

**02** 3 bootleggers arrested with 34 bottles of liquor smuggled from Punjab

**03** Kot Bhalwal residents demand basic health facilities as SDH declared dedicated COVID Hospital

**11** Even Azad admits COVID situation in Jammu grave

## LG visits GMC, directs for hiring additional paramedical staff, expeditious operationalisation of 100-bedded additional COVID ward



LG Manoj Sinha during visit to GMC Jammu on Sunday.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Sunday visited Government Medical College, Jammu to review COVID clinical management measures being undertaken by the Hospital administration. Emphasizing on strength-

ening the healthcare workforce, the Lt Governor directed for hiring additional Paramedical staff, besides rational utilization of existing resources to ensure effective patient care management.

The Lt Governor directed that at all times, Senior

- »Administration to install two new Oxygen plants at GMC Jammu to augment its oxygen capacity
- »At all times, Senior Doctors, Nurses and Paramedics' presence in clinical areas to be ensured by Hospital Administration
- »Senior doctors should also take the front line in informing people to adopt safe practices and COVID protocol.
- »Visits DRDO's 500-bedded under construction COVID hospital site at Bhagwati Nagar
- »Fully air-conditioned makeshift COVID facility with 125 ICU beds and ventilators to be completed by May 25, 2021
- »Health Dept should provide all support to DRDO; deadlines set for completion of road, other auxiliary works.

Doctors, Nurses, and Paramedics' presence in clinical areas to be ensured by Hospital Administration. He also stressed upon optimized supportive care for COVID patients and round-the-clock care by the hospital staff.

Dr. Shashi Sudhan Sharma, Principal & Dean GMC & AH's Jammu informed the Lt Governor that as many as 250 nurses would join GMC Jammu

within three days, substantially adding to the available healthcare workforce.

Laying special emphasis on providing better facilities to the patients, the Lt Governor directed the senior doctors to ensure proper availability of all medicines, nutritious meals, round-the-clock care of patients, food and water for attendants of the patients, and proper

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### SFs detect, neutralise IED in Shopian

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Security forces detected and neutralised an improvised explosive device (IED) on Sunday following inputs about a terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district, police said. They had inputs about the attack and the IED was recovered after intense searches were launched this morning, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Shopian, Amrit

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### 66.26 lakh eligible families to get free 5 Kg ration per person for May, June in J&K

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In addition to the normal quantity of NFSA ration, the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs has started distributing an additional free 5KG of foodgrains per person for the months of May and June, 2021 through its PDS (ration ghats) among the 66.26 Lakh AAY and

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## 4,141 new COVID cases, 59 deaths in J&K Drive for effective implementation of containment SoPs launched in Jammu

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday recorded 4,141 fresh COVID-19 cases, raising the tally to 2,44,608, while 59 more deaths pushed the fatality count to 3,149 in the union territory, officials said.

Of the fresh cases, 1,690 were reported from the Jammu division and 2,451 from the Kashmir division, they said.

The officials said Srinagar district recorded the highest of 831 cases, followed by 625 in Jammu district and 320 in Budgam district.

The number of active cases is 51,623 in the union territory, while 1,89,836 patients have recovered so far, they said.

The death toll in the union territory due to the pandemic rose to 3,149 with 59 fresh deaths in the past 24 hours.

According to the daily Media Bulletin, out of

### GMC Jammu provided 29 ventilators to tide over rush of critical COVID patients

JAMMU: Directorate of Health Services (DHS) Jammu has provided 29 ventilators received by it under PM Cares scheme to Government Medical College Jammu.

The ventilators are urgently required in GMC Jammu for catering to the heavy rush of critical COVID patients.

The concerned authorities were directed to handover the ventilators along with the accessories and 04 oxygen cylinders (D Type) per ventilator to the GMC Jammu administration.

79,21,228 test results available, 79,21,228 samples have been tested as negative till 16th May, 2021.

Till date 19,65,811 persons have been enlisted for observation which included 74,816 persons in home quarantine including facilities operated by government, 51,623 in isolation and 1,19,230 in home surveillance. Besides, 17,16,993 persons have completed their surveillance period.

Amid reports of shortage of vaccines in Kashmir, no jab was administered across the

10 districts in the Valley on Sunday, the officials said.

Meanwhile, District Administration Jammu launched this morning a massive drive for effective implementation of COVID containment SoPs and guidelines across the District.

The latest Guidelines and SOPs issued by the State Disaster Management Committee and District Magistrate are being enforced on the ground through the ADMs, Tehsildars and

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## COVID curfew extended in Ladakh till May 24

### 177 fresh cases, 2 more deaths reported

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: The curfew imposed in Ladakh to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has been extended by another week till May 24, officials said on Sunday.

The extension of the curfew, which was scheduled to end on May 17, was ordered by the district magistrates of Leh and Kargil in separate orders, they said.

As of Sunday, Ladakh's COVID-19 tally stands at 16,333 and the death toll at 165, according to officials. In his order, Leh District Magistrate Shrikant

Balasaheb Suse said the extension of restrictions that are already in place is meant to avoid the further spread of the infection.

