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# NAV JAMMU

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**News in Brief**

**JK Govt offices Closed till April 14 during lockdown to prevent spread of Coronavirus**

**NJNS**  
**Jammu, Mar 25 :** Jammu and Kashmir Principal Secretary Planning Rohit Kansal on Wednesday said that all government offices, which are not providing essential services, in the Union Territory will remain closed during the 21-day lockdown to prevent the spread of coronavirus. "All government offices except those providing essential services closed till April 14," Kansal tweeted. The decision comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Tuesday, announced a 21-day lockdown in the entire country to deal with the spread of coronavirus, saying that "social distancing" is the only option to deal with the highly contagious virus.

**Only vehicles carrying essential commodities allowed on Jammu-Srinagar highway**

**NJNS**  
**Jammu, Mar 25 :** Traffic movement on the Jammu-Srinagar highway resumed on Wednesday after remaining suspended due to the landslides on the highway. Superintendent of Traffic Rural Kashmir, Manzoor Ahmad told the landslides have been fully cleared upon the highway and traffic movement has been restored. "Only vehicles carrying essential commodities are allowed to ply from Jammu-Srinagar," he said. Meanwhile, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar said that weather will remain cloudy for coming days and there are chances of isolated rains in hilly areas of the Kashmir Valley.

**Northern Command establishes helplines for people**

**NJNS**  
**Srinagar, Mar 25 :** Army's Northern Command has set up telephone help lines as a measure to combat spread of Coronavirus in J&K. "The army has established multiple telephone helplines to provide information and assistance to people of Jammu and Kashmir," said Udhampur based PRO Defense, Lt Col Abhinav Navneet. He said there was a sense of uncertainty among people, as many were not sure what measures to take to safeguard themselves and their family. "There have been series of fake social media uploads creating panic among people. To this effect the army has been undertaking intense awareness campaigns updating public

## Children playing major role in fight against COVID-19, says PM Modi



**New Delhi, Mar 25 :** PM Narendra Modi said children are making their parents understand what to do and what not to do, how to wash hands and

how not to follow wrong practices. PM Modi said that it is vital to break the chain of the disease and experts have said that at least 21 days are needed for it. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday appreciated the children, who are coming forward to create awareness to prevent the spread of coronavirus in the country. "In this battle against COVID-19, I have noticed that our army of children is playing a major role. They are making their parents understand what to do and what not to do, how to wash hands and how to follow wrong practices," said Modi. Modi, who was interacting with the people of his Lok Sabha seat -- Varanasi -- via video conferencing, said: "Sev-

## 80 crore Indians to get wheat at Rs 2 per kg, rice Rs 3 per kg during 21-day lockdown against coronavirus

**New Delhi, Mar 25 :** The government on Wednesday announced ration for 80 crore poor people across the country at a subsidised rate during the 21-day lockdown against coronavirus pandemic. The wheat worth Rs 27 per kg will be provided at a subsidised rate Rs 2 per kg and Rs 37 rice per kg will be provided at Rs 3 per kg to the poor people across the country. The decision was taken after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a cabinet meeting on the first day of the lockdown. He advised that no one should have to face problems during the lockdown period of 21 days, adding that steps should be taken to ease the problems of the people. PM Modi stressed the importance of social distancing and taking care of one's health. The PM instructed all ministers that they, through their respective departments, should work to solve the problems of the people. All the ministers also gave their suggestions on this. PM Modi on March 24 announced a complete lockdown in the entire country to curb the rising graph of the deadly pandemic coronavirus COVID-19. Addressing the nation for the second time in a week, PM Modi said, "From 12 am of March 24 entire country will be on complete lockdown for three weeks (21 days) due to COVID-19," PM Modi had said. The total number of positive cases due to the deadly virus reached 562, including 12 fatal cases, on Wednesday at 4.30 pm (IST) During the meeting, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan also informed about the steps being taken towards the Ministry of Health, adding the work is being done in coordination with the state government. The cabinet was briefed by the Ministry of Home Affairs about how the lock-down is being implemented across the states. Addressing a press brief later, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said, "Social distancing is necessary for everyone. Today (Cont. on Page 2)

## Release Mehbooba Mufti, others from detention: Omar Abdullah

**NJNS**  
**Srinagar, Mar 25 :** Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah who was released from detention on Tuesday, has expressed hope that PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti and others will be released from detention as well. Taking to social networking site Twitter, Omar wrote: "It's callous & cruel to continue to detain Mehbooba Mufti & others at a time like this. There was never

## 11 positive cases with 01 recovery, 5124 persons under observation in JK

**NJNS**  
**Jammu, Mar 25 :** The Government today informed that 5124 travellers and persons in contact with suspected cases have been put under surveillance and, so far, 11 cases were tested positive (10 active and 01 recovered) in Jammu and Kashmir. According to the daily Media Bulletin on novel coronavirus (COVID-19) 3061 persons have been kept under home quarantine while as 80 are in hospital quarantine. Persons who are under home surveillance stand at 1477 while as 506 persons have completed their 28-day surveillance period. The Bulletin further said that 326 samples have been sent for testing of which 294 tested as negative while as 21 reports are awaited till March 25, 2020. The advisory urged public to strictly follow directions of the Prime Minister who has called for

