



P3 CITY

DC SRINAGAR SEEKS COOPERATION OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS IN COVID-19 CONTAINMENT

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammed Aijaz Asad Thursday held an interactive meeting with prominent religious leaders, Imams, Khateeb, Aqaf members, with an aim...

P7 IMPROVING MENTAL HEALTH

There can be no health without mental health, despite this clear evidence nowhere in the world does mental health enjoy parity with physical health in budgets, policies and practice. According to the World Health Organisation, Mental Health



P12 OUT POST

MAULANA WAHIDUDDIN KHAN DIES OF COVID-19

"The great Islamic scholar Maulana Wahiduddin Khan breathed his last, late this evening. Doctors failed to revive his sinking heart. Pray for his maghfirat"

**Quote!**

After the major sins which must be avoided, the greatest sin is that someone dies in a state of debt and leaves behind no asset to pay it off.
—Hadith (Darimi)

10TH RAMAZAN

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



NEWS DIGEST

BSF Foils Infiltration Bid Along IB

CHANDIGARH: The BSF thwarted an infiltration attempt by three Pakistani intruders along the India-Pakistan international border in Punjab's Pathankot district, officials said on Thursday. Border Security Force personnel opened fire when they noticed suspicious movement of three people trying to enter into the Indian territory. **More On P10**

CBK Conducts Raids Over JKPC Scam

SRINAGAR: Sleuths of Crime Branch Kashmir on Thursday carried out raids at different places in cases related to the J&K Projects Construction Corporation (JKPC) scam. The teams of CBK carried out raids in Srinagar's Nishat, Ganderbal district and Sopore town of Baramulla district in connection with a case FIR No. 18/21 registered. **More On P10**

Grenade, Bullets Found During Searches

JAMMU: The government forces conducted search operations at two places in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district and recovered a rusted grenade and ammunition, officials said on Thursday. A CRPF and police party launched a search operation in Khidya village in Bari Brahmana area and recovered one rusted. **More On P10**

4 Gamblers Held In Bandipora: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested four gamblers in a raid in Ajas area of Bandipora district. Habib Ullah Ganie, Bashir Ahmad Bhat, Sajad Ahmad Shah and Ghulam Majed Ganie were arrested by a police team headed by in-charge police post Ajas on the basis of specific information. **More On P10**

Covid-19- Nearly 2000 Test Positive In Single Day

243 Travellers, 12 Minors Among Infected; Eight More Die



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least 243 travellers, twelve minors and six security personnel were among 1965 new cases of coronavirus detected across Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, while the deadly infection also claimed lives

of eight more people raising the fatality count to 2,092. Among the new cases, 1176 were reported from Kashmir Valley and the remaining 789 from Jammu division taking the total number of people infected by the virus in the Union Territory

to 154407. Among those infected include 243 travellers—108 in Jammu division and 135 in Kashmir—besides 12 minors and six security forces men.

Giving district wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 590, Baramulla 198, **More On P10**

SC Terms Covid-19 Situation 'National Emergency',

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Thursday termed the COVID-19 situation as almost a "national emergency" while agreeing to hear Vedanta's plea for opening of its Sterlite copper unit at Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu on the ground that it would produce thousand tonnes of oxygen and give it free of cost to treat patients. A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde was unimpressed with the objection of Tamil Nadu government which initially sought hearing of Vedanta's plea on Monday and opposed its opening on various grounds including that it has been rejected by the apex court earlier.

"We understand all this. We will ensure compliance of all environmental norms by the plant and its oxygen producing facility would be allowed to operate. We are on the oxygen plant," the bench, also comprising Justices L Nageswara Rao and S Ravindra Bhat, said when senior advocate C S Vaidyanathan for Tamil Nadu objected to the plea of the company. "There is almost a national emergency and you (Tamil Nadu) don't put spokes in the solution. We will hear it (plea of Vedanta) tomorrow," the bench said in the hearing conducted through video conferencing. **More On P10**

SASB Temporarily Suspends Yatra Registration**Observer News Service**

Amid a sharp spurt in coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir, the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board on Thursday announced to temporarily suspend registrations for the annual pilgrimage to the cave shrine in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

"Considering the evolving situation across the country and Union territory alike, it was decided to defer registrations for **More On P10**

Kansal Tests Positive, Talat Admitted To SKIMS**Observer News Service**

The Jammu and Kashmir government spokesperson Rohit Kansal on Thursday tested positive for coronavirus while Kashmir University, Vice Chancellor Prof Talat Ahmad was admitted to SK institute of medical sciences, Soura for Covid-19 related complications. Prof Talat was admitted to SKIMS Soura on Wednesday night with bilateral Covid pneumonia, days after testing **More On P10**

KU Closes Campus After Cases Detected**Observer News Service**

The Kashmir University administration on Thursday announced closure of its main campus for two days from Friday after cases of coronavirus were detected among the employees of the various units of the Varsity. The campus will remain closed for two days on April 23-24; however, essential services staff of the university health centre, sanitation, landscape wing, **More On P10**

Gunmen In Hazmat Suits Loot Rs 6L From J&K Bank

Ajaz Ali

SRINAGAR: A security guard was injured on Thursday as unidentified gunmen wearing PPE kits looted Rs 6 lakh from a Jammu and Kashmir Bank (JKB) branch in Pattan area of Baramulla district.