"restrictions imposed on all kind of movements/activities across Leh district shall be extended from 17.05.2021 (5 AM); and shall remain in force till 24.05.2021 (7 AM)," he said.

All shops selling groceries, vegetable and fruit, chicken, milk, dairy products, automobile spare parts, confectionery items and tyre repairs shops would

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## Already booked online appointments for 2nd Covishield dose to remain valid: Govt

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Union health ministry on Sunday clarified that already booked online appointments for second dose of Covishield vaccine will remain valid and the same will not be cancelled on Co-WIN platform.

It, however, said requisite changes have now been done in the Co-WIN digital portal, as a result of which further online or on-site appointments will not be possible if the period after first dose date for a beneficiary is less than 84 days.

The Centre had on May 13 extended the gap between the

first and second doses of Covishield vaccine to 12-16 weeks based on the recommendations by the COVID Working Group chaired by N K Arora.

The Government of India has communicated this change to states and UTs. The Co-WIN digital portal has also been reconfigured to reflect this extension of interval for two doses of Covishield, manufactured by Serum Institute of India (SII) to 12-16 weeks, the ministry said.

"However, there have been reports in a section of

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### Normal life remains affected in J&K due to lockdown

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The lockdown imposed in Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of an alarming surge in coronavirus cases entered the 18th day on Sunday as the normal life remained affected in most areas of the union territory, officials said.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration had on Saturday extended the lockdown till May 24. The officials said restrictions

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### Petrol, diesel prices hiked again

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Petrol price on Sunday was increased by 24 paise per litre and diesel by 27 paise, pushing rates across the country to record highs and that of petrol in Mumbai to near Rs 99 a litre.

The increase led to rates in Delhi climbing to Rs 92.58 per litre and diesel to Rs 83.22, according to a price notification of

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**WEATHER**

**Temperature (Jammu)**  
Max: 35.9°C Min: 22.0°C

**Humidity**  
Max : 48 Min : 25

**Temperature (Srinagar)**  
Max: 21.4°C Min: 11.7°C

**Humidity**  
Max : 71 Min: 60

Sunset : 19:23 Hours  
Sunrise : 05:33 Hours

## Govt issues guidelines on COVID management in rural, peri-urban areas

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: As rural areas see a rise in COVID-19 cases, the Centre on Sunday issued new guidelines for containment of the virus advising that peri-urban and rural areas plan a minimum 30-bedded COVID Care Centre for asymptomatic cases with comorbidities or mild cases where home isolation is not feasible.

Provision of Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) kits should be made at all public health facilities including Sub-centres or Health and Wellness Centres and Primary Health

Centres, the Union Health Ministry said.

Noting that besides urban areas reporting a large number of cases, a gradual ingress is now being seen in peri-urban, rural and tribal areas as well, the ministry released the 'SOP on COVID-19 Containment and Management in Peri-urban, Rural & Tribal areas' to enable communities strengthen primary level healthcare infrastructure at all levels to intensify COVID-19 response.

It said COVID Care Centres (CCC) can admit a

suspect or confirmed case but should have separate areas for suspected and confirmed cases with preferably separate entry and exit for each.

"Suspect and confirmed cases should not be allowed to mix under any circumstances," the SOP said.

According to the SOP, in every village, active surveillance should be done for influenza-like illness/ severe acute respiratory infections (ILI/SARI) periodically by ASHA with help of Village Health

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### FIR registered against school principal, her deputy for COVID-related death

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A principal and her deputy of a private missionary school were booked in connection with the death of a teacher due to COVID-19 here last week, officials said on Sunday.

The FIR was registered at police station Gandhi Nagar after a magisterial inquiry into the death of music teacher Neelu Varinder on May 9 held them responsible for violating government guidelines on the closure of schools, the officials said.

They said principal Sister Hema and vice

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series of deliberations held over the last three to four days in the wake of the recent COVID surge in Jammu.

Dr Jitendra was separately briefed by Financial Commissioner (Health) Atal Duloo, Principal GMC Jammu Dr Shashi Sudan Sharma and Secretary Incharge COVID, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary respectively and he held a

## Consultants to take regular rounds Dr Jitendra takes follow up, Chopra Nursing Home to start with 100 beds

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Chopra Nursing Home, affiliated to Government Medical College Jammu, will start functioning with 100 bed capacity to begin with and two more Oxygen Plants having the capacity of 2400 LPM i.e. 3456 cubic mt will be installed in GMC Jammu which will be in addition to the existing Oxygen plants.

At the same time, it will be ensured that the senior Consultants take regular rounds of the Wards and are also available as and when required.

This feedback was given to Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, who took a follow-up today of the COVID Care services in GMC Jammu, following a

detailed interaction with each one of them.

The Minister was informed that three Oxygen Plants having capacity of 5184 cubic mt per day are operational in GMC Jammu and two more will be installed soon.

At present, GMC Hospital is having 893 Oxygen supported beds out of the total 1111 bed capacity of the hospital. In view of the spike in COVID 19 cases, it is proposed to make all the 1111 beds as Oxygen supported beds.

