



P5 STATE

23 J&K HOSPITALS WITH 1705 BEDS DESIGNATED FOR COVID-19 PATIENTS

Amid a surge in COVID-19 cases across Jammu and Kashmir, the government on Saturday designated 23 hospitals as dedicated hospitals for treatment including 15 in Kashmir division and...

P7 THINK

A LIFE DEVOTED TO FOSTERING TRUST & GOODWILL

IN 2009, a publication by the Georgetown University, USA titled "The 500 Most Influential Muslims of 2009" described Maulana Wahiduddin Khan "Islam's Spiritual Ambassador to the world." His approach, the book points out, is...



P4 WORLD

COVID IN INDIA: PAKISTANIS POUR THEIR HEARTS OUT FOR INDIANS

Mutual hard feelings melt in the face of the raging contagion that has emerged as a common enemy. India, which recorded 346,000 Covid-19 new Covid-19 infections...



Widom 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)

Curfew Imposed Across J&K To Combat Coronavirus Spread



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration announced a 34-hour curfew from 8 pm on Saturday amid a surge in coronavirus cases

in the Union Territory.

"Complete corona curfew to be observed in the Union Territory from 8 PM, 24th April (Saturday) till 6 AM, April 26 (Monday). Essential and emergency services to

be allowed. All market, commercial institutions will remain closed," the office of Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha said in a tweet. On April 8, a night curfew from 10 pm

J&K Logs 2,030 New Corona Cases, 15 Deaths

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Saturday 2030 fresh cases of coronavirus while 15 more succumbed to the deadly infection across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours pushing the fatality count to 2,126.

Of the fifteen fatalities reported Saturday, officials said, seven were residents of Jammu division and eight others hailed from different parts of the Kashmir Valley.

About the new cases,

the officials said, the Valley reported 1196 new cases of coronavirus, while the remaining 834 were detected in the Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected by the virus since last year in J&K to 158374, officials said Saturday.

Giving district wise details, the officials said Srinagar reported 591, Baramulla 180, Budgam 81, Pulwama 48, Kupwara 45, Anantnag 99, Bandipora 14, Ganderbal 48, Kulgam 83, Shopian 7, Jammu 530, and

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23 Hospitals Turned Into Covid-19 Facilities

Amid a spike in coronavirus infections, the Jammu and Kashmir authorities on Saturday turned 23 hospitals into dedicated COVID-19 facilities. According to an order issued by the Health and Medical Education Department, 15 health institutions with a total bed capacity of 1,194 have been notified as COVID-19 hospitals in Kashmir. Similarly, eight health institutions with a bed capacity of 511 were declared COVID-19-

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Govt Announces Free Vaccines For All

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday announced to provide the coronavirus vaccine jabs free of cost to all eligible people across the Union Territory. "It has been decided that COVID-19 vaccination for people in the age group 18-45 years will be cost-free in the UT. The cost of the vaccine will be fully borne by the government of J&K. The health department will constitute a panel to work out the logistics," the L-G's office

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50% Staff Attendance Ordered In Edu Institutes

Government on Saturday ordered restricting attendance of staff to 50% in all educational institutions including school, colleges, universities and technical education during closure amid covid-19.

"During the closure of educational institutions (school / colleges / universities / technical education etc.) attendance of staff in person shall be restricted to 50 percent only," reads an order by Member Secretary,

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NEWS DIGEST

Soldier Injured In Grenade Blast

SRINAGAR: A soldier was injured on Saturday in an accidental grenade blast in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. Havildar Jitendra Kumar of 8 Garh was injured around 1815 hours on Saturday when a hand grenade exploded at Tila Post in the frontier district, they said. Kumar, who suffered injuries in right hand, was airlifted to army

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Militant Held From Budgam: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested a militant from Chrar-e-Shareef area of central Kashmir's Budgam district. Gulzar Ahmad Bhat of Arwani village in Anantnag district was arrested by police, army's 53RR and the personnel of CRPF 181 battalion during an input driven joint search operation in village Nagbal

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Youth Booked For Holding 12 Bore Rifle

SRINAGAR: Police have booked a youth for possessing unauthorised 12-bore rifle in Hokersar area of the city outskirts. Sahil Ahmad Dar of Hokersar in the city outskirts was caught along with his unauthorised 12-bore rifle by the officials of the wildlife department on the basis of specific information, an official said. The youth, he said, failed to produce

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5 Detained For 'Breach Of Peace' In Ramban

BANIHAL: Five persons were taken into preventive custody for breach of peace in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, police said on Saturday. The action followed a complaint by a woman from Ramban's Nai Basti village, alleging that five persons belonging to another community are disputing with her over a piece of land and attacking her family, the police said.

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BSF Foils Arms Drop Via Drones In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Border Security Force (BSF) on Saturday claimed to have foiled Pakistan's attempt to airdrop arms and ammunition by drones along the International Border (IB) when alert troops opened fire on two such flying objects on entering Indian airspace in Arnia sector here, a spokesperson of the force said.

