

India records highest-ever 4.01 lakh cases, 3523 deaths

NEW DELHI, May 1: India's daily Coronavirus tally crossed the grim milestone of four lakh, while the death toll rose to 2,11,853 with 3,523 fresh fatalities, according to data updated by the Union Health Ministry today.

The infection tally rose to 1,91,64,969 with 4,01,993 new cases, while the active cases crossed the 32-lakh mark, the data updated at 8 am showed.

Registering a steady increase, the active cases today

Govt dismisses teacher

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 1: In a first, Jammu and Kashmir administration today dismissed a Government teacher, Idrees Jan, under recently invoked Article 311 of the Constitution in the interest of the security of the State.

The teacher who was posted at Government Middle School, Kralpora, Kupwara was dismissed from the services in the interest of State. He is the first Government employee to be dismissed from services after

OPD services in GMC-J suspended

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 1: Amid a surge in COVID-19 cases, authorities announced suspension of physical examination of patients at the Outpatient Departments (OPDs) in Government Medical College (GMC) and associated hospitals here from May 3, an official order said today.

Principal, Government Medical College (GMC), Dr Shashi Sudhan Sharma, however, said emergency services would continue to remain functional round-the-clock as per routine.

(Contd on page 9 Col 1)

India gets first consignment of Sputnik V

NEW DELHI, May 1:

India today received the first consignment of Russia's SputnikV COVID-19 vaccine, according to the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).

The CBIC in a tweet said that Hyderabad customs expedited the clearance of the COVID-19 vaccine imported from Russia.

"Hyderabad Customs, @cgstcushyd facilitated expeditious clearance of #SputnikV Vaccine imported from Russia," the CBIC tweeted.

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Cop injured in militant attack

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 1: Militants today fired upon a Police party at Lazibal area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district injuring a cop.

An official said that militants fired upon police party in which one cop identified as Ghulam Muhammad received injury and was discharged after first aid.

He said that the attack was retaliated. However, due to darkness, militants managed to escape from the spot. "The whole area has been cordoned off to nab the attackers", he added.

WEATHER

JAMMU:
Mainly clear
TEMPERATURE
Max: 38.6 Degree C
Min: 24.0 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 30.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 19.0 per cent
Sunset on Sunday: 07.13 p.m.
Sunrise on Monday: 05.44 a.m.

SRINAGAR:
Partly cloudy
TEMPERATURE
Max: 24.7 Degree C
Min: 9.4 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 70.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 44.0 per cent

LEH:
TEMPERATURE
Max: 20.0 Degree C
Min: 6.6 Degree C

3 die, 103 fresh cases reported in UT of Ladakh Ex-VC, RDD official, beautician, two youth among 30 more lose battle to COVID in Jammu

7 in office of one DC; nephew, cook of another test +ve

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, May 1: The Jammu and Kashmir today recorded single-day highest 44 COVID casualties and 3832 cases while the Government maintained that no death has taken place due to non-avail-

*Watch video on www.excelsiornews.com

ability of medical oxygen.

Jammu region reported record 30 Corona deaths and 1231 cases, the highest being 18 in Jammu district, three Poonch, two each Samba, Kathua and Udhampur and one each in Reasi, Ramban and Doda districts today.

Thirty casualties in Jammu region include 13 women, one of them a 36-year-old pregnant lady from village Kanah in Ramnagar tehsil of Udhampur district and 68-year-old former Vice Chancellor of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah

University Rajouri Prof Irshad Ahmed Hamal, who was presently putting up at Bhatindi

tions for upliftment of the Society through academics. The pregnant woman died of

Govt says none died due to non-availability of oxygen

As demand surges, GMC-J to add 45 new beds, 22-bedded ICU

As demand surged for COVID beds in Government as well as private hospitals due to spike in cases, the Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu was in the process of making 45 beds and 22-bedded Intensive Care Unit (ICU) operational in the Super Speciality Hospital shortly.

GMC Jammu Principal Dr Shashi Sudhan Sharma told the Excelsior that 45 more COVID dedicated beds and 22 bedded ICU for positive patients are being made operational in the Super Speciality Hospital at Resham Ghar.

She said out of 405 dedicated COVID beds in the GMC Jammu, 322 were occupied by the patients while 83 were vacant up to this evening.

In the Chest Diseases Hospital, 80 patients were admitted as against the capacity of 110 beds while all 70 beds in the Maternity

Prof Hamal succumbed to virus at ASCOMS Sidhra today. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha condoled the death of Prof Hamal and recalled his contribu-

COVID at Community Health Centre (CHC) Ramnagar. A 32-year-old beauty parlor owner hailing from Mendhar breathed her last due to

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2601 test +ve in Kashmir, 14 die

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, May 1: Kashmir today reported 2,601 fresh cases of COVID-19 and 14 persons succumbed to the infection taking the Jammu and Kashmir death toll to 2,330.