Three gunmen in hazmat suits forced their entry into the J&K Bank Khor Sherabad in Pattan on Thursday afternoon and decamped with Rs 6 lakh cash and a 12 bore rifle of the security guard, an official said. The armed robbers, he said, fled in a car which was parked outside the bank branch.

The official said the militants also injured a security guard posted at the branch. The robbers looted about Rs 6 lakh from the bank branch,



PTI quoted an official as saying, After the bank robbery, videos went viral on various social media networking websites showing gunmen firing shots in the air after locals' pelted stones and tried to prevent them from fleeing. The videos also showed the car abandoned by the gunmen at a distance from the bank.

Meanwhile, police launched a massive **More On P10**

HC Reserves Verdict On Re-Registration Of Non-J&K Vehicles

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Thursday reserved its verdict on clubbed petition seeking quashing of Regional Transport Officer Kashmir's circular on March 27, mandating the owners who have purchased their vehicles bearing outside number to apply for a new registration within fortnight.

The court has already made it clear that pendency of the petitions would not be an

impediment for the Transport Authorities to screen the vehicles with non-local registration mark for checking their veracity vis-a-vis the documents and the bonafide entry into the territorial limits Jammu and Kashmir. However, the court has said that such exercise shall be undertaken by the officials of the transport department only.

The RTO Kashmir on Wednesday submitted that the decision to notify the circular was taken in a meeting convened by the Secretary to the Government, Transport Department for ensuring screening of the vehicle which bears the non-local registration. The government **More On P10**

Dry Weather Across J&K From Today: Lotus

Valley's Upper Reaches Receive Fresh Snow, Rains Lash Plains



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The meteorological department on Thursday predicted improvement in wet weather conditions across Jammu and Kashmir from Friday, even as the upper reaches of Valley received fresh snowfall while the rain lashed plains dipping the day temperature sharply.

"From April 23, weather

is most likely to remain dry in both regions till the end of the month," Director Meteorological department Sonam Lotus said Thursday. He said that rain and thunderstorms at many places of J&K and snowfall over higher reaches of Kashmir and Drass -Zojila area is likely to continue till Thursday evening.

"There is **More On P10**

**Highway Open For Only Stranded Vehicles**

Traffic authorities on Thursday said that only stranded traffic shall be allowed on Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir Valley with the outside world. "Tomorrow (April 23) subject to fair weather and better road condition only **More On P10**

Centre Withholds Rs 800 Cr Funds To J&K Under PMDP

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Union Finance Ministry has "withheld" release of funds to Jammu & Kashmir under the Prime Minister's Development package for the permanent restoration of infrastructure hit by the devastating floods in 2014, prompting the administration of the Union Territory to take up the matter with the Government of India at the highest level.

According to official documents, the Union Finance Ministry is yet to release more than Rs 800 to J&K administration for restoration of the public infrastructure affected by the floods.

A status report about implementation of PMDP reveals that against Rs 2000 crore earmarked under the package for the project, only

Rs 1178. 34 crore has been released by the Centre so far. "Balance amount of 811.64 crore need to be released," the report states.

The funds have not been released despite the National Institution for Transformation of India (NITI Aayog) recommending to the Union Finance Ministry to release Rs 560 crore after J&K administration submitted utilization certificate to the government's think-tank in 2019.

The NITI Aayog was monitoring the works taken up under the PMDP component for permanent restoration of the infrastructure damaged in the devastating deluge. Under this program, the funds are released by the Union Finance Ministry on recommendations of the NITI Aayog. In 2017, a **More On P10**

Doctors Declare It Loud And Clear: 'Carelessness Will Doom Us'

Auqib Javeed

The doctors working in valley's tertiary-care hospitals have painted the grim picture of the second wave of Covid-19 saying that more and more young people are getting affected due to the virus.

"When you see a 27 years old, a 32 years old, a 21 years old die within a span of few days, due to pneumonia and its complications, it sends a shiver down the spine, a kind of remorse and fear which cannot be expressed in words," posted Dr. Irtifa Kanth, Resident Medicine at

Shri Maharaja Hari Singh Hospital (SMHS) on his Facebook account.

On Wednesday, Dr. Kanth said more than 30 patients with respiratory symptoms were admitted in SMHS and among them

around 10-12 young patients with pneumonias.

"We are seeing proportionally increased numbers of young people getting severe Covid disease this time as compared to last year,



however elderly still make up higher numbers," Dr. Kanth told Kashmir Observer.

The reason for this, Dr Kanth believes is possibly more "potent" strain. "Moreover," he said, "young people have increased amount of exposure."

Many other doctors who are dealing with the Covid-19 patients at the valley's primary tertiary-care hospital, echoes the comments of Dr. Kanth saying more young people are becoming victims of the deadly virus.

"Then you see groups of young people gather around a carrom board, without masks, without care for the future. It brings such disgust which again cannot be expressed in words," Dr. Kanth



added in his Facebook Post.

On 17 April, the SMHS shut down its **More On P10**