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News Digest

IES Officer's Body Still Untraceable

Drass: Rescue team Wednesday retrieved the body of a driver of an Indian Engineering Service officer after two weeks in Drass area of Kargil region. Pertinently, Subhan Ali, an Indian Engineering Service officer, met with an accident when the driver of his vehicle lost control and it plunged into river near Drass. Both the officer and his driver were taken away by the currents. Authorities had pressed men and machinery into service to trace the bodies. Station House Officer Police Station Drass Manzoor Hussain Mir informed that

Boy Slips To Death While Playing Cricket

Ganderbal: A 17 year old boy slipped to death in Power Canal Kangan on Wednesday. Police sources said that several boys were playing cricket when one among them in order to quench his thirst moved towards Power Canal where he slipped to death. Station House Officer, Police Station Kangan, Aftab Ahmed said that rescue operation is underway to trace the dead body. He identified the victim as Sadaqat Ahmed Tandoli son of Gulzar Ahmed, a resident of Mirgund Wudar Kangan.

DSEK To Start Model School In Kashmir

SRINAGAR, JULY 08: Department of School Education is all set to start a state of the art model school, equipped with all the facilities as per latest global needs in Kashmir division. As per an official handout, Director School Education Kashmir, Mohammad Younis Malik said that the Government has taken up the erstwhile National School Karan Nagar Srinagar for the purpose and the school will start functioning as a model school. Giving the details, Malik said that the model school will come up with all the modern

MoS Home, LG Review Works In J&K

SRINAGAR: Minister of State for Home Affairs, G Kishan Reddy, along with Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu today reviewed the progress of various administrative and developmental works in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir through video conferencing. Minister of State, PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh; Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Sh. Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar; Sh. BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary; Sh. Gyanesh Kumar, Additional Secretary, MHA; Sh. Arun Kumar Mehta,

168 Overseas Stranded Return To Srinagar

Jammu: On Day 45 of resumption of routine domestic operations in Jammu and Kashmir, 22 domestic flights with 2,501 passengers on board today arrived at Jammu and Srinagar Airports. Besides, an International evacuation flight with 168 passengers has arrived at Srinagar under Vande Matram Mission. A total of 553 passengers aboard 8 regular commercial flights arrived at the Jammu Airport while 14 domestic flights with about 1948 passengers on board landed at Srinagar Airport today.

BJP Leader, His Father & Brother Shot Dead In Bandipora



Observer News Service

BANDIPORA: Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Bandipora district president, Sheikh Waseem Bari, his father and brother were on Wednesday shot dead by the unidentified gunmen outside their residence in Muslimabad area of the district.

Police said that Bari, his father Bashir Ahmed and brother Umar Bari were shot at by the suspected militants outside their residence in Bandipora. Bari was a protected person and ten security

10 PSO's Of Slain BJP Leader Arrested

Police on Wednesday arrested all the ten PSOs associated with the former district president of BJP who was killed along with his father and brother at their shop in Bandipora district of north Kashmir. "All the ten PSOs have been arrested," Inspector General of Police Kashmir Zone Vijay Kumar said.

Covid-19 Reaches Raj Bhawan As J&K Reports 330 More Cases

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported 330 Covid-19 infections including nine from Raj Bhawan here and 19 from paramilitary CRPF camp Humhama in Srinagar outskirts. Among the cases, 59 were from Jammu Division and 271 from Kashmir valley, taking the overall tally to 9261 so far.

Giving the district wise breakup, officials said Srinagar reported 119, Baramulla 82, Anantnag 26, Rajouri 23,

Kupwara 18, Doda 14, seven each in Bandipora and Samba, five each in Budgam and Udhampur, four each in Kulgam, Ganderbal, Shopian and Reasi, two each in Pulwama, Ramban and Jammu, one each in Kathua and Kishtwar.

Among the cases also one each from DPL Kupwara and Baramulla, two from BB CANT Srinagar, four employees from JKB and one from Axis Bank besides two health worker, three pregnant woman.

J&K Records 5 More Deaths

Jammu and Kashmir Wednesday recorded five more deaths due to Covid-19 taking the total number of people who died due to the deadly pandemic to 148. Of the five deaths, two patients died at Chest Diseases Hospital and two at SMHS and one at SKIMS Soura. According to Medical Superintendent CD Hospital Dr Salim Tak a 44-year-old patient from Sopore died at the hospital after contracting the disease. "The Sopore patient was suffering from bilateral pneumonia and had respiratory failure. He was on ventilator."

