



P3 CITY

## TOP SRINAGAR HOTEL SHUT AFTER STAFFERS, OWNER TEST COVID POSITIVE

Ahdoos Hotel on Residency Road in Srinagar has been shut after several of its staffers and the owner tested positive for coronavirus on Saturday. Manager Ahdoos Hotel – one of the

THINK

P7 LOCKDOWNS AND CURFEWS

The world has been struggling under travel bans, lockdowns and limits on freedom for the last year because of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, Kashmir has had a much longer and more bitter experience of such restrictions. London-based Kashmiri...



P5 STATE

## AVOID EXCESSIVE USE OF HEATING GADGETS TO GET BETTER POWER SUPPLY: CE PDD

Chief Engineer power development department, Aijaz Ah Dar on Saturday urged people to desist from using heating appliances lavishly during Sehri and Iftaar time for the purposes of....



Widom! Quote!

Action is the real of intelligence  
—Napoleon Hill

5 <sup>TH</sup> RAMAZAN		
	Iftar TODAY	Sehri TOMMOROW
FIQAH HANAFIYA	07:06	04:28
FIQAH JAFARIYA	07:14	04:26

### NEWS DIGEST

#### Police Probes

##### Woman's Bullet Injury

**SRINAGAR:** Police on Saturday said that it has started investigation of a incident in which a woman sustained bullet injury during night hours in Tral area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. 36-year-old Shakeela Banu, wife of Ghulam Nabi sustained bullet injuries at her home ● [More On P10](#)

#### 3 OGWs Held In Budgam: Police

**SRINAGAR:** Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested three alleged militant associates of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in central Kashmir's Budgam district. The alleged OGWs Adil Ahmad Dar, Tahir Ahmad Bhat both residents of Narbal and Ghulam Mohd Gojre of ● [More On P10](#)

#### BSF Man Dies Of Haemorrhage

**SRINAGAR:** A Border Security Force (BSF) man, posted at Trehgam area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district died due to brain haemorrhage, officials said on Saturday. Constable Mushtaq Ahmad of 172 Bn. BSF posted at Trehgam ● [More On P10](#)

#### 2 Motorcyclists Electrocuted

**SRINAGAR:** Two motorcycle borne youths died on Saturday after receiving electric shock in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir. Suresh Sharma and Aditya Naqsh, both residents of Samba district died on the spot after an 11 KV electricity supply line got snapped and fell on ● [More On P10](#)

#### Snowfall Shuts Gurez Road

**SRINAGAR:** Bandipora-Gurez road was again closed for traffic after fresh snowfall en route, officials said on Saturday. They said that the snowfall started overnight and snow depth of six inches was recorded at Razdan Top, located at an elevation of near 12000ft. ● [More On P10](#)

# Govt Gears Up To Battle Coronavirus Challenge

## Ceiling On Social Gatherings Restricted To 100 In J&K



Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Concerned over the spike in coronavirus cases, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday restricted the ceiling on social gatherings to 100 people and also announced the postponement of Class 11 examination.

The latest directive comes two days after Lt Governor Manoj Sinha-led administration deferred biannual "darbar move" to Srinagar, extended closure of all schools up to and including

Class 12 till April 30 along with private coaching centres. It also cancelled the ongoing Class 10 examination being conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE).

"In view of #COVID-19, class 11th exams have been postponed. There will also be a ceiling on gatherings and functions restricting to 100 persons from earlier 200," the office of the Lt Governor said in a tweet.

There has been a spike in coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir over ● [More On P10](#)

## Virtual Hearing Of Court Cases Till April 30

Jammu and Kashmir High Court extended by the end of this month its order regarding virtual hearing of cases amid surge in Covid-19 upsurge. "After taking note of the rising trend of Covid-19 infection cases and the prevailing situation due to the spread of such infection, the High Court order No. 189 of 2021/RG dated 05.04.2021, is extended up to 30th April 2021," reads an order by Registrar General, Jawad Ahmad. The April 5 order was issued ● [More On P10](#)

## Sacked Woman Cop Suspected To Be OGW: Police

'Booked For Raising Anti-India, Pro-Freedom Slogans' Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A day after police sacked and arrested a woman cop for allegedly glorifying militancy; police on Saturday dismissed "over-reach" and an "excessively strict action" against the Special Police Official (SPO) saying she was a suspected over-ground worker of militants and was booked on charges of shouting anti-India and pro-freedom slogans.

