

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Sunday 02 May | 19 Ramadan | 1442 Hijri | Vol:24 | Issue: 103 | Pages:12 | Price: ₹3

www.kashmiroserver.net • twitter.com / kashmiroserver • facebook.com/kashmiroserver • Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016



P5 STATE

TOP AUSTRALIA VARSITY TO TRAIN SKUAST-K STUDENTS FOR AGRI-ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Western Sydney University (WSU), Australia is conducting 16-week comprehensive training for the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology Kashmir students for

THINK

APARTHEID IN THE HOLY LAND

In a new, well-documented report, Human Rights Watch (HRW) asserts that the Israeli government is enforcing a systemic policy to maintain the "domination by Jewish Israelis over Palestinians." The nearly seven million Palestinians in the occupied territories and



P3 CITY

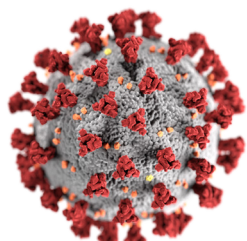
NO VACCINATION WITHOUT REGISTRATION: DC SRINAGAR

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar Muhammad Aijaz Asad on Saturday kick-started the COVID vaccination drive at Shri Maharaj Hari Singh (SMHS) hospital...



Quote!

There is no loneliness more miserable than self-admiration.
—Hazrat Ali



Corona Kills 47 People In J&K, Highest Single Day Toll

3832 Fresh Cases Of Infection Reported, 2330 In Kashmir



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir continues to grapple with a coronavirus pandemic as the infection claimed the lives of 47

more people, the highest ever fatalities in a single day, even as 3832 fresh cases of Covid-19 were detected across J&K in the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, 30

more people succumbed to the virus in Jammu division while 17 coronavirus related deaths were reported from Kashmir Valley, taking the death toll since the outbreak of

Govt Forms 5-Member Crisis Group To Meet Situation

Curfew Extended In Srinagar, 3 Districts Till May 6



Observer News Service

JAMMU: As coronavirus continues to tighten its grip over Jammu and Kashmir, the Union Territory administration on Saturday constituted a five-member Crisis Management Group to maintain synergy between the departments for

speedy decision on planning, coordination, and logistics to meet the prevailing situation.

The five-member Crisis Management Group, comprising Chief Secretary, Financial Commissioners – Finance, and Health & Medical Education; Home Secretary

19 TH RAMAZAN		
	Iftar TODAY	Sehri TOMMOROW
FIQAH HANAFIYA	07:16	04:11
FIQAH JAFARIYA	07:25	04:07

NEWS DIGEST

Burglars Loot Cash From Pulwama Shrine

SRINAGAR: Unidentified burglars looted unaccounted cash from a shrine in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, officials said Saturday. They said unknown thieves during the intervening night of Friday and Saturday, broke open the donation box at a shrine in Rahmoo village of the district and decamped with unaccounted cash. The burglary at

2 Minors Among 3 Injured By Dogs

SRINAGAR: Three people including two minors were bitten by stray dogs on Saturday in Garoora area of north Kashmir's Baniptora district. According to reports, stray dogs attacked and injured three people, including two minors in Garoora area of the district on Saturday. The injured Rafia Masood (4), Zeeshan Hamid Dar (10) and 38 year old Farooq Ahmad were shifted to hospitals but were advised to stay at

2 FCR Employees Injured In Attack

SRINAGAR: At least two employees of the Forest Control Room (FCR) were injured after their team camp under an attack by timber smugglers in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, reports said Saturday. A team of FCR employees were carrying out night patrolling in Mitrigam forest area of the district, when they noticed movement of a few timber-laden horses, reports said. The FCR team came under

2 Dead After Truck Falls Into Gorge

SRINAGAR: A truck driver and his helper on Saturday were killed when their vehicle plunged into a gorge in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir. A truck on the way to Jammu from Srinagar met with an accident near Ramsoo area of Ramban when the driver lost control over the vehicle and it fell into a deep gorge and was submerged in the Bishlari Nallah, sources said Saturday.

Normal Life On Freeze

Normal life remained affected in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday with the imposition of the lockdown in the wake of an alarming surge in coronavirus cases. "Lockdown remained in force in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday as restrictions on the movement and assembly of people continued to remain imposed across the UT," the officials said. They said security forces put barricades on roads at many places in the city here as well as in other district headquarters of the valley and the Jammu region to prevent the movement of people. However, essential and emergency services were allowed, they added. The officials said shops, fuel stations and other business establishments were shut across the UT. The Jammu and Kashmir administration had imposed lockdown in 11 districts – Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla, Budgam, Kulgam, Pulwama, Ganderbal, Jammu, Kathua, Reasi and Udhampur – at 7 pm on Thursday. In the rest

Kupwara Teacher Fired for Being 'Threat To State'

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday sacked a teacher in Kupwara district from his service for his alleged anti-national activities, barely over a week after a Special Task Force (STF) was framed to identifying and the government employees involved in anti-national activities and pose a threat to the

country's security. "The Lieutenant Governor after considering the facts and circumstances of the case and on the basis of the information available that the activities of Idrees Jan, Teacher, Government Middle School, Kralpora, Kupwara are such as to warrant his dismissal from service," reads an order issued by Commissioner secretary General

Widespread Rains Predicted In Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The weather department on Saturday forecast "scattered" and "fairly widespread" rain from 4 to May 7 and has issued "yellow warning" for isolated lightning and thunder showers with gusty winds in Jammu and

Kashmir. Till May 3, isolated light rain and thunderstorms in Kashmir and Pirpanjal range of Jammu division towards late afternoon have been predicted. "There is a possibility of scattered rain on May 4, fairly widespread rain on May 5 and 6 and scattered rain on May 7," a MeT official said

J&K Rolls Out Third Phase Of Vaccination Drive

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The third phase of the COVID-19 vaccination drive to cover people in the 18-45 age group began in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday in a phased manner starting with the cities of Srinagar and Jammu.

