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P5 STATE

OWING TO 'RITUALS AND TRENDS' OVER 50,000 GIRLS CROSS MARRIAGEABLE AGE IN KASHMIR: SURVEY

In a worrisome development, nearly 50,000 girls of Kashmir have crossed the age bar of getting married owing to unnecessary...

P6 THINK

KASHMIR'S SIMA AUNTY

A friend recently told me about this Kashmiri matrimonial app eManzimoor that has been developed by a US-based Company Musalleen. I was told that the app is a digital version of Kashmiri manzimoor and supposedly takes into consideration the...



P3 CITY

DC SGR TAKES STOCK OF COVID SOPS, RESTRICTIONS IN CITY MARKETS

The Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Mohammad Aijaz Asad Wednesday visited various markets of Srinagar City to inspect the implementation of Covid related...



Quote!
A person is either your brother in faith, or your equal in humanity.
—Imam Ali to Malik al-Ashtar

30 More Succumb To Covid-19, 3023 Test Positive



The spurt in coronavirus cases has prompted J&K govt to convert Srinagar's indoor stadium and other buildings into Covid-19 treatment center. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The deadly coronavirus infection claimed 30 more lives in Jammu and Kashmir, highest ever fatalities in a single

day, even as 3023 fresh cases of Covid-19 were detected across the Union territory during the last 24 hours, prompting the administration to impose an 84-hour lockdown from

Thursday evening. According to the officials, 18 more people succumbed to coronavirus at various health-care facilities in Kashmir, while 12 deaths caused

84 Hour Lockdown In 11 Districts From Today

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: An 84-hour lockdown will be imposed in 11 districts of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday evening in a bid to tackle the surge in COVID-19 cases, a senior official said.

The union territory had on Tuesday recorded its highest single-day spike of 3,164 COVID-19 cases, which took the tally to 1,66,054, while 25 fatalities over the last 24 hours took the toll to 2,197.

The curfew will come into effect at 7 pm on Thursday and remain in force till 7 am on Monday, Secretary of the Disaster Management Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Department

Simrandeep Singh said on Wednesday.

"Eleven districts including Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla, Budgam, Kulgam, Pulwama, Ganderbal, Jammu, Kathua, Reasi, Udhampur will be under 'corona curfew' from Thursday evening (7 pm) till Monday morning (7 am)", Singh said.

The detailed orders under the Disaster Management Act listing out prohibitions and permissible activities will be issued by the deputy commissioners, he said.

Here in Srinagar, Deputy Commissioner, Mohammad Aijaz Asad announced "complete lockdown" in this capital city from 7 pm Thursday, a day after he ordered imposi-

Vaccine Registration For 18 Plus Begins

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: All those aged above 18 can register themselves on the CoWIN portal or using the Aarogya Setu app to get vaccinated against COVID-19 started on Wednesday, the Union Health Ministry said as the government gears up to launch the third phase of vaccination drive from 1 May.

"Registration for the newly eligible category for COVID-19 vaccination opens today at 4 pm on cwin.gov.in and Aarogya Setu app," the ministry tweeted.

After registration, taking an appointment to get a COVID-19 vaccine jab would be mandatory for those aged between 18 and 44 years as walk-ins will not be allowed initially, officials had said.

Those above 45 years can still avail the facility of on-site registration to get vaccinated, they said.

As India witnesses a surge in coronavirus

J&K Expects Vaccines By May 20: Dulloo

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government has issued orders for the supply of COVID-19 vaccines for undertaking vaccination of people above 18 years and the administration is expected to get supplies by May 20, a senior official said on Wednesday.

Jammu and Kashmir will provide COVID-19 vaccine free of cost to people in the 18-45 age group, the office of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had said on Saturday.

