"When I was running after doctors for my mother's life, I was told that the hospital lacks Remdesivir

supply and stock," Tanveer Syed, a Srinagar resident who recently broadcasted his hospital ordeal on social media, told Kashmir Observer.

"With the help of my well-placed contacts, I could get the drug immediately, but what about others?"

Notably, with the surging Covid-graph, Kashmir's dependence on Remdesivir is only growing. Even doctors are increasingly prescribing it for COVID patients today.

Keeping its significance in mind, a senior Kashmiri journalist lately shared a patient's appeal for the drug on his social media handle.

But as the valley is yet to stockpile the 'wonder drug', many Kashmiri doctors practicing abroad have come forward to help their anxious brethren back home.

**But Does It Help?**

According to Medscape, a website providing access to medical information for clinicians, the broad-spectrum antiviral **PAGE 02**

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## 3 Militants Killed In Fresh Shopian Encounter

#### Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: Three militants were killed in an encounter that started between the militants and security forces in Amshipora village of South Kashmir's Shopian district on Saturday.

An official said that a joint team of Police, army's 62 RR and CRPF launched a cordon and search operation on specific information about the presence of militants in the area.

He said that as the joint team of forces approached towards the suspected spot, the hiding militants fired upon them which was retaliated triggering



an encounter.

"During exchange of fire, three militants were killed whose identification is being ascertained," the official said, adding that that arms and ammunition were also recovered from the encounter site.

Pertinently with the killing of three more militants, the toll of militants killed in ongoing year

has reached to 136 in J&K. Furthermore as a precautionary measure, internet services were snapped in Shopian district.

Meanwhile, J&K police in a statement said that on a specific input by 62RR about presence of militants in village Amshipora area of District Shopian, an operation was launched by them in the said area.

"During search militants fired upon Army personnel and encounter started. Later on police and CRPF also joined, they said while adding that during encounter three unidentified militants were killed," the police statement said. "Bodies of all the killed three **PAGE 02**

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## Rajnath Singh, Top Army Brass Pray at Amarnath Cave Shrine

#### Observer News Service

SRINAGAR Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and Army Chief General MM Naravane offered prayers at Amarnath cave shrine in South Kashmir mountains on Saturday.

The Defence Minister is on a two-day visit to Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir. He will take stock of the situation at both the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the Line of Control (LOC).

On the first day of his visit, the Defence Minister interacted with the troops in Lukung, Ladakh along with Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and Army Chief General MM Naravane on Friday.



"Talks are underway to resolve the border dispute but to what extent it can be resolved I cannot guarantee. I can assure you, not one inch of our land can be taken by any power in the world,"

he said referring to India-China standoff while he interacted with the Indian Army and ITBP personnel at Lukung.

Emphasising on finding a diplomatic solution to the **PAGE 02**

### Youth Held For Uploading Obscene Video

CHADOORA: A youth accused of uploading an obscene video on social media was arrested by police on Saturday.

Sources said that from past two days, an obscene video of a boy and girl was making rounds on social media networking sites. The youth identified in the video, Junaid Fayaz Bhat of Rangar Chadoora was nabbed by police on Saturday.

Police sources said that after the outcry police took the cognisance of the matter and arrested the Bhat.

A police official said that a case has been registered in this regard. He said prima facie it seems that the youth in **P-02**

### Woman Tests Positive: Family 'Escapes To Safety'

SRINAGAR: Health officials faced a peculiar situation in Hazratbal area on Saturday when family members of a Covid-19 positive patient gave them a slip to avoid being shifted to a quarantine centre.

Three of the primary contacts of a COVID-19 positive patient from Dhoobi Ghat area of Hazratbal on the outskirts of Srinagar escaped after officials with full bandobast arrived there to take them to a quarantine centre. The 'escape' sparked panic among the residents of the area, reports said.

Officials, however, said they (family members) will be put under quarantine once traced. Action warranted under law will be initiated against **P-02**

## 44I More Test Covid-19 Positive

J&K Records 5 More Deaths, Toll 236

#### Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Saturday recorded 44I new cases that include 55 travellers, taking the total number of positive cases to over 13000 mark.

With 44I new cases, the tally of positive cases in J&K has reached to 13198 including 10511 from Kashmir and 2687 from Jammu. Among 44I new cases, 398 belong to Kashmir division while as 43 are from Jammu division, officials said, adding that from the total number of positive cases in Kashmir division has reached to 10511 including 5456 recoveries and 218 deaths while as total number of positive cases in Jammu division have reached to 2687 including 1709 recoveries and 18 deaths.

The officials that total number of active cases in Jammu and Kashmir are 5797 including 4837 from Kashmir division and 960 from Jammu division.

