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P3 CITY

## COVID-19: SRINAGAR AIRPORT WITNESSES 75 PERCENT DECREASE IN FOOTFALL

Amid spike in Covid-19 positive cases in Kashmir, and other parts of India, footfall at Srinagar International Airport has come down to a record low of 75 percent, while daily flight movements have...

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## BEYOND THE OBVIOUS: INDIA'S PRO-PALESTINE POSITION

Indian for most of its history, before as well as after independence, has been in favour of the Palestinian position. After Israel's independence, India took more than two years until September 1950 to...



P5 STATE

## APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR, VACCINATION ONLY TOOL TO FIGHT COVID

As Covid pandemic has disturbed every aspect of life, including social relations in public & private life due its contagious nature and devastation in terms of deaths...



Widom! Quote!

In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity.

- Albert Einstein

## NEWS DIGEST

### Siblings Held With Six Grenades: Police

**SRINAGAR:** Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested two brothers after recovering six grenades from their possession in north Kashmir's Kupwara town. Jahangir Ahmad Hajam and his brother Abdul Hameed Hajam, residents of Khawarpara village of Tangdhar near the Line of Control (LoC) were arrested. **More On P10**

### Geelani's Brother-In-Law Passes Away

**SRINAGAR:** Haji Mukhtar Ahmad Makhdoomi brother in law of former Hurriyat Conference (G) chairman and veteran separatist Syed Ali Shah Geelani breathed his last on Thursday at a hospital here. A retired government employee, Makhdoomi passed away in the wee hours on Thursday at the SK Institute of medical sciences (SKIMS), here where he was undergoing treatment for the last six days. He is survived by three sons and two daughters. **More On P10**

### 2 Schools Sealed For Violating Covid SOPs

**SRINAGAR:** The authorities on Thursday sealed two schools for violating Covid-19 guidelines in Beerwah area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district. Officials said that the authorities after receiving a complaint visited these schools and found them running community classes. He said both the schools in Chewdara village of Beerwah namely Al-Huda and Al-Asar were found open and running community classes. **Both the schools. More On P10**

### Motorcyclist Knocks Pedestrian To Death

**SRINAGAR:** A 52-year-old pedestrian was killed after he was hit by a motorcyclist in Shangus area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Thursday afternoon. An official said that a 52-year-old pedestrian identified as Gulzar Ahmad Sheikh of Shangus was hit by a motorcyclist this afternoon. However, he was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital where doctors declared him brought dead. A police official said. **More On P10**

### Cleaner Killed After Truck Falls Into Gorge

**SRINAGAR:** An 18-year-old truck conductor was killed on Thursday after he fell into a 300-feet deep gorge at Khooni Nallah area of Ramban district, an official said. Station House Officer (SHO) Ramsoo, Rourf Ahmed Khan said that an 18-year-old boy, a truck conductor by profession, identified as Talib Ali, son of Mohammed Khali of Shangus, was in a cabin of truck bearing registration number JK02AG-7873 when he opened the window and accidentally fell into a deep gorge. **More On P10**

## GMC Jammu To Fill 313 Posts For 500 Bedded Covid Hospital

### Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** The Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu on Thursday advertised 313 new contractual posts for the upcoming 500 bedded temporary Covid Hospital in collaboration with the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).

The advertisements issued here by GMC Jammu has invited as per Performa, from eligible candidates, for engagement in this 500 bedded temporary Covid Hospital initially for a period of one year extendable up to maximum of three years (One year at a time and further extension subject to good performance and conduct), an

official spokesperson said. He said to fill the vacancies, a walk in interview shall also be conducted for newly created 35 posts of Medical Officers and the date of interview is scheduled on May 24 at Committee Room GMC Jammu at 11 am.

Similarly, two other separate advertisements have also been issued for hiring 16 Nursing Supervisors, 195 Junior Staff Nurses, 47 Pharmacists, 12 Lab Technicians and eight X-Ray Technicians under different pay scales with prescribed eligibility criteria and age limit for any given post.

The twin advertisements read that the application as per prescribed format should reach the office of. **More On P10**



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir police has decided to impose strictest curfew in the Valley, especially this capital city on Friday as it's the death anniversaries of Mirwaiz Molvi Muhammad

Farooq and Peoples Conference founder Abdul Ghani Lone.

According to sources, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Vijay Kumar on Thursday held deliberations with all DisC and SSSP through virtual mode to take

stock of the situation.

"It was decided that Police shall enforce the strictest corona curfew tomorrow (May 21)," they said.

