



P4 CITY

## LOCKDOWN HELPED CONTROL SPREAD OF COVID IN SRINAGAR: DC

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammed Aijaz Asad Wednesday said that district administration is taking all possible measures to break the chain of coronavirus infection in Srinagar.

P6 THE WRITING ON THE WALL

There is no gainsaying that the pandemic and the lockdowns have affected the blue-collared class more than anyone else. We, of the white-collared class, retain our monthly salaries even as we work from home. But can an auto driver work from home...



P5 NEWS

## ONLY TWO PERCENT OF PRISONERS VACCINATED SO FAR IN J&K

A mere two percent of jail population in J&K has been inoculated against COVID-19 so far. The details reveal that only 91 prisoners have been administered...



**Quote!**  
Wanting to be someone else is a waste of the person you are.  
- Marilyn Monroe

# Arrangements In Place To Deal With Covid Situation: Govt

Ajaz Ali

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration has put adequate arrangements in place to deal with any kind of situation that may arise due to the second wave of Covid-19 in Kashmir division, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole said Wednesday.

Pole made these remarks during his visit to Bandipora where he took stock of Covid containment measures and made on spot and detailed inspection of various medical and healthcare facilities associated with Covid management in the district, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the Div Com described the situation "fully under control" in the district as adequate measures have been taken for strengthening the system to fight the war against Covid-19 and in this regard bed capacity has been augmented at various health facilities and Covid care centers in the district besides making High Flow Oxygen Plant functional at Covid Level-III Hospital.

"He said there have been very few referrals from Bandipora to Srinagar



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Hospital that speaks volumes about the robust mechanism put in place in the district," he added.

As per the official spokesperson, Pole said that patients in home isolation are also taken care of and Covid-19

care kits are being provided to positive patients for their better treatment.

"He said the administration is providing intensive care to the patients in Home isolation so that they are provided treatment at their... More On P10

## 62 More Corona Deaths In J&K, 3696 Fresh Cases

Observer News Service

As many as 62 more people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday while 3969 fresh cases of infection were reported from the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. According to the officials, 39 more people died of Covid-19 in Jammu and 23 others in Kashmir Valley on Wednesday raising the total fatality count since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 3355. Among the victims from the Valley, the officials said included a woman from Baramulla, who died at JLNH hospital Rainawari here. Also, a... More On P10

## J&K To Have Covid Care Centre In Every Panchayat

In a bid to strengthen health infrastructure in rural areas amid the COVID-19 second wave, Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday directed district authorities to ensure a five-bed COVID Care Centre in every panchayat of the Union Territory. He also approved Rs 1 lakh from the district capex budget for the creation of facilities in schools, community halls and panchayat ghars in consultation with the nearest health centre... More On P10



**Dr. Faheem Younus**  
VP/ COO/ Chief of Infectious Diseases University of MD UCH

**Vaccine After COVID**  
Four female healthcare workers developed reinfection with the SAME strain of COVID (not a variant) 2-6 months later.

Lesson: Even if you've had COVID, get vaccinated within 2-MONTHS for durable, better lasting immunity.

**Dr. Simal Sooin**  
Dermatologist

The good news is that the ICMR has dropped plasma therapy from its COVID treatment guidelines  
The bad news is that it happened after LAKHS have been treated with plasma without any evidence that it works

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

Receiving lot of queries regarding Black Fungus (MUCORMYCOSIS). Please do not panic. We can prevent it. Remember  
1. Avoid injudicious and self use of steroids and antibiotics.  
2. Fill flowmeters with sterile water and change frequently.  
3. Identify warning symptoms early. And last but not the least proper management of diabetes and effective blood glucose control is pivotal.  
Please do not continue steroids and antibiotics for a prolonged period of time especially post discharge. Remain in touch with your treating physician after discharge

## NEWS DIGEST

### Magnitude 3.2 Quake Hits Doda

**SRINAGAR:** An earthquake of magnitude 3.2 on the Richter scale hit Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Wednesday afternoon, officials said. However, there were no reports of any damage, they said. The earthquake occurred at 2.34 pm and its epicentre was Doda, according to the officials.

### BSF Nabs Pak 'Intruder' Along IB

**JAMMU:** A Pakistani national was arrested in injured condition on Tuesday night after the BSF foiled an infiltration bid along the International Border (IB) in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir Tuesday night, officials said Wednesday. This is the second infiltration attempt in the Samba sector in the past fortnight. Earlier, an intruder was shot dead by BSF along the IB in the same sector on May 5. "A Pakistani national was noticed attempting to sneak... More On P10

### Woman Dies Of Heart Attack

**SRINAGAR:** A woman died on Wednesday after suffering a massive heart attack in Bandipora district of north Kashmir. 43-year-old Saleema, wife of Mohammad Maqbool of Ajas area of the district complained of chest pain on Wednesday afternoon following which she was removed by her family to the nearby community health centre (CHC) Hajin, reports said. However, on reaching the health facility, the doctors there declared her brought dead... More On P10

### Police Officer Dies Of 'Poisoning'

**SRINAGAR:** A police officer, who had allegedly consumed some poisonous substance on duty in south Kashmir's Kulgam district a fortnight ago, died at the SK institute of medical sciences (SKIMS) Soura here on Wednesday. Assistant Sub-Inspector Ghulam Nabi (106/Kgm Exk 891249) posted at police station Qoimoh had felt conscious after he had allegedly consumed some poisonous substance on May 5 this month, news agency KNT reported... More On P10

