

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Tuesday 27 April | 14 Ramazan | 1442 Hijri | Vol:24 | Issue: 98 | Pages:12 | Price: ₹3

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P7 STATE

VACCINE MUST FOR RECOVERED COVID-19 PATIENTS: DAK

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...

P4 THINK

VIOLENCE BEGETS VIOLENCE

Some actions are normalized and engraved into our society in such a way that even if it's physical abuse, it's okay. Earlier in the times when our parents used to be children, they were subjected to certain correctional methods and corporal punishment was...



P3 CITY

TOURISTS ROAM INSIDE TULIP GARDEN DESPITE GOVT'S CLOSURE ORDER

Despite the government ordering the shutting down of Tulip garden in Srinagar, on Monday tourists were seen enjoying inside the Garden. The State Executive...



Quote!
Courtesy costs nothing, but buys everything.
—Imam Ali

14 TH RAMAZAN		
	Iftar TODAY	Sehri TOMMOROW
FIQAH HANAFIYA	07:15	04:14
FIQAH JAFARIYA	07:21	04:12

NEWS DIGEST

Arms Cache Recovered In Kishtwar

JAMMU: Government forces have recovered a cache of arms and ammunition, including two pistols, during a search operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, Army officials said on Monday. A joint team of the Army and police launched a search operation in Chhatru forest area on Sunday, they said. During the search, they recovered a cache of arms. [More On P6](#)

2 'OGWs' Held With Grenades In Uri

SRINAGAR: Police on Monday said that it arrested two youth from the border town of Uri in Baramulla district after two grenades were recovered from their possession. Liyaqat Ahmad Kakro of Nambla and Akhtar Mir of Barnate in the border town Uri were arrested by police at a checkpoint on Monday after two grenades were recovered from during frisking, a police. [More On P6](#)

CASO Conducted In Natipora

SRINAGAR: The government forces on Monday carried out a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Natipora area of this capital city. Eyewitnesses said that a part of Natipora area was brought under siege and a door-to-door search operation was launched by government forces on Monday afternoon. The identity cards of locals were thoroughly checked, news agency KNT reported. [More On P6](#)

Militant Hideout Busted In Kulgam

SRINAGAR: The government forces on Monday busted a militant hideout and seized a cache of arms and ammunition in a forest area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district. Police and the soldiers of 34 Rashtriya Rifles busted the hideout during a cordon and search operation in Manzagam forest area in Kulgam on the basis of specific information, officials said. [More On P6](#)

Corona Crisis Deepens, 25 More Die in J&K 2135 More People Infected, 1344 From Kashmir



KO Photo: Abrid Bhat

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir witnessed on Monday 25 deaths in a day, the highest this year, even as 2,135 fresh

cases of Covid-19 were reported across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours, taking the total number of people infected by the virus in J&K to 162890. According to the officials, 14

of the fatalities were reported from Jammu division while 11 people also died of virus in the Kashmir valley, taking the fatality count to 2172. Among others, [More On P6](#)

Indoor Stadium, Hajj House Turned Into Covid-19 Centres

Amid surge in the covid-19 cases, the authorities have turned Indoor Stadium, Hajj House Bemina, KU hotel building and Community health centers Sanatnagar into Covid-19 centres for emergency in Srinagar in wake of the spike in the number of positive cases. Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar Mohammad Aijaz Asad said that step has been taken to meet any emergency as may arise due to the surging covid-19 tally. [FULL STORY ON PAGE 08](#)

30 KAS Officers Promoted To Special Scale

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday ordered the promotion of 30 Kashmir Administrative Service (KAS) officers from selection grade to special scale with the direction that those working as additional secretaries in the different department shall be now designated as special secretaries.

An order issued from the GAD reads "sanction is hereby accorded to the promotion of the following Selection Grade officers of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service to the Special Scale of KAS in pay level 13 (123100-215900), with [More On P6](#)

Chairs Meeting on Covid-19 Situation with Senior Doctors

LG Assures All Necessary Support to Hospitals, Doctors

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today chaired a review meeting with the senior Doctors of Jammu and Kashmir including Principals, Heads of Departments of Government Medical Colleges and District Hospitals, at Raj Bhavan here through virtual mode.

During the meeting, the Lt Governor took a detailed assessment of the preparedness being put in place in the hospitals across J&K to handle the



ongoing Covid pandemic.

The Lt Governor expressed his gratitude towards all the Doctors and frontline health workers for making untiring

efforts in the fight against Covid-19 and rendering continuous services day and night, for saving the people affected by the deadly virus. [More On P6](#)

Mercury Up In Kashmir As Sun Shines

Agencies

SRINAGAR: While weather is expected to "mainly dry" till May 3, the minimum temperatures have started to increase gradually in Kashmir Valley, officials said on Sunday.

A meteorological department official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 7.6 degree Celsius against 4.8 degree Celsius on the previous night. The temperature was 1.7 degree

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

Qazigund recorded a low of 5.6 degree Celsius against previous night's 3.4 degree Celsius and below normal by 2.2 degree Celsius, the official said.