Among 14 persons who died in Kashmir due to COVID-19 today, 2 died at JLNH hospital Srinagar, five at SKIMS Soura in Srinagar, five at SMHS hospital in Srinagar, one in CHC Sopore and one in GMC Anantnag.

Those who died include a 25-year-old youth from Natipora Srinagar. He died at SKIMS Soura, two days after he was admitted to the tertiary care hospital.

A 50-year-old man from Kathidarwar in Srinagar also died at SKIMS, nearly a week after he was admitted there.

A 60-year-old man from Karan Nagar Srinagar died a day after he was admitted to SKIMS.

A 73-year-old woman from Sanatnagar area of Srinagar died five days after she was admitted to SKIMS.

A 50-year-old man from Kathidarwar in Srinagar also died at SKIMS, nearly a week after he was admitted there.

A 60-year-old man from Karan Nagar Srinagar died a day after he was admitted to SKIMS.

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An 80-year-old man from Umer Colony Lal Bazar in Srinagar who was admitted to SMHS hospital on April 27 died today.

A 75-year-old man from Solina Payeen Srinagar, a 62-year-old man from Hyderpora and a 55-year-old from Wanabal Nowgam in Srinagar died at SMHS hospital.

A 50-year-old woman from Hangalpora in Anantnag died at GMC Anantnag, less than a day

after she was admitted there.

Also, a 37-year-old man from Bihar was brought dead to GMC Anantnag and tested positive for COVID-19, they said.

Those who tested positive include 1,084 from Srinagar, 309 Baramulla, 291 Budgam, 70 Pulwama, 122 Kupwara, 286 Anantnag, 77 Bandipora, 94 Ganderbal, 221 Kulgam and 47 from Shopian.

As per official figures, 43,522 positive cases including 546 deaths and 35,104 recoveries are from Srinagar, 13,268

including 199 deaths and 10,585 recoveries are from Baramulla, 10,912 including 9,171 recoveries and 132 deaths are from Budgam, 7,233 including 6,159 recoveries and 101 deaths are from Pulwama, 7,189 including 102 deaths and 6,078 recoveries are from Kupwara, 7,285 including 5,627 recoveries and 111 deaths are from Anantnag, 5,331 cases including 5,015 and 64 deaths are from Bandipora, 5,536 including 4,960 recoveries and 50 deaths are from Ganderbal, 4,577 including 3,177 recoveries and 64 deaths are from Kulgam and 3,107 including 2,702 recoveries and 42 deaths are from Shopian.

With fresh cases, the number of cases in Kashmir division has reached 109,160 including 88,578 recoveries and 1,411 deaths.

The number of active cases in Jammu and Kashmir are 39,343 including 19,171 from Kashmir division.

With 1,801 more recoveries, the tally of total recoveries in Jammu and Kashmir has reached 147,242 which is 81.84 per cent of the total cases.

Corona curfew extended in 4 districts till Thursday morning

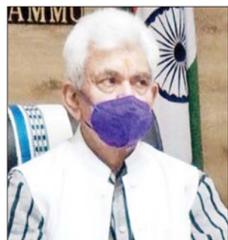
Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, May 1: Corona curfew ending at 7 am on Monday, 3rd May, 2021 stands extended till 7 am on Thursday, 6th May, 2021 in four Districts of Jammu & Kashmir - Srinagar, Baramulla, Budgam and Jammu.

The decision was taken during a high-level meeting chaired by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha in which he passed specific directions for effectively controlling the spread of the Coronavirus in the UT and providing best care to the patients.

The Lt Governor is closely monitoring the COVID scenario in J&K and is taking regular review meetings with the concerned departments in order to assess the situation across the UT.

After analyzing the district-wise situation, the meet-



ing decided to extend Corona curfew for three more days in the four districts. A re-assessment of the situation will be taken before 6th May for laying down further action plan. Instructions were issued to the concerned officers for continuing micro-containment zoning as per requirement.

The Corona curfew at night shall continue in all Municipal / Urban Local Body limits of all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, including the four districts. Night curfew will be in

force from 8 pm to 7 am. Other restrictions when curfew is not there will continue as before.

Emphasizing on optimal availability of oxygen supply, the Lt Governor directed for conducting Oxygen Audit in every hospital of the UT. He also directed the Health department to lay special focus on the judicious usage of oxygen. The Lt Governor further directed for increasing beds with oxygen cylinders, besides effective operationalization of 108 Ambulance service to cater to the needs of the patients.

During the meeting, the Lt Governor sought feedback from concerned Administrative Heads, Divisional Commissioners, Health and Police Departments regarding the evolving situation and also invited their suggestions for strengthening the pandemic control system component against

(Contd on page 9 Col 3)

UTs of J&K, Ladakh fail to identify new State Bird, Animal since 2019

*Slackness delaying completion of distinctive task

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, May 1: Even one and half year after their creation, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh have failed to identify new State Bird and Animal, the task which was created by the Reorganization Act, 2019.

