



P5 STATE

**DIV COM FOR COMPREHENSIVE FLOOD MANAGEMENT PREPAREDNESS**

A day after leading hospitals of Kashmir were facing shortage of Remdesivir, several health centres in Kashmir division mainly in Srinagar have run dry of Covid-19 vaccines. A top health official...

P6 THINK

**COVID CHALLENGE 2.0: TIME FOR SOCIETY TO RISE TO THE OCCASION**

The nature of pain and tragedy is such that only its victim feels the real brunt. The rest can perhaps just relate to a victim's pain or empathize with it. The old Kashmiri adage...



P3 CITY

**COVID: SEVEN MORE SRINAGAR LOCALITIES DECLARED CONTAINMENT ZONES AS CASES SURGE**

The district administration Srinagar has declared seven more areas as Containment Zones in the capital city...

**Quote!**

Jabir related that the Prophet said: May Allah show mercy to a man who is kind when he sells, when he buys, and when he makes a claim.

—Bukhari

**Govt Sanctions Loyalty Bonus For NHM Staff**

Observer Monitoring Desk

**JAMMU:** The government sanctioned experience/loyalty Bonus in favour of the contractual staff hired under National Health Mission (NHM) for the financial year 2020-21.

"Sanction has been accorded for 10 per cent experience/loyalty bonus to those employees who have completed minimum three years of service under NHM. Moreover employees who have already drawn the experience/loyalty bonus for the period of three years and completing five years of service during the financial year (2020-21), will be entitled to the deferential percentage (i.e 15-10) of 5 per cent of experience/loyalty bonus, reads an order issued by Mission Director, NHM, J&K.

Choudhary Mohammed Yasin (IAS), Mission Director NHM, J&K while thanking Atal Dulloo, Financial Commissioner Health & Medical Education Department for according formal approval for releasing the experience/loyalty bonus in favour of NHM employees for recognition of their services said that the bonus will be drawn as arrears by all the DDOs which will be the part [● More On P10](#)



City's commercial hub Lal Chowk on Friday wore a deserted look due to a lockdown imposed to tackle coronavirus spread. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

**Coronavirus Tightens Grip On J&K****Cases Hit Record High, 3532 Test Positive, 30 More Die**

Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** Coronavirus cases continue to show no sign of decline as Jammu and Kashmir reported on Friday the biggest ever single day spike of 3532 fresh cases even as the deadly infection claimed the lives of 30 more people across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

While 2360 new cases

were reported from Kashmir Valley, 1172 were detected in Jammu division thus taking the total number of people infected by the virus since last year in J&K to 176083. The active case tally soared to 28359-10660 in Jammu and 17699 in Kashmir Valley.

officials said Friday that 17 people from Jammu division succumbed to the infection while 13 were residents of different parts of the Valley. With these deaths, the fatality count has reached 2283 in J&K-889 in Jammu and 1394 in the Valley. Among the victims include two women, aged 25-years and 27-years [● More On P10](#)

**Curbs In Kashmir To Stop Virus**

Observer News Service

**S**trict restrictions remained in place in parts of Jammu and Kashmir, including this capital city on Friday on the first day of lockdown that began on Thursday evening in an attempt to contain the spread of coronavirus in the [● More On P10](#)

**330 Violators Arrested, 10,000 Fined**

Srinagar: Police have arrested over 300 people and imposed fine on nearly 10,000 others for allegedly violating COVID-19 related standard operating procedures in Kashmir over the past 11 days, officials said on Friday. "During last 24 hours, police has arrested 118 persons, lodged 103 FIRs and also realised fine to the tune of Rs 90,610 from 730 people for violating the guidelines and rules throughout Kashmir valley," the officials said. They said since the outbreak of the second wave of coronavirus, police have enhanced their [● More On P10](#)

**J&K Govt Aborts Vaccination Drive From May 1 We Expect To Get The Vaccines By May 20: Dulloo**

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Amid a shortage of COVID-19 vaccine doses, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday said the third phase of the inoculation drive that will cover people in the 18-45 age group will not begin from May 1 in the union territory.

The new date will be announced once vaccine supply is established, it said.

Financial Commissioner, Health and Medical Education,



Atal Dulloo said the union territory expects to receive vaccines by May 20. The third phase of the COVID-19 vaccination drive is set to roll [● More On P10](#)

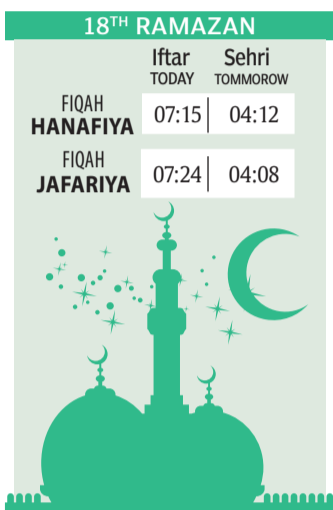
**J&K Civil Services Decentralisation, Recruitment Act Amended**

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration led by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has decided to exclude Health and Medical Education Department identified Gazetted teaching and faculty posts on academic arrangement basis, from the operation of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services Decentralisation and Recruitment Act 2010.

