



P3 CITY

DESPITE LOCKDOWN SRINAGAR LOGS OVER 9000 COVID-19 CASES IN NINE DAYS

There has been no let up in the positive cases in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar that recorded over 9000 cases in the past nine days, official figures reveal. The surge in the positive cases

THINK

UNITED WE LIVE, DIVIDED WE DIE

Political leaders who have shown merit must ensure that petty differences do not crop up between them, which will destroy all possibilities of a defiant coalition. At the present time, Mamata Banerjee is certainly one such leader. Arvind Kejriwal in Delhi,



P5 STATE

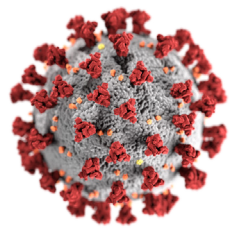
SECOND WAVE IMPACTING CHILDREN SIGNIFICANTLY: EXPERTS

Relatively unaffected during the first wave of Covid-19 last year, a high number of children are contracting the novel coronavirus in the second wave. A large number



Widom Quote!

"If you trust someone. Trust till the end. In the end you either get a good friend or a good lesson"
—Hazrat Ali



Covid-19: J&K Logs Record 60 Deaths, 4788 New Cases

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday reported sixty coronavirus related deaths, the highest single-day fatalities, even as 4788 fresh cases of infection were detected across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

Officials said that 42 more people succumbed to the deadly infection in Jammu division and 18 others died at the various healthcare facilities in Kashmir Valley on Saturday, taking the total number of fatalities since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 2672.

Among the victims from the Valley included a 75-year-old man from Rambagh Srinagar, who died a day after being admitted to SKIMS Soura, officials said. They



said a 70-year-old man from Khan Sahab Budgam died at SKIMS Bemina, hours after he was admitted to the facility. A 76-year-old man from Guzarbal here died a week after he was admitted to SKIMS

Soura, they said. A 58-year-old man from Batwara, at present Pantha Chowk, died at SKIMS Soura, 11 days after he was admitted to the tertiary care hospital. A 67-year-old

Life Remains Crippled On Day 10

Normal life remained affected in many areas in Jammu and Kashmir on the tenth day on Saturday with the imposition of the lockdown in the wake of an alarming surge in coronavirus cases, officials said. Roads across the valley continued to wear a deserted look as public transport remained off the roads and markets were shut, they said. The officials said in the wake of the lockdown announced by the government, restrictions on the movement

Senior KAS Officer Dies Of Covid-19

A senior Kashmir Administrative Service (KAS) officer on Saturday died of COVID-19 at a hospital here, officials said, as Jammu district surpassed Srinagar to head the virus fatality chart among the 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Special Secretary to Government, Finance Department.

Covid +Ve Report Not Mandatory For Hospital Admissions

In a significant directive to the states and Union Territories, the Union Health Ministry on Saturday said requirement of a positive COVID-19 test report is not



Dr Ambrish Mithal
Chairman, Endocrinology and Diabetes, Max HealthCare

Don't chase #RTPCRtest after recovery
Repeat #RTPCR NOT necessary
>10 days after onset of symptoms
>3 days after absence of symptoms
You are not infectious to others any more
Non infectious virus particles may persist in the nose/ throat and give false +ve results

Dr. Arvinder Singh Soin
Group Chairman, Liver Transplantation, Medanta Hospital

As we gear up for a third wave, India needs to keep breathing. Healthcare workers need a breather. And VACCINATIONS need a 10x jump.

Dr. Muzaffar Maqbool
Researcher and Associate Professor, Internal Medicine GMC Srinagar

It is the race against time. Numbers going up rapidly. Preparedness at war footing level will save us from the coming Covid tsunami. Lot is being done at every level, lot needs to be done at every level.
Time to wake up to this challenge as always.

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT IT#

26TH RAMAZAN

	Iftar TODAY	Sehri TOMORROW
FIQAH HANAFIYA	07:23	04:02
FIQAH JAFARIYA	07:32	03:58

NEWS DIGEST

Explosive Material Recovered In Doda

JAMMU: In a major seizure, security forces have recovered 40 kilograms of high explosive material along with several improvised explosive devices (IEDs) during a joint search operation in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir, the Army said on Saturday. "The timely recovery of the explosives thwarted the nefarious designs of terrorists and their few supporters to destabilise the

Truck Drivers 'Looted' On Highway

SRINAGAR: Two non-local truck drivers were allegedly looted by some extortionists along the Srinagar-Baramulla highway in Parimpora area of the city outskirts. The truck drivers Ashish Raturi and Manvender Singh, both residents of Punjab have reported to police that three unidentified youth looted cash and cell phones from them near Fruit Mandi Parimpora where they had parked their trucks

Teen Girl Dies Of Cardiac Arrest

SRINAGAR: A teenage died after suffering a massive cardiac arrest in Koll village of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Saturday. 16-year-old Misbah Maqbool complained of chest pain at her home on Saturday and was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital by her family members, an official said. He said that at the hospital, the girl was declared dead on arrival. She had secured 496 marks out

Youth Arrested In Minor Girl's Rape Case

JAMMU: A second accused was arrested on Saturday in a minor girl rape case in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. The girl was allegedly raped by two persons in the Kandi area of Rajouri on April 28, following which a case under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act was registered, they said. Police said

Robust Mechanism In Place To Deal With Situation: Govt

The Jammu and Kashmir administration said on Saturday that it has a robust mechanism in place to deal with any kind of situation that may arise due to the second wave of Covid-19 in Kashmir division. Talking to media persons during his tour to this south Kashmir district, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole urged people to adhere to Covid related SOPs and guidelines in letter and spirit and termed it an imperative and effective way to stop the spread of the virus, an official spokesperson said. "He assured that the administration has put in place all requisite facilities including Oxygen supply to deal with any emergent situation that may arise due to the 2nd wave of Covid," he added. The Div Com as per the official spokesperson asked people to follow advice of doctors and experts to remain healthy and avoid pressing the panic button. He further said that collectively we can overcome this pandemic and appealed to the public to strictly

SC Orders Release Of Prisoners To Decongest Jails

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Taking note of the "unprecedented surge" in COVID-19 cases, the Supreme Court on Saturday moved to decongest prisons and ordered the immediate release of prisoners who were granted bail or parole last year.