### Rape Accused Held After 5 Years

**JAMMU:** A rape accused was arrested from Srinagar district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday after a five-year hunt, police said. Sartaj Aziz, a resident of Bagga village of Mahore in Reasi district, was on the run for the last five years after jumping bail in a case related to the abduction and rape of a woman in 2012, a police official said. He said the charge sheet against the accused was filed in the court of law in Reasi on... More On P10

## Covid-II Wave Highly Contagious, Transmission Quick: Expert

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Terming the second wave of coronavirus as highly contagious that transmits from infected person to others at a fast pace, a senior medical practitioner on Wednesday said that if

standard operating procedures (SOPs) are not followed and vaccination not done to achieve herd community, the virus may come again in a different form and have more dangerous consequences.

Dr Hardeep Singh, Professor of Medicine, Government

Medical College (GMC) Srinagar said Wednesday that during the first wave it was observed that the affected person could infect only a few persons around him, but now (in the second wave) the same person affects almost all persons around... More On P10

## 40 Oxygen Cylinders Go Missing From Kupwara Hospital 3 Staffers Suspended, Probe Ordered

Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** The authorities in north Kashmir's Kupwara on Wednesday suspended three hospital employees and ordered a probe after it surfaced

that at least forty oxygen cylinders have gone missing.

According to the reports, the authorities at the Sub-district hospital Kupwara were taken back after it surfaced during the counting of... More On P10

## PIL Against PSA: HC Grants Govt Month's Time

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir High Court has granted the government a month's more time to file response to a Public Interest Litigation, challenging certain provisions of the J&K Public Safety Act.

A division bench of Chief

Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul granted the time after D. C. Raina, Advocate General, prayed for the same.

Thereafter, the court said the petitioner, a senior counsel, shall file a rejoinder to the same within two weeks.

In a Public Interest Litigation petition filed in 2019, the senior... More On P10

## J&K's Financial System Most Transparent In Country: LG

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Asserting that the promotion of good governance in financial management is one of the core objectives of the government, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said the financial system in Jammu and Kashmir is one of the most transparent systems.

Sinha on Wednesday released Annual report - Promoting Good Governance compiled by the finance department to showcase major initiatives undertaken by it in 2020-21 to bring transparency and accountability in the execution of the public works.

"Promoting good governance in financial management has been one of the core objectives of the Government. The financial system in the union territory of J&K is one of the most transparent systems anywhere



and is amongst the key changes that have taken roots in the UT, the Lt Governor said.

The report in the form of an e-book provides insight into reforms, steps implemented by the Finance Department to institutionalise prudence in financial management in J&K, which has truly transformed the Union Territory.

The Lt Governor also highlighted major reforms taken by the government to bring

transparency to the financial system and making it more robust.

Sinha said implementation of transformative reforms such as BEAMS (Budget Estimation and Allocation Monitoring System) that enables online budgetary process and timely release of funds against approved works, online submission of bills through J&K PaySys, and mandatory administrative approvals, among others, have brought financial... More On P10

## IAS Officer Shahid Choudhary Hospitalized

**JAMMU:** Senior IAS officer Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, who was recently deployed to oversee COVID containment measures in Jammu zone, was hospitalised here early on Wednesday following a minor heart attack, officials said.

Choudhary, a 2009 batch IAS officer, is presently... More On P10

# 'ANGELS IN APRON': Guiding Light In Kashmir's Gloom

Auqib Javed

Before trying some sleep at night, Sheeraza Akhtar, 24, takes an anxiety-alleviating pill called Petril.

The mind-altering medicine became a new normal for this jovial nurse when her workplace, a hospital ward, became a "madhouse", stormed by swarms for an emergency oxygen treatment.

As the crisis-manager of a hospital ward, she had never seen Kashmir as breathless as the unseen bug made it in its second coming.

"I'm suffering from hysteria," Sheeraza says in a PPE-gear heaved voice. "I feel suffocated to attend this crisis and often lose peace of mind due to frequent deaths in my ward. I crave



to see my family but can't while doing this grueling duty."

Working as junior staff nurse at government tertiary care hospital, SMHS, Sheeraza is witnessing an "unspeakable" crisis in the ward.

She may be leading from the front and hailed as "the guiding light in the gloom" for the lockdown-plagued society, but Sheeraza says, it's a daily razor-walk for her tribe.

"The doctors at the hospital told me lately that I'm mentally disturbed and need psychiatrist help," she says.

"Whatever I witness in my ward, be it the death of young people, or the terrible conditions of Covid patients, ends up haunting my sleep.

I get up in the middle of the

night— panting and with sweat beads on my forehead. This is not normal. None of us had signed for this!"

But this challenging task and perils involved in it hardly discourage these frontliners from performing their task.

Honouring their role, this year's International Nurse Day, observed on May 12, was celebrated with the telling theme: "Nurses: A Voice to Lead - A vision for future healthcare".

Mindful of this medical wall's importance in the current health crisis, Delhi on May 3 surged their ranks by recruiting the final-year nursing students for the Covid combat.

But those holding the fort during the "unprecedented situation" are decrying disparity and apathy... More On P10