



P3 CITY
SMC CONDUCTS ANTI-ENCROACHMENT DRIVE IN CITY PARTS

No business and establishment at Sangarmal shopping complex in Srinagar has a lease agreement—contrary to it the space holders owe a whopping amount of more....

P7 THINK
A CASE FOR REASONED DEBATES AND CIVIL DISCOURSE

These days there are few things that we can probably agree on across the political spectrum. One is that open debate is vital for a healthy democracy. The other is that inflammatory, divisive, and vicious....



P5 STATE
TRANSPORTERS ON STRIKE AS FRESH COVID-19 GUIDELINES COME INTO EFFECT IN J&K

Private transporters in Jammu went on an indefinite strike on Wednesday to protest a government order capping the seating capacity to 50 per cent in public transport vehicles in view of the COVID-19 pandemic....



Widom Quote!
He who has a why to live can bear almost any how.
—Friedrich Nietzsche

Covid-19: J&K Sees Record Single Day Spike Of 2204 Cases, 13 Deaths



A police officer inspecting a passenger vehicle for Covid-19 SOPs adherence in Srinagar's Lal Chowk on Wednesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Situation Challenging, But No Need To Panic: Govt

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration Wednesday said the COVID-19 situation in the Union Territory is "challenging" with cases rising steadily, but there is no need to panic as there is no dearth of facilities including oxygen beds and required medicines. It also advised eligible people to go for vaccination and adopt COVID-appropriate behaviour to help the government defeat the virus.

"We have a steady increase in COVID cases that reached a peak in September last year touching 22,000 later went down to 600 active cases. We are again seeing a sharp

increase and the peaks of September last year have been breached, Government spokesperson Rohit Kansal told reporters here.

He said the government is trying its best to control the situation without going into a complete lockdown.

He said the government is monitoring the situation and has taken various steps like placing certain restrictions while ensuring that economic activity is not impacted.

Kansal was joined by Financial Commissioner, health and medical education, Atal Dulloo and Disaster Management Secretary, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

WE ARE FOLLOWING THE FIVE pillar strategy to deal with the situation -- testing, containment and surveillance, isolation and treatment, covid-appropriate behavior and vaccination."

8TH RAMAZAN

	Iftar TODAY	Sehri TOMMOROW
FIQAH HANAFIYA	07:10	04:23
FIQAH JAFARIYA	07:16	04:21

NEWS DIGEST

2 TRF Workers Held In Bandipora

SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested two over-ground workers of The Resistance Front (TRF) militant outfit in north Kashmir's Bandipora district. Mushtaq Ahmad Parry of Gundpora Rampora and Sajad Ahmad Sofi of Sofrigund Tral were

Missing Man Found Dead

SRINAGAR: A man, missing for nearly a week, was found dead on Wednesday in Kokernag area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district. 36-year-old Gulzar Ahmad Naik's body was found inside a sewerage trench in his native

Six People Injured In Canine Attack

SRINAGAR: A stray dog attacked and injured at least six persons in a village in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Wednesday. A stray dog appeared in Malangam village of the district and ran amok biting at least half a dozen people before chased away by

Budgam Teen Commits 'Suicide'

SRINAGAR: A teenager allegedly committed suicide by consuming some poisonous substance at his home in Shogpora village of central Kashmir's Budgam district, reports said Wednesday. 18-year-old Danish Ahmad Kumar of Shogpora village consumed

Mentally Unsound Woman Found Dead

SRINAGAR: A mentally unsound woman on Wednesday was found dead along the banks of Mendhar River in Poonch district of Jammu division. According to the officials, a man identified as Mir Ahmed of Sagra Chowki reported at the Police Post Mankote that

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: In an alarming trend, coronavirus cases in J&K on Wednesday witnessed the biggest ever jump this year as 2204 more people, including 410 travellers, ten minors and equal number of security forces personnel tested positive for the virus. The deadly infection also claimed 13 more lives, taking

the fatality count to 2084 across Jammu and Kashmir. While 1299 fresh cases of coronavirus were reported from Kashmir valley, the remaining 905 were detected across the Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected by the virus since the outbreak of pandemic in J&K last year to 152442, officials said. Among the fresh cases included ten

minors, a ten-month old baby and ten security personnel besides 410 travellers.

Also, officials said, 13 people have succumbed to the virus— 10 from Jammu division and three from Kashmir, taking the death toll to 2084.

Giving district wise details of new cases, officials said, Srinagar reported 612, Baramulla 232, Budgam 102, Pulwama

NIT Orders Closure Of Hostel

The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Wednesday ordered starting online classes and closure of hostels within one week in wake of the spike in coronavirus cases across Jammu and Kashmir. "All the UG/PG/Research Scholars are hereby informed that all the academic activities will be held online henceforth till

SKIMS Shuts Non-Emergency Services

Valley's premier healthcare institution, SK institute of medical sciences (SKIMS) on Wednesday announced closure of non-emergency services, barring exceptional cases and said that 260 beds have been reserved for coronavirus patients at the tertiary care hospital.