Observing that the decongestion of prisons housing around 4 lakh inmates across the country is a matter concerning "health and right to life of" prisoners and police personnel, a bench headed by Chief Justice N V Ramana said all those who were allowed to go out on bail in March last year by the high-powered committees of states and Union Territories (UTs) be granted the same relief without any reconsideration to avoid delay.

"Further we direct that, those inmates who were granted parole, pursuant to our earlier orders, should be again granted parole for a period of 90 days in order to tide over the pandemic," the bench, also having Justices L Nageswara Rao and Surya Kant, said in its order uploaded on the apex court's website on Saturday.



There is a serious concern about the spread of COVID-19 in "overcrowded prisons where there is lack of proper sanitation, hygiene and medical facilities" the bench said, adding there is a requirement for effective management of pandemic from within the prison walls so as to defeat this deadly virus.

The top court took note of its March 23, 2020, order by which it had directed all states and UTs to constitute high-powered committee (HPC) to consider releasing on parole or interim bail prisoners and the under trials for offences



Basking in the sun at Lal Chowk: A man is seen taking a nap in the deserted commercial hub of Srinagar- KO photo.

Couple Held With Heroin Worth Rs 860 Cr

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: The police have arrested an Afghan couple and recovered over 100 kilograms of heroin worth Rs 860 crore from their possession, officials said on Saturday. The accused have been identified as Mohammad Shafi (48) and Tareena (36), both natives of

Kandahar in Afghanistan, they said. The police recovered 125.840 kilograms of heroin worth Rs 860 crore in the international market, officials said. "On Friday, police got information that two people would come from Wazirabad with heroin in their car and will go towards Khyala. A trap was laid, and

Strained Over Kashmir, Saudi, Pak Leaders Vow To Reset Ties



Agenceis

JEDDAH: Saudi Arabia and long standing ally Pakistan signed several agreements Saturday and vowed to reset ties strained by months of disagreement over policy on the Kashmir dispute.

On his seventh visit to the wealthy kingdom since his 2018 election, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan was given a warm welcome by Saudi officials in the western coastal city of Jeddah. He was greeted by Saudi Arabia's de-facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at the airport, before holding talks with Saudi officials at Jeddah's Al-Salam Palace.

"They affirmed the depth of relations between the two brotherly countries and underscored the importance of expanding and intensifying aspects of bilateral cooperation and coordination," a Saudi

statement said. Although the kingdom was the first foreign country Imran Khan visited after taking office, Riyadh appeared frustrated with Islamabad last year.

In a sharply worded statement in August, Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi called on the Saudi-based Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to convene a high-level meeting on Kashmir.

The call raised eyebrows in Riyadh, where it was widely seen as a warning that Pakistan was preparing to call for a session outside OIC auspices.

Saudi Arabia prides itself on its role as guardian of Islam's holiest sites and is particularly sensitive about any move that might undermine its leadership of the 57-member pan-Islamic body.

And, while

Govt Rejects Land Acquisition Request By BSF

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has turned down the Border Security Force's proposal for allotment of 515 kanals of land to the force for setting up the paramilitary force's key location point (KLP) in Samba district of Jammu province and instead asked the district administration to identify 160 kanals of state land for the purpose.

According to the official documents, the Financial Commissioner Revenue rejected the land acquisition case of BSF on the ground that huge chunks of land cannot be given to the

force and asked BSF and DC Samba to identify suitable state Land measuring 160 kanals. ".....FCR has rejected the case file on the ground that a huge chunk of land measuring 515 KI 18 MI cannot be given to BSF and asked BSF and DC Samba to identify suitable state land measuring 20 acres (160 Kanals)," reads the documents.

The FCR turned down the demand after case file was submitted to FCR by divisional commissioner Jammu for issuance of notification under section 6 and 7 of

The farmers had opposed the acquisition of land for setting up KLP by BSF

Jammu BJP Leader Locks Horns With MoS PMO Demands CBI Probe Into 'Illegal' Mining Activities In Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: BJP leader and former MLC Vikram Randhawa on Saturday demanded a CBI probe into alleged illegal mining activities and operations of the stone-crusher units near the Tawi river. He reiterated his claim that the Jammu and Kashmir government has lost a huge revenue due to the "malpractices" of certain officials.

Randhawa, who is also president of the Stone Crusher Owners Association, welcomed the setting up of a four-member committee for an in-depth examination of mining activities in the Tawi and a high court



stay on the recovery of fine from the unit holders. On May 3, the J&K BJP Secretary had levelled serious allegations of corruption against several officials of the

Geology and Mining department and Union Minister Jitendra Singh's office in Jammu and also threatened to immolate himself on coming Monday. The BJP's disciplinary committee served Randhawa a show-cause notice after he went public against Singh, while the Union minister filed a criminal suit against him in a Delhi court for "committing an offence of defamation" against him. "There is a high court ban on mining activities in the Tawi river but it is only on papers as illegal activities under official patronage are going on and we (unit holders) have been made the scapegoat