Following the decision in the earlier two meetings convened by Dr Jitendra on 12th and 13th May respectively, the rooms/chambers occupied by GMC doctors in the Chopra

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## Suspected Pakistani drone spotted along IB

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A suspected Pakistani drone was seen hovering along the International Border (IB) here, prompting security forces to launch a massive search operation to check if it had dropped anything inside the Indian territory, officials said on Sunday.

However, nothing suspicious was found during the search operation, they said.

This comes two days after a Pakistani drone dropped an AK-47 rifle, a pistol and some ammunition along the IB in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The suspected Pakistani



Security forces carrying out search operation in Kanachak after spotting a Pakistani drone.

drone was seen hovering in Kanachak sector here late on Saturday night. Some residents saw a streak of yellow light in the skies for quite some time before it vanished

in the darkness, officials said.

A search, which began at 5:30 am on Sunday, was carried out by joint teams

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# Selective outrage against Israel in Kashmir, not a word about Chinese atrocities on Muslims



JAMMU: Neither unusual nor unexpected! Pro-Palestine protests across the Kashmir Valley is a decades old pastime, as also the passion of generations, and therefore the arrest of 21 youth indulging in street vandalism despite prohibitory orders in force is not an exception. Nor is the reaction of the so-called mainstream leaders like Mehbooba Mufti who has questioned the rationale behind police action against the protesters. Having held constitutional position in the recent past, the former Chief Minister has criticized the arrests, asking (in her new found avocation of tweets) "People all over the world are protesting against the atrocities committed by Israel on Palestine. But in Kashmir it's a punishable offence where an artist is booked under PSA & a preacher is arrested simply for expressing solidarity with Palestinians". She tends to

conveniently forget that Srinagar is under curfew due to surge in pandemic.

The selective reaction of the leaders like Mehbooba Mufti exposes double standards of the both, mainstream and separatist' parasites, who do not speak a word against perpetual atrocities being, carried out by China against the Muslim faith groups. Despite knowing that practising Islam has been made forbidden in parts of China, with individuals caught praying, fasting, growing a beard or wearing a hijab, a headscarf worn by Muslim women, facing the threat of arrest, the so-called champions of the Muslim cause in the Valley turn mute over the Chinese campaign, simply because of their love for Pakistan. China is the Messiah of the neighbouring rogue country and therefore sacrosanct for those who jump to streets whenever any 'untoward' happens against Muslims in Palestine, Iran or elsewhere. The love lost for China is so intense that a very senior politician from the Valley, a sitting Member Parliament, brazenly eulogized and pinned hope with the

Dragon for reversal of Article 370, at a time when they had waged a virtual war against the sovereignty of India in Ladakh.

Rightly describing the Israel bombing against civilians in Gaza as inhuman, some of the Kashmiri zealots don't speak a word against the Hamas terror organisation that provoked the Jewish nation by targeting civilian areas by rockets and other terror acts.

Killing of innocents, either in Kashmir or in Israel is Jihad and eliminating terrorists remains barbarism for rubble rousers in the Valley. Generations in Kashmir have thrived on violence whenever Palestine faced resistance by Israelis for decades. Generally, these protests used to turn violent against the security forces, police and minority segments in the Valley, who have since been hounded out. The mindset remains the same though the actors in the protests keep changing.

In the very recent past, Kashmir boiled over the assassination of Qasem

Soleimani, an Iranian Major General on January 3, 2020 when the United States of America launched a drone strike in Baghdad International Airport. Strange but true it is that something happening in far away Iran or Gaza brings wrath for the Indian security forces and the police in the Valley as mobs go berserk in their enthusiasm to show solidarity, most of the time with terrorists in the guise of Hamas and other organizations.

Srinagar is in lockdown but still the euphoric mobs see reason in engaging the frontline warriors in brickbats. This is the reward for billions of rupees invested by the nation at the cost of the poor tax-payers hard earned money for welfare and wellness of the people. In return they get all types of hate campaigns like Ragdo, Ragdo agitations and perpetual stone-pelting against the forces. Ironically, the inheritance from Palestine has become a way of life for stone-pelters in the Valley. Stone pelting has been serving the twin purpose of elements supervising the so-called Jihad in Kashmir. First, it is a soft

form of violence compared to bomb blasts or showering of bullets and second, this is a campaign to keep Kashmir boiling. Remember how chronic secessionist Syed Ali Geelani had justified Intifada or stone pelting by saying that "Several European countries have witnessed such incidents (of stone-pelting), where people express their anger. And, this is the same anger, which is showcased to demonstrate solidarity with Gaza, which is under severe attack by Israel.

The apprehension of violent protests had led the IGP Kashmir to say, "We are a professional force and are sensitive to public anguish. But the J&K police have a legal responsibility to ensure law and order as well. It, however, wouldn't allow cynical encashment of the public anger to trigger violence, lawlessness and disorder on Kashmir streets".

It will be interesting to watch how the police keep its resolve in the days to come, not to avert the violence but to stop assemblies of protesters, who could turn out as super-spreaders of the virus.