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Minimum : 18°C  
Humidity : 47%

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## News Digest

### Arms Recovered Along LoC In Uri

Srinagar: The Army has recovered arms and ammunition following a search operation along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rampur Sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, an official said.

Late on Wednesday evening, an input was received regarding a likely weapon drop along the LoC ahead of anti-infiltration obstacle system. On this basis, a search operation was launched along the LoC in Hathlanga area of the Rampur sector in the north Kashmir district, the Army official said. He said that during the search operation, one AKS-74U with magazines, five pistols (one with Chinese markings) and magazines, 24 grenades and other warlike stores were recovered.

All stores were, likely, transhipped from the across to support the militants in the hinterland, the official said.

### 4 Gamblers Held In Pulwama: Police

Srinagar: Police claimed on Thursday to have arrested four gamblers in a raid in south Kashmir's Pulwama district. Acting on an input, a team from Police Station Litter raided a site at SIDCO Lassipora and apprehended 4 gamblers from the spot, a police spokesperson said. He said that an amount of Rs 15,000 and playing cards were recovered from the accused. "They have been arrested and shifted to PS Litter where they remain in custody," the police spokesperson said. He said a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and further investigations initiated.

### Man Held For Murdering Wife

Srinagar: Police on Thursday claimed to have solved a murder mystery of a married woman by arresting her husband in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. According to a police spokesperson, a case under 302 IPC was registered at the Police Station Kangan after body of Rubeeba, wife of Abdul Majeed Khan of Gouni Mohalla, Kangan was recovered from Nallah Sindh on July 14. The murder case was filed after police probe found that circumstances around the death of the woman were not just a case of simple drowning. After the case was filed, SSP Ganderbal Khalil Ahmed Poswal constituted a team headed by SDPO Kangan and SHO Kangan for speedy investigation, the police spokesperson said. During the course of investigation, he said the team arrested the woman's husband who confessed that he was suspecting his wife of having multiple love affair. The accused also suspected that his wife wanted to go back to her maternal home in West Bengal. P-02

### 2 Die After Vehicle Falls Into Gorge

Banihal: Two persons were killed on Thursday after a vehicle they were travelling in skidded off the road and rolled down a deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, police said. The Kashmir-bound mobile vehicle also had 10 cattle who died in the accident at Digidool, they said. The deceased have been identified as Irshad Ahmad Kohli and Manzoor Ahmad. P-02

## Covid-19 Claims 11 More Lives In Kashmir, Toll Reaches 288



Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: As many as eleven people on Thursday succumbed to the deadly coronavirus disease in Kashmir valley, taking the total number of fatalities across the Union Territory to 288.

Among the victims, six were Srinagar residents, while four others hailed from Pulwama, Shopian, Baramulla and Kupwara districts of the Valley, officials said. A 60-year-old non-local too succumbed to the deadly disease.

In Srinagar here, three people, including a woman from Firdous Abad and Moomin Abad localities of Batamallo, a 55-year-old male from Nawa Kadal, a 52-year-old woman from Zoonimar, a 40-year-old from Chinkral Mohalla, Habba

Kadal became latest casualties of the virus, officials said. Besides it, a 62-year-old man from Soimoh Tral, a 63-year-old lady from Shopian a 46-year old woman from Gazriyal Kupwara, a 60-year old non local resident also succumbed to Covid-19 at different hospitals.

An official from SKIMS said that a man from Firdousabad was admitted on July 10 and a man from Nawakadal was admitted on 13 July with underlying ailments died at SKIMS on Thursday.

He said that woman from Zoonimar was admitted on 22 July while as woman from Gazriyal was admitted on 20 July and was tested positive on Thursday after her death.

He further added that a 60 year old man who is said to be from Kerala also died at SKIMS P-02

**AN OFFICIAL FROM BARAMULLA** said that a 70-year old dialysis patient from Uri with CRF, varian mass and Metastatic mitotic disease and was critically ill

### COVID-19 Crosses 16,000-Mark, 718 New Cases

Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday recorded 718 new COVID-19 cases, taking the total number of infected persons in the Union Territory past the 16,000-mark, officials said. J&K recorded 718 new COVID-19 cases during the past 24 hours, taking the total number of infected persons in the Union Territory to 16,429, the officials said. While 117 of these new cases were from the Jammu region, 601 were from the valley, they said. There are now 7,438 active cases in the UT, while P-02

### Curbs In Kashmir As 6-Day Lockdown Begins

Srinagar: Strict restrictions were imposed in most parts of Kashmir on Thursday, a day after the J&K administration announced a complete lockdown across the Valley, except for Bandipora district, to contain the spread of COVID-19.

The complete lockdown in the Valley came into effect on Wednesday evening following a spike in the number of COVID-19 cases in the last three weeks.