"We have placed orders for supply of vaccines to undertake vaccination free of cost to people in the 18-45 age group. We expect to get

NEWS DIGEST

Police Files Charges In Ganderbal Attack

SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday filed a chargesheet against three alleged militant associates in connection with last year's militant attack on a BJP leader in which the militant and a policeman were killed. According to a police spokesperson, chargesheet was produced before the court after obtaining the

Falling Tree Kills Govt Employee

SRINAGAR: A department of horticulture employee died on Wednesday after being hit by a falling tree in south Kashmir's Shopian district. Nazir Ahmad Wagay of Balpora village in the district was critically injured on Tuesday when a poplar tree fell on him, which was being

Man Booked For Whipping Bird

SRINAGAR: Police in Balakote area of Poonch have filed a case against a man, seen in a viral video, whipping an Acridotheres tristis bird, popularly known as Maina in India. A Wildlife official said that after going through the video, it was established that the act warranted action. "We have watched the video-clip and

Bear Injures Man In Sopore

SRINAGAR: A man was attacked and injured on Wednesday by a bear in a village in Sopore area of Baramulla district. 40-year-old Abdul Salam Dar was walking near a riverside area of his native village of Hilob Dangerpora in Sopore when a bear appeared there and attacked him, an official said. Dar, he said, raised

Car Crash Kills Wife, Injures Husband

SRINAGAR: A woman was killed while her husband was injured on Wednesday in a road accident in Uri town of Baramulla district. According to reports, an Eco cab (JK-04E-5046) skidded off the road in village Nawa-runda Uri on Wednesday leaving a couple identified as Khursheed Ahmad Kohli and his wife Pakeeza Begum injured.

Ladakh Tourism Players Oppose Investment By Outsiders

Press Trust Of India

LEH: The Ladakh Tourist Trade Alliance on Wednesday passed a resolution to oppose investment by outsiders in the tourism sector of the Union territory, and threatened imposition of restrictions on such investors.

The resolution, signed by 16 Leh-based groups, unanimously decided to work in solidarity to protect the tourism industry of Ladakh.

The resolution seeks preservation of Ladakh as a unique tourist destination and for protection of the avenues of entrepreneurship and livelihood of the local people, to safeguard the fragile ecosystem and oppose investment, in any form, in the tourism sector from outside the region, LITA chairman P T Kunzang told reporters here.

The Ladakh Tourist Trade Alliance

KU Puts Off Exams, Shuts Hostels

The University of Kashmir on Wednesday announced to postpone all its offline examinations, including UG and PG examinations, till May 15 in view of the ongoing pandemic situation. The varsity also decided to close its hostels till May 15, 2021 in the interest of safety of the hostel boarders. The decisions were taken pursuant to a meeting of the varsity's advisory committee which was convened to deliberate upon the conduct of examinations and the recent directions/orders from the

Waqf Wants Less Devotees In Shrines, Masjids

The Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board on Wednesday urged Imams to allow a minimum number of devotees to the board-managed Masjids and Shrines for prayers in view of the huge spike in coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mufti Muhammad Farid-ud-din urged people to pray at home saying that thousands of persons are tested covid-19 positive on a daily basis which has rung the alarm bells, an official spokesperson said. He said that the CEO also made a fervent appeal to the Imams of Masjids and Shrines affiliated with the Board

Jama Masjid Closed For Congregational Prayers

The management of Jama Masjid on Wednesday announced suspension of congregational prayers at the historic mosque in the Old City in wake of rapid spike in coronavirus cases and the imposition of prohibitory orders by the district administration. "In view of the rapid spread of Covid 19, although all SOPs were being strictly adhered to during prayers, Anjuman has decided to suspend all congregational prayers at the mosque for the time being for the safety of namazis," a spokesperson said. Early Wednesday morning, he said,

Hospitals Running Short Of Key Drugs, Doctors Say

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: At a time when Kashmir is reporting a record number of Covid cases, the valley hospitals are running short of key drugs like Remdesivir and Tocilizumab injections.

