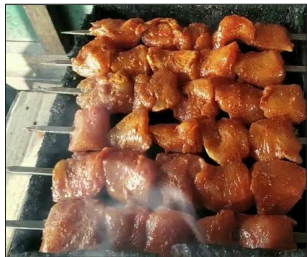


# KASHMIR OBSERVER

Tuesday 20 April | 07 Ramazan | 1442 Hijri | Vol:24 | Issue: 92 | Pages:12 | Price: ₹3

www.kashmirobserver.net • twitter.com / kashmirobserver • facebook.com/kashmirobserver • Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016



P3 CITY

## GOVT TO REMOVE ILLEGAL BARBECUE STALLS ALONGSIDE DAL LAKE

The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole Monday reviewed the preservation of Dal Lake. During the meeting, the Div Com stressed for a sustained...

THINK

## ARE COVID-19 VACCINES SAFE?

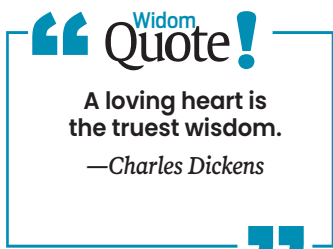
Taking a vaccination is the first step towards protecting yourself. While certain side effects are there depending on individual cases, this shouldn't dissuade people from taking the vaccine in the first place, as per the doctors....



P5 STATE

## COVID-19: EXPERTS WARN OF DEADLY SECOND WAVE

The Covid-19 resurgence wave is very steep, and if the callous attitude of people continues, lockdown is the only option to control the pandemic, experts said on Monday...



7TH RAMAZAN		
	Iftar TODAY	Sehri TOMMOROW
FIQAH HANAFIYA	07:07	04:25
FIQAH JAFARIYA	07:15	04:23

## NEWS DIGEST

### CBI Nabs Two Officials With Bribe

**SRINAGAR:** The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday arrested two officers, including a woman of a prominent insurance company while accepting a hefty bribe in Lal Chowk area of this capital city. RK Goyal, Senior Divisional Manager, National Insurance Company Ltd and her colleague Nahida Gaffar were arrested while accepting a bribe of Rs 2 lakh from a... [More On P10](#)

### Soldier Dies Of Cardiac Arrest

**SRINAGAR:** An army man died after suffering a cardiac arrest on Monday in this capital city, reports said. The body of Naik Sanjay Kumar of 15 corps was brought to the Police Control Room (PCR) hospital here on Monday for medical formalities, officials told news agency KNO. He had reportedly died due to cardiac arrest this morning, they said.

### Misfire Creates Panic In Budgam Court

**SRINAGAR:** Panic gripped the district court in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Monday after a policeman's rifle accidentally off leaving a hole in a parked car. The incident, as per the reports, occurred on Monday when a team of cops from police station Budgam reached the district court complex in a case related to the remand of an accused. In the... [More On P10](#)

### Bear Injures Forest Dept Employee

**SRINAGAR:** A forest department employee on Monday was attacked and injured by a bear in Tangmarg area of Baramulla district. Mohammad Sultan Magray of Panditpora village of Tangmarg was passing through Zandpal forest area when a bear attacked and injured him, reports said. A forest department employee, Magray was rushed to Sub District... [More On P10](#)

# Corona Surge Continues In J&K, 1516 Test Positive

Deadly Infection Claims 6 More Lives



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

## Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** Showing no sign of decline, coronavirus cases continue to peak in Jammu and Kashmir as 1516 more people, including 231 travellers tested positive for virus on Monday, while six more people succumbed to the infection during the last 24 hours in the Union Territory.

While 748 fresh cases of infection were reported from Kashmir

valley, the remaining 768 were detected across the Jammu region, taking the total number of people infected by the virus since the outbreak of pandemic last year to 148208 in J&K.

On Sunday, J&K reported highest single day spike of this year with 1526 cases and six deaths.

Giving district wise details of the cases that include 231 travellers, officials said, Srinagar reported 383, [More On P10](#)

## Dulloo Makes Fervent Request For Vaccination

Financial Commissioner, Health and Medical Education Atal Dulloo, on Monday issued an appeal to all eligible people, including healthcare workers to get vaccinated immediately, [More On P10](#)

## Use X-Rays, CT Scans To Rule Out False Negatives: Experts

Press Trust Of India

**A**mid a staggering surge in COVID-19 cases, India's top experts on Monday said RT-PCR tests detect coronavirus in around 80 per cent of the cases, so clinical features and CT scans/chest X-rays should be used to rule out false negatives in symptomatic patients followed by a repeat test after 24 hours.