However, the district administration has said that the lockdown will continue till 6 am on July 27. No movement of people, except in medical emergencies and essential services, was being allowed across the Valley, the officials said.

Authorities have sealed most of the roads and market places in all Red districts, including Srinagar, and placed concertina wires and barriers on the roads to stop public movement, they said.

Shops, fuel stations and other business establishments were shut and public transport was off the roads. Agriculture, horticulture P-02

### Woman Injured In LOC Firing In Kupwara

SRINAGAR- A woman was injured in a firing from across the Line of Control (LoC) in Tangdhar sector of north Kashmir's Kupwara district, the Army said on Thursday.

She was rushed to a hospital and her condition was stated to be stable, an Army official said. "Pakistan army targeted civilian villages in forward areas along the LoC last night. It resulted in bullet injury to a woman of Hajitra village of Tangdhar sector (in Kupwara district)," he said, adding that army effectively retaliated.

Meanwhile, India and Pakistan troops traded fire along the LoC for the third consecutive day Thursday in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district.

"At about 1100 hours, Pak Army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms & shelling with P-02



AN AERIAL VIEW of Lal Chowk, the deserted commercial nerve centre of Srinagar on the first day of 7 day long lockdown.

## Be Ready At Short Notice: Rajnath Singh To IAF

Observer Monitoring Desk

Srinagar: Amid a tense stand-off with China in eastern Ladakh, the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has told the Indian Air Force (IAF) to remain in a state of readiness at a short notice, Indian defence news reported Thursday.

The report said that in the first major meeting of the Air Force commanders after the Galwan clash, the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh gave a strong message to the forces and asked them to 'be ready at a short notice'. Rajnath, the report said made these remarks during the

### 'Sincerely Work' On Disengagement: India To China

India on Thursday said it expected China to "sincerely work" with it for complete disengagement and de-escalation and full restoration of peace and tranquility in their border areas, as a fresh round of bilateral diplomatic talks is likely to be held on Friday to push forward the disengagement process in eastern Ladakh. P-02

inaugural session of the Air Force Commander's Conference being held in New Delhi.

The Defence Minister praised the readiness of the Indian Air Force and the steps being taken by the Air Force to protect the borders.

"Addressed the inaugural session of the Air Force Commander's Conference today. IAF's role in some of the most challenging circumstances is well regarded by the nation. Their contribution during the nation's response to COVID-19 pandemic P-02

## Covid-19 Patient Left Unattended At JLNM Hospital Corridor

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a shocking case of alleged negligence, a COVID-19 patient at Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial (JLNM) hospital here, was lying unconscious in the corridor throughout the night until he caught attention of some attendants in the morning and was shifted back to the ward, reports said Thursday.

The middle-aged Covid-19 patient admitted at the hospital a few days ago was lying unconscious on the floor with no staff member P-02

### SKIMS Patients To Get Anti-Viral 'Remdesivir' Free Of Cost

The hospital administration at Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) has decided to provide the antiviral drug Remdesivir to admitted patients free of cost. "Admin decided yesterday in a meeting that they will provide the drug free of cost to Covid-19 patients admitted in the institute," a SKIMS official P-02

## LG Announces Road Macadamisation Program In J&K

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, G C Murmu on Thursday announced the launch of a macadamisation program for roads across the Union Territory.

The announcement by the LG comes in the backdrop of grievances relating to poor condition of roads and the problems connected thereto, presented before the Lieutenant Governor during his tours as a part of his outreach programme, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the LG P-02

### Decision On Qayoom Soon, J&K Tells SC

NEW DELHI: The Jammu and Kashmir administration informed the Supreme Court on Thursday that the issue of high court bar leader Mian Abdul Qayoom's detention was under consideration and a decision will soon be taken in the matter.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Ajay Rastogi and Aniruddha Bose was told by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that the court need not go into the merit of the case as the competent authority will soon decide it and sought some time to take instructions on the issue.

Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, appearing for Qayoom, opposed the request for adjournment and said that if required Mehta can seek instructions P-02

## J&K Govt Rejigs Admin, 19 Officers Shifted

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday ordered reshuffle in the administration by transferring 19 officers, 16 of them Kashmir Administrative Service (KAS), with immediate effect.

In an order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), Hashmat Ali Khan, KAS, Joint Financial Commissioner Agrarian Reforms in the office of Financial Commissioner, Revenue, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Special Secretary to the Government, ARI and Trainings Department.

Farooq Ahmad Shah, KAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Joint Financial Commissioner Agrarian Reforms in the office of Financial Commissioner, Revenue, J&K.

Riyaz Ahmad, KAS, Secretary, J&K Board of School Education, has been transferred and posted as Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar.