A notification in this regard states that "in exercise of the powers conferred under clause

(ii) of proviso to section 3 of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services Decentralisation and Recruitment Act, 2010 (Act No. XVI of 2010), the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir hereby excludes from the operation of the Act such categories of Gazetted Level teaching/faculty posts as may be identified by the Health and Medical Education Department from time to time for the purpose of appointment on academic arrangement [● More On P10](#)

**NEWS DIGEST****Mild Intensity Quake Joins Ladakh**

**SRINAGAR:** A mild intensity earthquake on Friday jolted parts of the newly carved Union Territory of Ladakh. The 4.1 magnitude earthquake occurred at 9:07 pm Friday with its epicentre latitude 34.63 north and longitude 77.07 east, official sources said. The depth of [● More On P10](#)

**Army Porter Falls To Death**

**SRINAGAR:** An army porter was killed after he slipped from a mountain top along the line of control (LoC) in Karnah sector of Kupwara district. The porter Muneer Ahmad lost his balance and fell into a gorge while climbing a mountain peak with an army team between Rawan Gali and Nath Gali along the LoC in Karnah sector, reports said Friday. An army party was on the [● More On P10](#)

**Employee Dies As Tractor Overturns**

**SRINAGAR:** A forest protection force employee died on Friday after his tractor overturned in Karnah area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district. Shakoor Ahmad Mir of Khawarpora was ploughing in his field at Karanu Niti top area of Karnah on Wednesday evening when his tractor overturned leaving him critically injured, reports said. Mir, as employee of forest protection Force (FPF) [● More On P10](#)

**Ladakh Logs 108 Cases, Single Death**

**LEH:** The total number of COVID-19 cases in Ladakh surged to 13,866 as 108 more people tested positive for the disease, while the death toll climbed to 140 with one more fatality, officials said on Friday. Ninety fresh cases were reported from Leh and 18 from Kargil, they said. Of the total 140 deaths, 96 were reported from Leh and 44 from Kargil. As many as 192 [● More On P10](#)

**MeT Forecasts Erratic Weather Till Friday**

Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** The Meteorological department has predicted erratic weather conditions across Jammu and Kashmir till next week, even as most parts of the Valley received light rainfall on Friday.

"Erratic weather conditions would continue till next Friday. The intermittent light rainfall as per the forecast would occur in the afternoon like today," Deputy Director of Meteorological department (MeT), Mukhtar Ahmad said.

A meteorological department official said Friday that Srinagar recorded a low of 11.4 degree Celsius against 11.6 degree Celsius on the previous night. The temperature was 2.1 degree Celsius above normal for this time of the season in the summer capital of J&K, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 8.2 degree Celsius against previous night's 8.6 degree Celsius and it was above normal by 0.4 degree Celsius in the gateway town of Kashmir, the official said.

Mercury settled at 4.2 degree Celsius against 5.7 degree Celsius on the previous night in Pahalgam. The temperature was below normal by 0.2 degree Celsius during this time of the season in the famous tourist resort in South [● More On P10](#)

**Kashmiri Teacher's Blood Campaign Comes In Handy In Pandemic**

Saqib Jameel

**A**s siren-blaring ambulances are declaring a deafening health emergency in Kashmir, Sajad Hussain is marshalling his troupe to avert the blood crisis in the valley grappling with the contagion groundswell.

His crucial initiative is coming at a time when major health centres have once again become Covid- designed hospitals — tackling a warlike situation created by pernicious pandemic.

In his Magam home in central Kashmir's Budgam district, Hussain's cell phone is buzzing with distressing 'blood' calls. He answers with an assuring tone—knowing well that his battery of 'blood brothers' in Budgam is just a phone call away to handle



the crisis.

As someone who has witnessed a lot of bloodshed during his lifetime, Hussain knows how an ounce of blood can save someone's life.

But since the current circumstances are once again challenging non-covid healthcare operations in the valley, Hussain is focusing on supplying the vital fluid with the help of his

group.

Before becoming Kashmir's full-fledged blood campaigner, Hussain himself was an active donor. He hanged his boots 20 years ago to start

Imam Sajad Blood Donors Group tackling the emergency situations in the valley.

"I'm into blood donation from the last 30 years now," Hussain says with his modest gaze.

"I donate blood to please Almighty and not for any fame. I've donated blood irrespective of the caste, class, religion, and race. I've saved eighty one lives with my individual donations."

The blood drive started in 1990 when Hussain's homeland had become a raging conflict theatre. As the low-scale warfare left many bleeding, Kashmir hospitals at once felt the need of blood.

It was then college-goer Hussain decided to donate his blood for his bleeding brethren.

"In 1990, I first donated my blood to a child in critical condition," Hussain recalls his life-changing moment. "He needed O-Positive blood. And since it matched with my blood group, I rushed to the hospital swiftly."

Once done with donation, Hussain went to see the child in his ward.

"I saw happiness on his mother's face and for the first time I felt peace inside me," emotional Hussain recalls.

The moment he started walking out of that ward, the child's mother stopped him and put something in his pocket.

"I resisted, but she was unrelenting," the blood donor recounts.

"I checked and it was a five rupee coin. I realized then, that if she had got all the wealth in the world she would have happily [● More On P10](#)