Mercury settled at 2.1 degree Celsius against minus 0.1 degree Celsius on the previous night in Pahalgam.

The temperature in the famous tourist resort in South [More On P6](#)

'EC Responsible For Covid Surge, Should Be Booked For Murder': Madras HC

Press Trust Of India

CHENNAI: The Madras High Court on Monday castigated the Election Commission over the COVID-19 second wave in the country, holding it 'singularly' responsible for the spread, called it "the most irresponsible institution" and even said

its officials may be booked under murder charges.

The EC allowing political parties to take out rallies and meetings had led to the spread of the pandemic, the court said.

"Were you (living) on another planet," the first bench of Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice Senthilkumar [More On P6](#)

Ready For Talks If India Revisits Aug, 2019 Action: Pak

Observer Monitoring Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has expressed its readiness to hold bilateral talks with India if Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led government at the Centre revisits its August 5, 2019 move revoking Jammu and Kashmir's special status and splitting the state into two Union Territories.

"If India is willing to revisit some of the decisions that they took on August 5, 2019, Pakistan will be more than happy to engage, sit and talk out our differences and sit and through a dialogue resolve the outstanding issues," Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood

Qureshi said in an interview with Turkey based Anadolu Agency.

Qureshi was on his two-day visit to Turkey. Maintaining that India's unilateral decision of August 5, 2019 was against international law, United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and has put at risk, stability and peace of South Asia, Qureshi said that Pakistan had outstanding issues with India including Kashmir, Siachen, Sir Creek and others and the only sensible way forward is the dialogue.

"We cannot afford to go to war, you know, it will be mutually suicidal. And no sensible person will advocate [More On P6](#)

Delhi Tight-Lipped On Pak Offer

Even as Covid cases spiral and its health system grinds to a halt, India remains tight-lipped about the possibility of opening the border and accepting Pakistan's offers to assist its virus-ravaged neighbour. Despite an alarming shortage of oxygen supplies, hospital beds, and record numbers of deaths, the government in New Delhi has remained silent about opening the border, which will allow Pakistan [More On P6](#)

Entrepreneurs Becoming Labourers, As Kashmir Awaits Consumer Court

Umer Ahmad

The recent Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) report censuring the government for the pending 2014 flood relief in Kashmir reminded Tanveer Ahmad of his own battle with the Consumer Court consumed by the 2019 summer shift along with the hundreds of cases.

"I was so near yet so far," Tanveer sums up his struggle with his pending flood case misplaced two years ago.

After losing his home in the devastating fall of 2014, Tanveer was banking on his insurance policy for the full recovery of losses suffered in the massive floods.

A resident of Hygam in north

Kashmir's Sopore town, Tanveer approached his insurer—HDFC Urbo—in post-flood phase.

But when his claim wasn't entertained, he decided to move to the Consumer Court for justice.

"My case was on its final stage," Tanveer says. "All the witnesses were heard in the court and the final decision was around the corner when New Delhi abrogated Article 370 in August 2019."

In the ensuing communication blockade spanning months, Tanveer lost the track of his case he was rigorously pursuing for half a decade.

"I don't know what is going to happen now," the distraught Kashmiri man says.

"I believe the abrogation of



J&K's special status only made us backwards, rather than the so-called prosperous in the make-believe development era. Our own vibrant bodies became

defunct and the cases instantly lost their address."

But Tanveer hasn't been suffering alone since the abrogation of J&K's special status — when

Consumer Court of Kashmir became shut and put thousands of litigants in uncertainty.

The subsequent Reorganization Act in October 2019 nullified many state laws and replaced them with the central laws.

Among others, J&K Consumer Protection Act 1987 was replaced by the Central Consumer Protection Act 1986. After an amendment in 2019, the Act became Central Consumer Protection Act 2019.

Under the amendment, new Commission was to be set up in J&K.

A committee headed by the J&K High Court Judge was formulated to set up the commission.

But the committee constituted in October 2020 is yet to reconstitute the commission,

thus leaving hundreds of litigants in lurch. Among them is Mohammad Maqbool Tambay.

In 2015, Maqbool lost his shop in a fire turning his world upside down.

"After that fire incident, I was hopeful to restart business with my insurance policy," he says.

"But when I made the claim, I was denied full insurance payment. The company was not even ready to provide me 10 percent of the losses I had suffered in the fire."

To seek justice, Maqbool took his case to the Consumer Court. But till date, the fate of his case remains unknown due to the changed equations on the ground.

With the result, the yesterday's entrepreneur has now

become a labourer.

"I work as a daily worker in construction sites now," Maqbool says.

"I had borrowed money from the bank to set up my shop. But after the incident and subsequent denial of insurance claim, I had to sell land to pay off the credit and to cope up with other losses."

Advocate Sujood, a consumer lawyer, told Kashmir Observer that there're hundreds of cases, majority of them related to the pending flood relief, in the consumer court which were at the final stage.

"But since 2019, when the J&K Consumer Protection Act was repealed and the commission was shut, there is uncertainty among clients now," the lawyer said.

"People fear [More On P6](#)