Due to this, these are the only two Union Territories in the entire country which don't have such important symbols and dilly-dallying approach on the part of the concerned authorities is responsible for the same.

The erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir had Black-

necked Crane as State Bird and Kashmir Stag (Hangul) as State Animal. Both these species are rarest of the rare as such were declared as official symbols long time back.

The bifurcation of the State, as per the provisions of Jammu and Kashmir State Reorganization Act, 2019, created a task of its own kind for the administration-identification and declaration of new State Bird and Animal of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Territory of Ladakh.

Black-necked Crane, which is found only in Eastern Ladakh, is no longer the State Bird of Union Territory of Jammu and

Kashmir while as Kashmir Stag (Hangul), which is found only in Valley, cannot be State Animal of Union Territory of Ladakh.

"The issue of identification of new State Bird for Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and new State Animal for the Union Territory of Ladakh was discussed in certain official meetings held in the respective UTs but final decision has yet not been taken", official sources told EXCELSIOR.

"In these meetings some officers even made mention of certain birds and animals which are exclusively found in these two Union Territories

but still no headway has been made mainly because of slackness on the part of the concerned authorities", they further said, adding "in the year 2019 it was announced by the Government of J&K UT that task of identification of new State Bird would be assigned to a committee of officers but thereafter no seriousness was shown".

"Had the task created by the J&K Reorganization Act been taken seriously by both the UTs more than one and half year was sufficient period to identify new State Bird and Animal", sources said, adding "due to this J&K and Ladakh are the only two

(Contd on page 9 Col 5)

HC upholds appointment of NTs, seniority

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, May 1: The High Court has dismissed a batch of appeals seeking quashing of appointment of Naib Tehsildars (NTs), appointed way back in 2015 in terms of writ court judgment, citing that the appeals have been filed at the belated stage and upheld the appointment as also the seniority of Naib Tehsildars.

The eleven appeals came to be dismissed by the Division Bench of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey and Justice V C Koul challenging the writ court judgment passed in 2015 whereby the Government was directed to consider and appoint the petitioner-candidates on the posts of Naib Tehsildars against the vacancies which stand already reserved in terms of the Court

Orders and issue appointment orders in this behalf within four weeks in their favour.

It was also made clear by the court that in case of those petitioner-candidates who might have crossed the upper age limit for entering into Government services, it shall be deemed that relaxation is granted in the upper age limit.

It is in terms of order No. FC(A) 200 of 2013 dated 8th of October, 2013, that a final seniority list of Naib Tehsildars of the State Cadre of Revenue Department, was issued by the Government. Thereafter, vide order No. FC(A) 158 of 2019 dated 15th of May, 2019, another final seniority list of Naib Tehsildars of State Cadre of the Revenue Department came to be issued, wherein various NTs

(Contd on page 9 Col 5)

Govt extends timelines for tax compliance

NEW DELHI, May 1:

The Government today extended timelines for various income tax compliances, including the filing of belated or revised return for the 2019-20 fiscal, till May 31.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said it had received representations from various stakeholders for relaxation on compliance requirements.

"In view of the adverse circumstances arising due to the severe COVID-19 pandemic and also in view of the several requests received from taxpayers, tax consultants & other stakeholders from across the country, requesting that various compliance dates may be relaxed, the Government has extended certain timelines

(Contd on page 9 Col 5)

Spike in Corona deaths: daily cremations in City cross double mark

* Crematorium staffers continue without protective gears

Sanjeev K Sharma

JAMMU, May 1: With spike in number of COVID deaths in Jammu, last rites at cremation grounds in city have exceeded the double of what it used to be in normal days and shocking thing to note here is that the crematorium staffers are facilitating the last rites even of Corona dead people without using any protective gears.

Sources at Jogi Gate Cremation Ground in Jammu informed that today cremation of seven Corona dead persons took place there while those at Swarag Ashram Cremation Ground in Shastri Nagar put this number at eight and Shakti

Nagar Cremation Ground cremated eight bodies of COVID deceased persons yesterday and today it had two such bodies till last reports.

They also informed that all the 5-6 men facilitating cremations at prominent crematoriums of the city are busy these days and work round the clock as apart from COVID deceased some 4-5 non-COVID dead bodies are also brought to the crematoriums for last rites.

Sources revealed that four health workers in protective gears bring bodies of COVID deceased persons to the crematorium and lit the pyre before leaving the place after which the crematorium staff takes the responsibility of complete cre-

mation of the body for which they keep on checking the fire and add more wood to the pyre if it is needed till the body is completely cremated.

It is pertinent to mention here that many people reportedly show no COVID symptoms but are declared as Corona positive after deaths and cremation of such deceased persons without protective gears is full of risks.

More shocking is that the authorities concerned have not framed any Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for these workers of cremation grounds who claim they are without any Corona infection till date only due to the 'grace of God'.

(Contd on page 9 Col 1)

SC advances summer vacation