Saima Akhter, a resident of Frisal area of south Kashmir district and working as SPO, was

on Friday arrested under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, a police spokesperson said.

In a rebuttal issued on Saturday, a police spokesperson said that it has been found that on various media platforms, a number of vested interests with malafide intentions have put in a lot of efforts into making the incident appear like an "over-reach" and an "excessively strict action."

"It is clarified that the accused woman uttered anti-India and pro-freedom slogans off-camera thus ● [More On P10](#)

## NC Terms Arrest 'Vindictive'

The National Conference on Saturday denounced the arrest and subsequent termination of a woman SPO in Kulgam district, terming the measure "vindictive". In a joint statement issued here, NC's spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar and District president Kulgam Abdul Majeed Bhat Larmi, said, "The NC denounces the booking and subsequent | [Full Story on Page 05](#)

## SMHS, Allied Hospitals Stop OPD, Surgeries

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Amid spurt in covid-19 cases, the Principal Government Medical College Srinagar on Saturday ordered that all routine OPDs/elective surgeries shall be stopped till further orders in all its associated hospitals.

The Principal has also designated Drug de-Addiction Centre and various rooms for management of the

virus patients with immediate effect.

"In view of upsurge in the COVID-19 cases and in order to cater to rush of COVID-19 patients/ suspects, it is hereby ordered with immediate effect till further orders that Ward No. 02, 03, 04,18, 19, 20, Isolation/ Drug De-Addiction Centre, Paid Rooms, MICU, SICU, W-17 and Disaster Management ward shall be ● [More On P10](#)

## 1,145 New Corona Cases, 3 More Deaths

Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday recorded 1,145 fresh COVID-19 cases, including 195 travellers, bringing the infection count to 1,45,166, while three more people succumbed to the virus, raising ● [More On P10](#)

## 717 Travellers Tested Positive In One Week

With the recent spurt in Covid-19 positive cases in Jammu and Kashmir, officials from the Health Department said that 3 per cent of the COVID-19 positive cases are being ● [More On P10](#)

## Panel To Ensure Oxygen Supply In Hospitals

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday ordered constitution of a committee for ensuring adequate and timely supply of medical oxygen in all hospitals across the Union Territory. The Committee, as per an order, is to be supervised by Principal Secretary to the Government, Industries and Commerce Department as Chairman with Divisional Commissioner Kashmir/Jammu, Director ● [More On P10](#)

## Woman Injured As CRPF Men Open Fire At Car

Agenceis

**SRINAGAR:** A woman was injured on Saturday after security forces fired on a vehicle which did not stop at two checkpoints in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

The vehicle driver, Junaid Tariq Dar, a resident of Handwara in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, has been arrested, they said.

At about 3:15 pm, the vehicle was signaled to stop at Awantipora Chowk by a police party, but the driver sped away and hit police official Naser Ullah, a police spokesman said.

The driver again refused to stop the vehicle at Padgampora bridge and the CRPF personnel deployed at the ● [More On P10](#)

## Rs 12.5K Crore Earmarked For Overall District Plan: LG



Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday announced that more than Rs 12,599 crore have been earmarked for the overall district plan this year in Jammu and Kashmir, and said 'Janbhagidari' would be the foundation of formulation and implementation of district development plans.

He said aspirations and expectations of the common people

and elected representatives, besides needs of the districts would be reflected in the plans.

Sinha made the remarks during a meeting via video conference with all the 20 deputy commissioners to discuss the effective formulation of district development plans.

"The formulation of District Development Plans is of immense significance, especially after the constitution of District Development ● [More On P10](#)

## Incessant Rains Disrupt Normal Life In Kashmir

Another Wet Spell In J&K From April 20: MeT



Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** Incessant rains lashed plains of the valley while the upper reaches received another snow spell on Saturday, even as the meteorological department predicted brief improvement in weather conditions on Monday next before another three-day wet spell begins

on Kashmir on April 20.