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Aijaz Asad kick-started the vaccination drive for the people in the age group of 18-45 years at Shri Maharaj Hari Singh (SMHS) hospital here. Officials said 1.25 lakh new doses of the two vaccines -- Covaxin and Covishield -- reached the valley on Saturday.

Asad said the eligible people must get themselves registered and that nobody will get the jab without registering for the vaccination. He said a total of 10



File Photo: Abid Bhat

designated centres have been set up by the district administration for the people to be vaccinated.

"The number of designated centres will be increased soon," he added.

Earlier in the day, the Jammu and Kashmir administration said COVAXIN will be administered to the 18-45 age group free of cost.

"It will be by prior registration and prior appointment

only. Please do not crowd the vaccination centres without appointment," the Department of Information and Public Relations said on Twitter on Saturday.

The government has announced a free of cost vaccine for the people falling in the age group of 18-45.

The first consignment of the Covaxin vaccine arrived in the valley from Hyderabad on Saturday, the officials said.

They said 15

'Vaccination Underway In Jails'

Jammu- The COVID-19 vaccination of eligible jail inmates is in progress and was started from the holding centre housing over 200 illegal immigrants from Myanmar here, Director General of Police, Prisons Department, V K Singh said on Saturday. He said there are no coronavirus positive cases among over 4,500 inmates in any of the 13 jails across the Union Territory.



Faheem Younus, MD
VP/CQO/Chief of Infectious Diseases, University of MD UCH

4 Vaccine Points

1. None of the vaccines can cause COVID. If you tested + after the shot it's real infection
2. Wait 1-3 months after COVID to get your 1st or 2nd shot
3. COVID vaccines don't suppress immunity
4. OK to get the 2nd dose after 4 or 8 or 12 weeks. But don't skip

Indoor is FAR riskier than outdoor

Less than 10% of COVID was caused by outdoor exposure. Indoor is 18-times riskier

Watch out for offices, public transport, restaurants, wedding halls, religious services, family get together and other indoor gatherings

Dr Khawar Khan Achakzai
Registrar Internal Medicine, GMC Srinagar And Associated Hospitals

Question: Wanted to know whether I should go for vaccination, it's been only 5 weeks since I tested negative.

Answer: Yes, you can go for the vaccine, COVID vaccines should be given 4-8 weeks after resolution of sign symptoms in case of active COVID, both first or second dose

Cop Injured In Anantnag Militant Attack

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A police personnel was injured in a militant attack on a police party in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, an official said.

Militants opened fire on a police party, which was on COVID-19 curfew duty, at Lazibal area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district in the evening, the official said.

He said the policeman, identified as Ghulam Muhammad, was injured in the attack.

The official said the police party retaliated, but the militants managed to flee under the cover of darkness.

The injured policeman was taken to a hospital and was discharged after first aid, he said.

The area has been cordoned off and a hunt has

Kashmiri Boy's 'Oxygen Zakat' Comes As A Breath Of Fresh Air For Valley

Zaid Bin Shabir

Amid the barrage of calls ringing his cellphone inside his home, a jetlagged man is busy filling the backseat of an unknown car with four oxygen cylinders and dozens of PPE kits. It's been weeks since his routine starts and ends with the same activity. The car is bound to travel towards another city hospital where three members of the same family are gasping for breath.

As soon as the tyre screeches the empty roads of Srinagar's Shivpora area, Azhar Malik, 24, is back at his home-cum-office,

attending more distressed calls and jotting down the address of a distressed father, a son and a mother, all imploring to save their loved ones running short of oxygen.

Azhar's oxygen drive started with a different kind of "struggle" when this London-turned boy's lucrative life changed into a young man trapped by his necessity of wearing a stuffy PPE kit, a double layer of surgical masks and a face-shield, inhaling his own exhalations and dwindling outside the Intensive Care Unit of Srinagar's Chest Disease (CD) Hospital.

His contented life made him



a witness of a new journey that started on a devastating note, and continued with moments of relief and rest occurring rarely

and fleetingly.

In March 2020, when the invisible enemy ambushed the lockdown-ridden community,

Azhar was unaware that his role would evolve. Many gasped for their life inside the crowded

grueling nights. By the time she came home, the trauma of disparity and helplessness had al-

MANY OF THOSE UNFORTUNATE people didn't have their loved ones by their side because they themselves were either fighting the virus or they had abandoned their dead. It was disturbing scenario."

wards of Kashmir and one of those helpless people nursing themselves was Azhar's mother.

His mother was finally discharged from the CD Hospital's Emergency unit where she fought contagion for seventeen

ready changed her son.

"I witnessed more than a dozen deaths in one single week," Azhar recalls his dreadful time in the hospital.

"Many of those unfortunate people didn't have their loved

ones by their side because they themselves were either fighting the virus or they had abandoned their dead. It was disturbing scenario."

As months passed adamantly, nothing much was happening in his life except coping with anxiety. "Everyone deserves a respectful end," Azhar says. "I wasn't making peace with those people not having a dignified end."

But without letting the anxiety cloud his vision for a long-time, Azhar came across a social media post—eulogising an unknown Samaritan who had been burying the Covid casualties and delivering