Both the unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) were spotted hovering in Jabbawal and Vikram border outpost area between 4.30 am and 4.45 am and returned to Pakistani side after the alert BSF personnel fired around 15 rounds in an attempt to bring them down, officials said.

Pakistan is using drones to drop weapons and drugs with the latest attempt coming at a time when there is peace on the borders in Jammu and Kashmir after India and Pakistan agreed to uphold the 2003 ceasefire agreement from the

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Pak Lists 5 Demands To Begin Bilateral Talks With India: Report

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Pakistan has listed five demands, including return of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, release of political prisoners, removal of communication and movement blockade, reducing footprints of soldiers and acknowledgment of Kashmir as an internationally recognised territorial dispute before holding formal bilateral talks with New Delhi, a media report said on Saturday.

Quoting highly-placed Pakistani sources familiar with the development, Al-Jazeera reported that Islamabad was willing to hold formal bilateral talks



with New Delhi to resolve all issues, including Kashmir if the latter takes certain steps to "ease lives" in Kashmir.

"Pakistan is genuinely standing by the Kashmir cause, of course the territory is an internationally

recognised dispute, but the first thing we have to do is make sure Kashmiri lives are eased," Al-Jazeera quoted one source as saying.

The report quoted the sources citing "examples" of concrete

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NOTABLY ABSENT FROM PAKISTAN'S demands is the reimplement of Article 370, which was revoked on August 5, 2019, by the Modi government.

Tele-Psychiatric, Psychological Services Started In J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday launched tele-psychiatric, psychological services across Kashmir Valley to motivate people to remain mentally and physically healthy besides to dispel their stress, fear and anxiety during the coronavirus pandemic.

According to an official spokesperson, the tele-psychiatric and psychological services

have been started in Kashmir division on the directions of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole to dispel stress, fear and anxiety among the people during the ongoing Pandemic.

Under the directions of Pole, a team of doctors and experts shall remain available for the general public through various toll free numbers and mobile phones from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm to provide counselling to people for their

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Police Arrests 3 'Lashkar OGWs' For Bank Robberies

Trio Also Killed A Civilian, Looted Petrol Pump: Police

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have cracked the sensational case of a bank robbery in north Kashmir's Pattan by arresting three people, who

were involved in the heist and other robberies in district Budgam as well.

In a statement issued to media here, a police spokesperson said that an FIR was registered at the police station Pattan and a special investigation team was constituted after receiving information

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PMDP Sponsored Small Hydro Projects In J&K Hit Roadblock

Only Rs 1.94 Crore Utilized Against Financial Outlay Of Rs 2000 Crore

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The ambitious project of setting up of small hydro projects in Jammu and Kashmir under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) has come to a grinding halt.

Official documents reveal that only Rs 1.94 crore has been utilized for setting up the small hydro projects in the Union Territory till date against the financial outlay of Rs 2000 crore

for it under the package.

So far, the documents reveal, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has sanctioned Rs 27.71 crore for the project and only Rs 3.86 crore has been released out of it, the documents reveal.

According to the documents, out of 23 projects proposed to be set-up under the package, only three have awarded or are under process of award. Of 23 small hydroelectric projects proposed to be set-up under the package, seven are in range of 2-10 megawatts and 16 of 10-25 MWs.

An official of Power Development Corporation, wishing not to be named, said that there has been no progress under these projects

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J&K BJP Chief Claims Death Threat From Lashkar

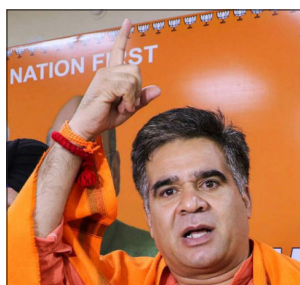
Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Saturday claimed that he has received a death threat from a Pakistani militant affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

He said he took up the matter with Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police Dilbag Singh, who assured him that a proper investigation would be carried out in the matter.

However, there was no official word from the police about the death threat received by Raina.

The BJP leader claimed he received a call from a Pakistani mobile number around 5:30



PM on Saturday and the caller introduced himself as a commander of LeT.

"He warned me to leave Jammu and Kashmir and also sent me a video on WhatsApp," Raina said. In the over three-and-a-half-minute video, a masked man armed with

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Pleasant Weather In Kashmir After Wet Spell

Agencies

SRINAGAR: As the wet weather makes way for clear skies, the minimum temperatures remained below normal in Kashmir Valley with Gulmarg recording a low of minus 3.4 degree Celsius, officials said on Saturday.

A meteorological department official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 5.6 degree Celsius against 4.6 degree Celsius on the previous night while it received 0.2mm of rain in the last 24 hours till 0830 a.m. Saturday. The temperature was



3.5 degree Celsius below normal in the summer capital of J&K for this time of the season, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 3.2 degree Celsius against previous night's

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SRINAGAR BOUND TRAFFIC ON HIGHWAY TODAY

The 270-km Jammu-Srinagar Jammu, the only surface link connecting Kashmir valley with the outside world, will be open for one way traffic on Sunday, officials said. "Subject to fair weather and better road condition, LMVs (passenger) shall be allowed from Jammu towards Srinagar on the highway," the traffic department said

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