The famous ski resort of Gulmarg and some other areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir received light snow, while plains were lashed by rains on Saturday, officials said.

Gulmarg, the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir, received 21.8mm of rain during the time and recorded a low ● [More On P10](#)

## Admin Rules Out Flood Threat

The J&K administration on Saturday ruled out the possibility of floods in the Valley saying that the water level in river Jhelum and other tributaries is below alarm level.

"There is no possibility of floods at present as the water level in the water bodies especially in river Jhelum has not increased much," Chief Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) department, Iftikhar Ahmad Kakroo said. As per the officials, the water in the river Jhelum and ● [More On P10](#)

## Landslide, Shooting Stones Block Highway

The strategic Srinagar-Jammu highway on Saturday was closed for vehicular traffic as fresh snowfall in upper reaches of the Valley and incessant rains lashed plains dipping ● [More On P10](#)

## EGI Slams Police Advisory On Live Encounters

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Terming the recently issued advisory to journalists on live encounters by police as "draconian and undemocratic", the Editors Guild of India (EGI) on Saturday demanded immediate withdrawal of the dictat saying that live reporting from conflict areas was one of the most important journalistic duties and requires extreme grit and determination on the part of reporters.

In a statement issued in New Delhi on Saturday, the EGI demanded the withdrawal of Kashmir Police's advisory forbidding journalists from reporting live encounters with militants on the specious plea that it is "likely to incite violence" or that it can promote ● [More On P10](#)

# Amid Strained Ties, 'Invest In Turkey' Billboards Surface In Srinagar

Auqib Javed

**SRINAGAR'S** iconic business hub the Poloview has become an eye-catching site for an ironic commercial.

A number of advertising hoardings asking Kashmiris to "Invest in Turkey" have come up amid strained diplomatic ties between India and Turkey.

The departure from the usual sight has already set the speculations rife with many wondering, "Is it a new beginning in the ties of the two hostile nations locking horns over Kashmir till yesterday?"

The hoardings have been placed by New Delhi-based Immigration Consultancy, "Olives & Figs"—a boutique firm offering advisory service across three regions: UAE, Turkey



and India.

The Consultancy offers a number of

benefits including Turkish Residence, Free Healthcare, Free Education and

Visa-Free Travel.

A woman executive of the company told Kashmir Observer that they have placed the hoardings first in Mumbai and then in Srinagar, with an aim to help people to get benefits.

When asked who gave the permission for installing these hoardings across the city, the official said, "The management committee of the company must know about this."

The upper ladder of the company, however, stayed tight lipped about the Srinagar spectacle.

Meanwhile, feigning ignorance over the matter, an official from Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) said that they are not aware of such hoardings.

"We have given the contract of putting the hoardings to Alpine

company and their contract was over on April 14, 2021," Sofi Mohammad Akbar, Chief Revenue Officer, SMC told Kashmir Observer.

"We will remove all the hoardings in the coming days," he added.

Notably, India and Turkey enjoyed good bilateral relations over decades before tensions rose due to Ankara's constant support to Islamabad on various issues, including on Kashmir.

The bilateral ties further plummeted after the Narendra Modi government scrapped Article 370 in August 2019, withdrawing the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Soon after throwing his government's weight behind Imran Khan's "Kashmir's global ambassador" campaign, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in February 2020

compared the struggle of Kashmiris with the Ottoman Empire's World War I showdown.

"The troubles our Kashmiri brothers have suffered for decades have been exacerbated by the latest unilateral steps," Erdogan said.

The statement drew a sharp re-tort from external affairs ministry: "These remarks reflect neither an understanding of history nor of the conduct of diplomacy."

"These hoardings have come up at a time when Kashmiris are facing hounding for their Turkey trips," said a newsman whose Istanbul trip last year fared on the police radar.

"It's like running with the hare and hunting with the hounds."

Interestingly, among those summoned for their ● [More On P10](#)