## Inter-state border sealed at Lakhapur

**NJNS**  
**Jammu, Mar 25 :** At least 700 travelers have been quarantined at Kathua following closure of the border with Punjab. "The inter-state border at Lakhapur is sealed. All entrants to be sent to quarantine at Kathua," tweeted government spokesperson Rohit Kansal. He requested people for their cooperation to help in fight against Coronavirus. Those under quarantine include youth, elderly women and children. "People are cooperating with police and administration. We may require more centers. Those unhappy with the location of centers were accommodated accordingly," said SSP Kathua, Shailendra Mishra. The police officer said they have arranged food and other requirements for quarantined people. Following the closure of the border, hundreds of people, mostly residents of Kashmir had approached authorities at Lakhapur with request to allow them enter J&K. However these (Cont. on Page 2)

## India likely to unveil \$20 billion-plus stimulus package to tackle coronavirus downturn: Sources

**New Delhi, Mar 25 :** India is likely to agree an economic stimulus package of more than 1.5 trillion rupees (\$19.6 billion) to fight a downturn in the country that is currently locked down to stem the spread of coronavirus, two sources familiar with the matter told Reuters. The Indian government has not yet finalised the package and discussions are ongoing between Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office, the finance ministry, and Reserve Bank of India (RBI), said both the sources, who asked not to be named as the matter was still under discussion. One of the sources, a senior government official, said the stimulus plan could be as large as 2.3 trillion rupees, but final numbers were still in discussion. The package, which could be announced by the end of the week, will be used to put money directly into the accounts of more than 100 million poor and

## No shortage of essentials, Don't resort to panic-buying: Javadekar

**New Delhi, Mar 25 :** Union Minister Prakash Javadekar on Wednesday said the Centre and state governments are working in tandem to prevent the spread of coronavirus and asked people not to panic amid countrywide lockdown. The lockdown was imposed in the country from today and will be in force till April 14. In a cabinet briefing, Javadekar requested people to stay at home, maintain social distancing, wash hands frequently and do not resort to panic-buying. Essential items will be available throughout the country," he said. For the poor, the Centre will give rice and wheat at the rate of three and two rupees a kg, respectively. "Cheap or free ration is being given out. It is the world's biggest food security system. This will be extended to three months," the Union minister added. He further said that contractual labourers will get wages on time and also announced recapitalization of regional banks. Javadekar said the Ministry of Home Affairs is slated to come up with a helpline number today. "Every district will have a helpline number."



## LG approves series of support measures for poor and needy Rs. 1000 assistance for 3.5 lakh workers, 2 installments of pensions for over 7.7 lakh pensioners

**NJNS**  
**Jammu, Mar 25 :** The Lt Governor Sh. G. C. Murmu approved a series of proposals to provide support to the needy and destitute in the light of the extraordinary situation caused by the ongoing Corona pandemic and the consequent lockdown. The move is expected to benefit nearly 35 lakh people including organised and unorganised workers, daily wagers, pension holders and ordinary citizens. The LG directed the Labour & Employment department to release Rs 1000 to each of the 3.5 lakh workers registered with Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board for purchase of ration during the 21 days lockdown period. The department was also directed to ask the ESIC to ensure that all the 2.26 lakh unorganised sector workers ability and family pension to all the 7.7 lakh pensioners. The department would also additionally cover the 1.7 lakh pending cases thereby ensuring 100% coverage of all eligible cases. The LG also directed the Finance department to request the banks to honour requests for overdraft by Jan Dhan account holders. This decision would help nearly 22 lakh Jan Dhan account holders. In a major relief to contractors and other categories, it was directed that bills for all authorized works and approved procurements which could not be presented before March 31 due to the ongoing situation would be entertained in the next financial year as well. These decisions were in addition to the decisions already taken yesterday by the Administrative Council under the Chairmanship of the Lt Governor whereby a number of relief measures including two month ration under PDS, one month's advance ration under Mid-Day meal, ration packets for slum dwellers and destitutes and Rs 45 crores for management of COVID-19 under Disaster Response Fund had been approved.



## Congress demands implementation of Nyay Scheme in view of nationwide lockdown

**New Delhi, Mar 25 :** The Congress on Wednesday demanded the implementation of the party-proposed Nyay Yojna (minimum income guarantee scheme) to help the poor families in the country to cope with the situation arising out of the nationwide lockdown. Asserting that the party supports the lockdown, Congress chief in addition to the decisions already taken yesterday, Surjewala, however, said the Congress was "deeply disappointed" by lack of coherent strategy or a clear way ahead on the part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Dear PM, India will adhere to the lockdown. But what steps did the government take to tackle the corona pandemic despite early warnings in February," he asked. In a series of tweets, addressed to the prime minister, Surjewala said, "the Congress demands relief package for framers... fair price for crops, indebtedness relief and suspension of all recoveries from farmers." "Dear PM, need of the hour is to implement forthwith 'minimum income guarantee scheme (Nyay) mooted by Rahul ji and Congress. Please transfer Rs 7,500 to every Jan Dhan A/C, PM Kisan A/C & every Pension A/C to tide over nutrition needs of 21 days and give free PDS ration," he said. Ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the Congress had proposed, and promised to implement the Nyay scheme if voted to power. In his remarks, a day after Modi announced a complete nationwide lockdown for 21 days to contain the spread of COVID-19, the Congress leader also said, "we will rise together as a nation & defeat COVID2019. We stand with the lockdown but are deeply disappointed by the lack of coherent strategy or a clear 'way ahead' on your part." "Please remember, Trying times are true test of leadership. Is government ready to rise up & deliver," he asked. "The (Cont. on Page 2)