Across India, May 21 is observed as anti-terrorism day. "The IGP instructed all field officers to remain. **More On P10**

## J&K Logs 67 More Deaths, 4169 New Cases

Firdaus Ali

**J**ammu and Kashmir reported on Thursday 67 more coronavirus related deaths while 4169 people tested positive for virus across the Union territory during the last 24 hours. Officials said that 41 fatalities were reported from Jammu division and 26 from Kashmir Valley thus taking the death toll since the outbreak of pandemic in J&K last year to 3422. Among the victims from the Valley, officials said. **More On P10**

## 14% Rise In NPS Contribution Of Employees

### Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Fulfilling the demand of the employees working under National Pension System (NPS), the Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday announced enhancement of its monthly contribution to 14% from the month of April, 2020.

"The Government shall make fourteen percent (14%) of matching contribution from April 2020," reads an order issued by the Department of Finance on Thursday.

According to an official spokesperson, the move. **More On P10**

## Family Booked For Violating Funeral SOPs

### Observer Monitoring Desk

**P**olice on Thursday filed a case against a family from north Kashmir's Bandipora district for flouting guidelines related to the burial of a coronavirus victim. According to reports, a Covid-19 patient from Chak-Arsala Khan area of Bandipora district succumbed to infection on Wednesday at the SKIMS Bemina, where he was being treated by the doctors. The health department officials, as per the Covid-19 guidelines, shifted the body to his native village for burial. However, the family members of the victim, reports said, did not adhere to the Covid-19 guidelines and gathered. **More On P10**

## Ban On Constructions In Gulmarg To Continue: HC

### Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Thursday said that its directions regarding ban on all types of constructions in Gulmarg and Tangmarg shall continue.

"The earlier directions of the Court stopping of construction activities at Gulmarg/Tangmarg, shall remain in operation and if any person is found violating the same and

continues with the construction activities his/her property shall be sealed forthwith and that no building or construction material shall be allowed to be transported in the area," said a division bench of Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul.

"It would be obligatory upon the Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, SSP, Baramulla and the Gulmarg Development Authority to ensure that no

## LAWDA Asked To Take Call On AYUSH Hospital

**J**ammu and Kashmir High Court has asked LAWDA to take a call on 50-bedded AYUSH Hospital at Shalimar here, leaving it open for the authority to decide even on demolition or sealing of the construction. Disposing of an application by Director ISM, a division bench of Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Vinod Chatterji. **More On P10**

## Second Covid Wave Targeting Young: Expert

### Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Urging people to understand the gravity of the situation and maintain physical distance at their homes too, a senior doctor said Thursday that the second wave of coronavirus is highly infectious, targeting mostly younger people and leaving a trail of death.

People need to understand the gravity of the situation and should take precautionary measures even at home," Dr Ishrat Hussain Dar, Professor Medicine, Government Medical College (GMC), Srinagar said Thursday, while

advising people to maintain physical distance at their homes too.

"Rushing to crowded places will increase the chances of getting infected with the disease that may aggravate health of a person," he added.

The senior expert termed Covid-19, a formidable and kill-er disease and acknowledged the pan World spread of the virulent SARS COV2 disease and the large-scale devastation and deaths caused by it.

He said the second Corona wave is highly infectious, targeting mostly younger people and leaving a trail. **More On P10**

## Health Dept To Keep Check On Attendants

### Agencies

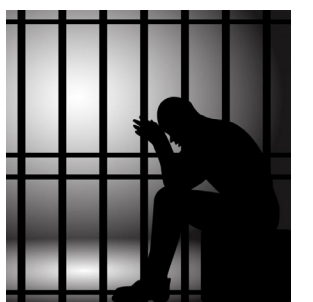
**I**n a bid to contain the spread of deadly coronavirus infection in the healthcare institutions, the department of health on Thursday directed the Chief Medical Officers (CMO) and Medical Superintendents of all District Hospitals to monitor influx of attendants in dedicated Covid hospitals and health centers. In an order issued by Director Health Kashmir Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad Rather on Wednesday, reads that "Kindly refer to the subject cited above. In this context, as has been directed by the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir during the course of the meeting held on. **More On P10**

## Jailed SOG DySP, 2 Govt Teachers Sacked From Services

### Ajaz Ali

**SRINAGAR:** Continuing its drive to terminate the public servants "in the interest of the security of the State" the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday sacked DySP Davinder Singh besides two government teachers from north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

The dismissal order of suspended DySP Davinder Singh, who was arrested while ferrying two Hizb-ul-Mujahideen militants in a vehicle on the Srinagar-Jammu Highway



in January last year, was issued by Jammu and Kashmir administration on the directions of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday. "Whereas, **More On P10**

## India-China Ties At Crossroads: Jaishankar

### Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The relationship between India and China is at a crossroads and its direction depends on whether the neighbouring country adheres to various agreements on maintaining peace and tranquillity along the border, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Thursday referring to the eastern Ladakh standoff.

Jaishankar said the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit in 1988 to China 26 years after the 1962 conflict led to a consensus on having stability along the frontier which was followed by the. **More On P10**



As the revival of tourism season seems far from sight in wake of corona surge, the administration has again shifted focus on de-weeding famous Dal Lake. KO Photo, Abid Bhat