With 607 more recoveries, the tally of total recoveries in Jammu and Kashmir has reached to 7165 which is 54.28 percent of the total cases which was over 63 percent few days before.

"Cases tested positive in J&K include 124 from Srinagar, 25 from Kulgam, 63 from Baramulla, 27 from Shopian, 47 from Anantnag, 02 from Kupwara, 48 from Pulwama, 41 from Budgam, 05 from Bandipora and 16 from Ganderbal in Kashmir division while as 43 from Jammu division include 15 from Jammu, 02 from Udhampur, 03 from Kuthua, 06 from Rajouri, 12 from Samba, 04 from Doda **PAGE 02**

**REGARDING A CASE FROM** Budgam, an official said that lady from Khanshabudgam who was admitted on July 03 died at SMHS on Saturday and she was suffering from bilateral pneumonia.



Doctors again struck work on Saturday demanding security.

## Chaos In SMHS: Doctors Face 'Wrath' Of Enraged Attendants

Difficult To Work In Such Atmosphere, Say Protesting Doctors

#### Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Hours after doctors and other paramedical staff called-off their strike; the resident doctors on Saturday evening 'fled' from the hospital to save their lives' after two of their colleagues and a security man were assaulted by the attendants at the cardiology ward.

Dr. Bilal Ahmad Mir, Senior Resident General Medicine, said that a resident doctor who was treating a very ill patient at

cardiology ward was beaten by some attendants.

He said the resident doctor suffered grave injury on his shoulder and has been shifted to Bone and Joint Hospital Barzulla.

Furthermore, he added that soon after a security man deployed there tried to intervene he too was beaten up. He too has suffered injury, the doctor said.

Many people attending on patients have been complaining of inadequate facilities and lack of medical care in the hospital.

"Once a patient is admitted in a hospital its doctors and para medics who should look after him. Here one has **PAGE 02**

**ONCE A PATIENT IS ADMITTED IN** a hospital its doctors and para medics who should look after him. Here one has to virtually beg doctors to attend to their patients",

## 'Why Is My Family Being Shamed For Revealing We Got Covid'

Hirra Sultan

IT ALL started with a Facebook post. An unfortunate Facebook post.

I had recently been talking to a friend whose father is admitted in SKIMS. While waiting for the Covid test reports, there was a lot of dilly dalling. When he confronted the officials at the test center, they revealed that a lot of people start panicking once they know that their patient is positive, and behave as if the person is already dead; hence the delay in revealing the reports.

Since I had also felt the symptoms and a family member was positive, I decided to create a Facebook post so that people can learn from my experience and calm

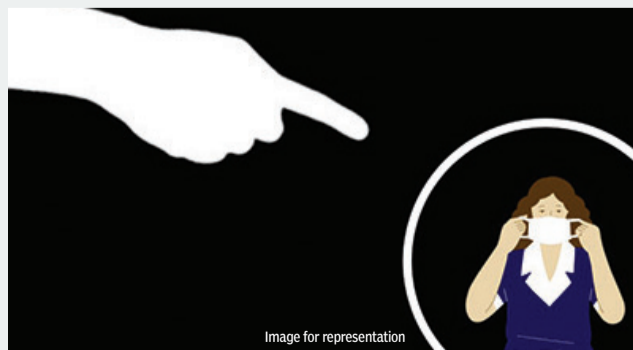
down a bit. After all, getting Covid is not akin to being sentenced to death. The post was quite clean and merely had things that led to awareness, or so I thought.

Soon after our phones started to ring. Mine and of my family's. And the trouble started.

The first call I got was from my brother, who was in hospital with my father at that time, and asked me to edit the fact out that our parents had been to tayizat. Hmm. Okay. I did as he asked, just to calm him down.

The next one blew my mind.

This lady is quite close to my mother and even though knowing the scenario and all, questioned my mother as to why I had put this up on Facebook. That all these people will be quarantined and



the family might be questioned as to how more than 20 people visited them for condolences. This she said without any thoughts or consideration that my mother was simultaneously wondering whether her critically ill husband was dying and the kids were not

telling her the truth.

The next day, another relative called my sister-in-law saying, "I am angry. Why did she post it on Facebook?" Many other calls followed. To the point that mother forgot about her critically ill husband and began thinking of how

all these relatives were behaving; doubting that I had posted something I shouldn't have. And hence might bring about some wrath or something unpleasant for these so-called concerned relatives.

At a time when the family was distressed and our kin and kith should have extended help and support, they were busy in shaming me for putting up our Covid positive status on Facebook. Is being Covid positive such a huge deal?

Five adults at my home fell prey to Covid and only one of them needed medical attention. Should this not relieve people instead of anger them? I recovered without any medication and all others merely took Azithromycin. Should that not bring relief? None of the three kids even fell ill? **PAGE 02**