J&K Bank Director Sampheal Resigns

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: State-owned Jammu & Kashmir Bank on Wednesday said non-executive non-independent director Rigzian Sampheal has resigned from its board.

"We wish to intimate that Rigzian Sampheal, IAS, non-executive non-independent director has resigned from the board of directors of the bank with effect from today ie April 21, 2021," it said in a regulatory filing.

PNB Housing Finance in a separate filing informed that it has reappointed independent director Nilesh S Vikamsey for a second term.

The board of directors of the company, on recommendation of the nomination and remuneration committee, approved on April 20, 2021 reappointment of Nilesh S Vikamsey as an additional director in the category of independent director, PNB Housing

RE-REGISTRATION OF NON-J&K VEHICLES

What 'Necessitated' Mar 27 Circular? HC's Poser To RTO Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Wednesday asked Regional Transport Officer Kashmir to file affidavit before it by tomorrow, indicating therein as to what necessitated the issuance of March 27 circular, mandating the vehicle owners who have purchased their vehicles bearing outside registration number to apply for a new registration within fortnight.

A division bench of Justices Ali Mohammad Magrey and



Vinod Chatterji Koul also made it clear that pendency of the petitions would not be an impediment for traffic for the Transport Authorities to screen the vehicles

Seeks Law Secretary's Affidavit On New Jobs In HC

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has sought an affidavit by the Law Secretary with regard to creation of promotional posts in the court's computer section. A bench of Justices Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Javed Iqbal Wani passed the order after law secretary informed that for want of certain formalities,

Govt To Fire Employees Involved In 'Anti-National Activities'

Special Task Force Constituted To Identify, Scrutinize Such Employees

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has constituted a Special Task Force (STF) for identifying and scrutinizing the government employees who are involved in anti-national activities and pose a threat to the country's security, and will be terminated from services, if found guilty.

According to an order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), sanction has been accorded to the constitution of a Special Task Force,

for identifying and scrutinizing cases of government employees, to initiate the process under Government Order No. 738-JK(GAD) of 2020 dated 30.07.2020, for action in terms of provisions of Article 311(2)(c) of the Constitution of India.

The order further says that Additional Director General of Police (CID) has been nominated as Chairman of the committee and Inspector General of Police, Jammu/Kashmir, Representative of Home Department not Member below the rank of Additional Secretary, Representative of Department of Law, Justice Member & Parliamentary Affairs not below the rank of Additional Secretary and Representative



An elderly man reciting the holy Quran inside the 14th century shrine of Mir Syed Ali Hamadani in Khanqah-e-Moula locality of Old City on Wednesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Defence Ministry Wants Delinking Of Army Project From PMDP

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Defence Ministry is understood to be in favour of delinking the project of relocation of its transit camp in Kashmir Valley from the Prime Minister's Development Project (PMDP) for Jammu & Kashmir.

According to official documents, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) is of the view that relocation of the transit camp in Srinagar should be delinked from the PMDP. "The project is funded exclusively out of the Army Budget, the MoD is of the view to delink it from the PMDP," reads the status report of the projects funded under the PMDP.

The relocation of the 216 transit camp is part of the development package unveiled by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi for Jammu & Kashmir in 2015. The proposal for shifting of the transit camp located opposite to the Army's 15 Corps headquarters at Badami Bagh, Srinagar was mooted after 2014 floods.

Under the package, Rs 150 crore was kept for shifting of the transit camp of Army to old Airport. According to the status report, there has been no progress on the project so far as a revised detailed project report awaits approval of the Defence Ministry.

"Transit Camp to be relocated to Old

'Very Small Number' Test +ve After Vaccine: Govt

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: More than 21,000 people tested positive for COVID-19 after taking the first dose of either Covishield or Covaxin, while over 5,500 contracted the infection after taking the second dose, the Centre said on Wednesday.

Addressing a press conference, ICMR Director General Balram Bhargava said 0.04 per cent of 17,37,178 individuals, who received the second dose of Covaxin, were positive for COVID-19, while 0.03 per cent of 1,57,32,754 people, who took

the second dose of Covishield, contracted the infection.

Bhargava who presented the data said vaccines reduce the risk of infection and prevent death and severe infection.

"After vaccination if one gets infection then it is known as breakthrough infection," he said.

So far, 1.1 crore doses of Covaxin have been administered. Out of which 93 lakh received the first dose and out of that 4,208 (0.04 per cent) people got the infection which is four per 10,000 individuals. About 17,37,178