Amid SARS COV-2 "variants of concern" circulating, they said RT-PCR tests do not miss mutations as the ones being used in India target more than two genes. According to government data till April 15, a total of 1,189 samples have tested positive for "variants of concern" of SARS COV-2 in India which include 1,109 samples with the UK variant, 79 samples with [More On P10](#)

## GMC Suspends Classes

**T**he authorities at the Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar ordered suspension of all the UG Classes (MBBS, B.Sc. Paramedics/ Nursing & Other Paramedics) till May 15 in wake of coronavirus situation. "Pursuant to Government order no.21 JK (DMMR) [More On P10](#)

## SITUATION UNDER CONTROL: ADVISOR

**T**he Jammu and Kashmir administration Monday assured that the coronavirus situation was under control and all the requirements including oxygen, medicines beds and other parameters are available in sufficient quantity. There is a steep rise in COVID-19 cases across the parts of India including Jammu and Kashmir with the resurgence having more infection potential forcing authorities to order the closure of educational institutions and place required restrictions to contain the spread. A local news agency KNO quoted Lieutenant Governor's Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar as saying that the administration was responding to all the requirements including the medicines and oxygen. "The situation is under control across the region and everything will be ensured as per the situation demand," he told the wire. [More On P10](#)

## Army Replaces Red Flags With White-And Blue To Remove 'Alienation'

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** The Army in Jammu and Kashmir has replaced red flags on its vehicles with white-and-blue ones and road barriers in sensitive zones have been given a new look in a move to ease the feeling of alienation among people during security checks and drills, an Army official said on Sunday.

"Nowadays, the Army vehicles

in Kashmir are moving with white-and-blue flags. Earlier, the Army vehicles used to have red flags and even the soldiers in Road Opening Parties carried red flags while clearing way for convoys, the Army official said.

He said road barriers in sensitive zones have also been given a new look.

"These steps have been taken to address the feeling of alienation among [More On P10](#)

## Re-Registration Of Outside Vehicles

## RTO Kashmir Asked To Appear With Records On April 21

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Monday directed RTO Kashmir to appear before it on Wednesday even as it sought government's response to a plea regarding re-registration

of the outside vehicles.

The petition was filed by one Irshad Hussain Munshi, a resident of Buchpora Srinagar, and a division bench of Justices Mohammad Magrey and Vinod Chatterji Koul asked the government to file the [More On P10](#)

## Sun Shines On Valley But More Rainfall Predicted This Week

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Kashmir Valley on Monday witnessed a bright sunshine after days of incessant rains, even as the weather department forecast light rains in next few days across the Union Territory.

"Scattered light rain and thundershowers are expected on Tuesday and Wednesday besides wide-spread rain on April 23 and isolated showers on April 24," a meteorological department official said.

The weather department has also issued

'yellow warning for "isolated thunder/lightning with gusty wind 30- 40-kmph" for both Jammu and Kashmir divisions for three days from April 20-22.

There are four types of colour codes signifying the level of caution: green which means no ac-

tion, yellow—situation to be watched), amber –government agencies need to be prepared for severe weather and red –action needed by the agencies.

Meanwhile, the meteorological department official said that Srinagar received 9.6mm of rainfall in the last 24 hours till 8:30 a.m., while the summer capital of J&K recorded a low of 7.6 degree Celsius against 7.8 degree Celsius on the previous night.

Qazigund received 4.0mm of rain during the time and recorded a low of [More On P10](#)

## Highway Open For Two-Way Traffic Today

**T**raffic authorities on Monday said that there would both way traffic on Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir with the outside world. "Tomorrow (Tuesday), subject to fair weather and better road condition, LMVs (Passenger) shall be allowed from both sides on Jammu-Srinagar NHW viz Jammu towards Srinagar and vice-versa. However, TCU Jammu/Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the traffic," a traffic department official said in a communiqué. "HMVs shall be allowed from Jakheni (Udhampur) towards Srinagar from 1500 hrs to 2200 hrs. TCU Udhampur shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the HMVs."



## Baramulla-Banihal Rail Line Will Be Electrified: Pole

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** The 137-kilometer Baramulla-Banihal railway line will be electrified and the work on the project will start in a week's time, Divisional commissioner Kashmir Pandurang K Pole said on Monday.

Pole made these remarks while chairing a meeting of the officials concerned to discuss the execution of the project.

The meeting, among others, was attended by deputy commissioners of Budgam, Baramulla, SSPs concerned, ADC Srinagar and AGM Ircon.

Emphasising on speedy work execution, Pole said the work on the project will be carried out round the clock for its early completion.

He said in the first phase, electrification work will be started from Budgam Railway station towards Baramulla, while Srinagar and south Kashmir districts up to Banihal Railway Station will be covered in next phases.

In order to ensure smooth execution of [More On P10](#)

## 'Serious, Shocking': 'Kashmir-Less' PCC Creates Concerns In Valley

Umer Ahmad

**D**ays after Delhi downgraded Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Board (JKPCB) to Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC) without Kashmir representation, environmental lawyer Nadeem Qadri told Kashmir Observer.

"If Commissioner JMC is in the committee, why not it's counterpart from Kashmir division?" The lawyer said his team is



analyzing the legal aspects in the Gazette Notification of March 25 "and will file a Public Interest

Litigation (PIL) and challenge the decision in the High Court". Earlier concerns grew among

the Kashmir based environmentalists after the Centre formulated a 14 member Pollution Control Committee, without considering any governmental or non-governmental member from Kashmir.

The members in the committee include Commissioner JMC, Medical Superintendent GMC Jammu, Regional Officer Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change Govt of India Jammu, Dr. Pankaj Chandan Director NGO Nature, Wildlife and Climate Change based in Jammu, Prof Anil Raina Department of Environmental Science Jammu [More On P10](#)



New Wave Of Covid-19 has forced people indoors and otherwise bustling Boulevard remained largely deserted on Monday. KO Photo Abid Bhat