Leena Padha, KAS, Special Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department, has been transferred and posted as Additional Inspector General of Registration, Jammu. P-02

### Muslims Help Kashmiri Pandit's Cremation In Shopian

Srinagar: In yet another example of communal harmony, the members of majority community on Thursday helped perform last rites of a Kashmiri Pandit, who breathed his last in a village in south Kashmir's Shopian district.

Centurion Pandit Kanth Ram, the eldest among the members of the lone Hindu family passed away at his home in Zainpora area of Shopian after a brief illness, reports said. The news of his death spread like wildfire in the village drawing scores of Muslim community members to his home.

Many youth, the reports said also made arrangements in performing last rites of the P-02

## Srinagar Hospitals To Admit Only Critical Care Patients On Referrals

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday directed the major healthcare institutions in this capital city to admit only patients on proper referrals from the district hospitals.

The patients from districts will be accepted and admitted at Category I Health Care institutions in Srinagar i.e. SKIMS Soura, SMHS Hospital, Chest Diseases Hospital, Srinagar and SKIMS Medical College & Hospital Bemina, only when they are properly referred by the District Health authorities in consultation with the Director Health Kashmir or his authorised representative, an official communiqué said.



This shall be ensured by the Director Health Services, Kashmir, to reduce the case load in the tertiary care institutions, so that only the patients requiring critical care are admitted in the aforesaid Institutions, the communiqué added.

The communiqué further asked to adhere to the instructions strictly as the patients from other districts are reporting directly to Category I Tertiary Care institutions in Srinagar.

Hirra Sultan

SRINAGAR: "The torment did not strike us immediately. We were fine. We were busy and had a lot on our plate. There were things to consider, arrange and take care of. Yet, that was not what impacted us. It was because of the phone calls."

This is what happened when Sadia's mother tested positive for Covid. She had been running a high fever for a week. Things were improving when the family heard about pulse oxymeter and how monitoring oxygen saturation can help.

Initially everything was okay but then this one morning the oxygen saturation suddenly dipped to 80. Along with her younger sister, Sadia immediately rushed to hospital. After a lot of difficulty, moving around and panicking, her mother was admitted in SKIMS, Soura.

As the test reports indicated and

## Kashmir's Alarm Calls: When COVID 'Concern' Becomes Trauma

was obvious by then, her mother was Covid positive. Apart from being worried because of her mother's Covid positive status and the existing comorbidities, medicines and everything else, panic had started to settle in. Not because of the fears of bilateral pneumonia or any other complications, but because of some calls.

All was well through the day. The trouble started as soon as Sadia's relatives got to know of her mother's hospital admission. Of the many calls that she had to attend to, many were simply crying and wailing. It seemed as if someone had told them that her mother was already dead.

Over the next few days, the frequency and number of such calls increased. Sadia revealed, "I snapped after a neighbour called. When I

asked him who he was, he replied: Haji Sahab. As soon as he handed over his phone to his wife so she may talk to me, she started crying. I was consoling her for the 5 minutes that the call lasted for. It seemed as if something was wrong with a family member of hers and I had called to console her. I don't even know who that lady was."

Such calls, Sadia said, became quite common, to the extent that she stopped taking a lot of them. "They were getting me depressed instead of offering help or cheering me up. I was already afraid for my mother's life and this premature mourning sent chills down my spine. My phone is still on so I may talk to my family and arrange things; otherwise I would have



turned it off by now." Shaker had a similar experience.

"Once my brother's reports turned out to be positive, many of my rela-

tives started calling me and giving me advice on how to take care of him and the rest of family members. The most bizarre advice was when an uncle of mine asked me to heat some water in a pressure cooker and put a pipe in place of its vent. The other end of this pipe should be in my mouth so that I inhale steam. I am baffled how people invent these things and how can people think these things are safe to do in the first place. Sometimes I wonder whether he was not trying to kill me!"

A lot of this chaos is because of the fact that Covid is surrounded by a lot of controversies.

South Asian countries also believe in alternate medicines and sometimes this leads to people believing all kinds of things as possible

Like this steam inhalation, or clove vapours, or even ginger water. They sure might be good things but they are not cure. People lack proper knowledge and the happiness of having found an indigenous cure kind of blinds them also about truth.

A lot of people are also resorting to taking antibiotics because of the panic around Covid, even if they merely sneeze once. They do not realize that taking antibiotics so easily and for everything makes these useless in case of a real infection later on. They know nothing about antibiotic resistance and how this behavior will make their infections last longer in the future and how they would need to take stronger antibiotics as well.

Naaz's father asked her for something cold and watery. He was feeling irritable because of all the medicines he was being administered in hospital. "When I told my aunt P-02