Doctors say Remdesivir is primarily meant for moderately-ill covid patients, while Tocilizumab is given to severely-ill patients.

Major Kashmir hospitals including SMHS, SKIMS, CD Hospital, JMC and JLNH are already decrying the dearth of the critical drugs.

"Everybody knows Remdesivir injection is out of stock in SMHS," Dr Nazir Chaudhary, Medical Superintendent SMHS, told Kashmir Observer. "The hospital



administration can't help it." Dr. Chaudhary added that they get the supplies from Government Medical College (GMC), which in-turn gets it from Medical Supply Corporation (MSC). The shortage of the drugs has already escalated problems for patients and their attendants.

Mushtaq Ahmad, whose son has been admitted in SKIMS, Soura told Kashmir Observer that the doctors prescribed the Remdesivir injection to the patient. "But it's neither available in the hospital, nor in market," Mushtaq said.

One injection of Remdesivir

MeT Forecast Light Afternoon Showers In Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Weatherman has forecast very light rain or thundershowers in Kashmir and Pirpanjal range towards afternoon in next few days, officials said on Wednesday.

"While main dry weather is expected, there is possibility of isolated very light rain/thundershowers in Kashmir and Pirpanjal range towards late afternoon in the next few days," a meteorological department official said.

He said Srinagar recorded a low of 10.2 degree Celsius against

9.0 degree Celsius on the previous night. The temperature was 0.9 degree Celsius above normal for this time of the season in the summer capital of J&K, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 7.7 degree Celsius against previous night's 6.6 degree Celsius which was below normal by 0.1 degree Celsius, the official said.

Mercury settled at 4.9 degree Celsius against 4.0 degree Celsius on the previous night in Pahalgam. The temperature was above normal by 0.5 degree Celsius during this time of the season in

HC Quashes Allotments Of JMC Quarters To Former Officials, NGOs

Agencies

JAMMU: The J&K High Court has quashed allotment of nine quarters by Jammu Municipal Corporation spanning from the year 1993 till 2015 and simultaneously at posh Gandhi Nagar area in the winter capital of J&K.

A division bench of Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Rajnesh Oswal quashed the allotments, made mostly in favour of the Corporation's officials, observing that allotments made are illegal and contrary to principle of equality.

"The allotments as well as

consequential rent deeds/ rent agreements made in favour of the respondent Nos. 5 to 13 are quashed," the court said and directed the allottees to vacate the premises in their respective occupation within a period of six months.

So far as other Municipal shops, flats and garages are concerned, the court directed the authorities to examine the individual case and proceed in accordance with the law laid down by the Supreme Court in numerous decisions and take appropriate actions within a period of six months, extendable by another

Ex- Home Dept Official Charged In DOB Fudging Case

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Crime Branch of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday filed a charge sheet against a former special secretary (legal) in the home department for forging his own date of birth for undue benefits.

A charge sheet has also been filed against Mohammad Salim Qasmi, a resident of Deoband in Uttar Pradesh, for his role in the conspiracy but the proceedings against him would be abated since he has died, a spokesperson of the Crime Branch Jammu

said. He said the charge sheet against the retrospectively retired special secretary Ghulam Mohiuddin Ganai was filed in the special anti-corruption court in a record time of 48 days of the registration of a case for judicial determination.

Ganai has been charged for misusing his official position, whereby he took unauthorised custody of his service book and forged his date of birth therein to get undue benefits as a public servant,

the spokesperson said.

"The case owes its origin to a written communication made with the Crime Branch, Jammu, by the J-K government along with allied documents, including a written complaint lodged by Ghulam Mohd Bhat of Hanjura village of Chadoora, alleging that Ganai who was till March 5, 2021 posted as special secretary (legal) to the home department J-K government, has used his official position to grab money and enjoy power as a senior legal officer," the spokesperson said. He said it was also alleged that the accused has "forged and manipulated" his own date of birth in official records.