ACB Files Case Against Ex-MD DIC Pulwama

SRINAGAR: Ant-Corruption Bureau on Wednesday registered a case against former General Manager District Industries Centre, Pulwama for "misuse of official position."

"The verification revealed that Laiq Parvaiz during his posting as GM DIC Pulwama, made allotments of land in favor of various unit holders in gross violation of industrial policy 2016 as well as procedural guidelines of 2017," reads a statement from ACB. As per industrial policy of 2016, the allotment of land to unit holders and execution of lease deeds was the domain of SICOP/SIDCO. General Manager not

Who Will Be Srinagar Mayor? Mattu, Imran To Battle It Out On July 14

SRINAGAR: Mayoral elections in the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) will be held on July 14, a notification issued on Wednesday said.

The announcement comes 23 days after the erstwhile Mayor Junaid Azim Mattu lost the floor test and was removed from the post. The corporators had filed no confidence motion against Mattu following which he failed to prove majority in the special session on June 16.

The notification for the elections of Mayor was issued by Secretary SMC under number SMC/CS/4300-4389, dated 08/07/2020

LOC Firing Kills Woman In Poonch

POONCH: A woman was killed while another was injured on Wednesday during the cross-border firing along the Line of Control (LoC) in Balakote Tehsil in Poonch district.

Police officials said that Resham Bi, wife of Azam Ahmed and Hakam Bi, both above 60, got injured at around 3 AM when Pakistan Army resorted to heavy shelling along LoC villages of Balakote. "Both the injured were shifted to a nearby medical facility where Resham Bi was declared as brought dead," they said, adding

"The firing from across the border in Semari area of Karnah Sector started on Wednesday afternoon, drawing strong retaliation by the Indian army,"

ing that the other woman was provided first aid in local hospital and was later shifted to Rajouri hospital for advanced treatment. Two civilians injured in Kupwara

Meanwhile two civilians were injured in firing from across the Line of Control in Karnah sector of north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Wednesday.

"The firing from across the border in Semari area of Karnah Sector started on Wednesday afternoon, drawing strong retaliation by the Indian army," said an army official. He said two civilians were injured during the cross-border firing.

'Viral Cop' IGP Basanth Rath Suspended

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir cadre IPS officer Basanth Rath has been suspended for alleged instances of "gross misconduct and misbehaviour" with immediate effect, according to a Union Home Ministry order.

The order, issued on Tuesday evening, said the 2000-batch IPS officer was immediately attached to police headquarters in Srinagar. Rath, hailing from Puri in Orissa and currently posted as Inspector General (IG), civil defence in Jammu and Kashmir has been asked not to leave the headquarters without permission from the Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police.

The order stated that disciplinary proceedings against Rath are contemplated in connection with repeated instances of gross misconduct and misbehaviour that have been brought to the notice of the government.

He has been placed under suspension with immediate effect, the order said.

The suspension order comes a fortnight after Rath sent J&K Police a written complaint against the J&K Police Chief Dilbag Singh, over an alleged threat Singh made to his life.



Rath Reacts

"Apna Tou Kaam Hai Jalaate Rahe Chiraag, Rastey Mai Chahiye Dost Ya Dilloo Ka Ghar Miley" was how 'rebellious' IPS officer Basant Rath reacted after his suspension order became public on Wednesday. Basant Rath took to twitter, his favourite public platform, and wrote: "It's our job to keep the lamp burning, whether a friend or foe's house comes on the way". The couplet actually written by eminent poet Kaleem Ajizi was edited by IPS officer and replaced "Dilloo" in place of "Dushman" (enemy)

Indian Express had reported that Rath had addressed to the SHO of Gandhi Nagar Police Station in Jammu district and urged the officer to "take note of my apprehensions about my life, liberty and bald head". Rath, a JNU alumnus, has remained in limelight ever since he took over as IGP Traffic Kashmir. During his stint as IGP Traffic Kashmir Rath gained popularity among locals due to his unconventional methods to regulate chaotic traffic in Srinagar and other towns of the valley.

Rath was labelled "Singham" - after the iconic no-nonsense cinema cop - for his tough approach to traffic violators. The MHA had then accused Rath of violating the All India Service Rules and had urged the then Mehbooba Mufti government

THE SUSPENSION ORDER COMES A FORTNIGHT AFTER

Rath sent J&K Police a written complaint against the J&K Police Chief Dilbag Singh, over an alleged threat Singh made to his life.

Parks, Gardens Re-Open Amid Easing Pandemic Curbs In J&K

Visitors Screened Before Entry, Sanitisers Made Available For General Public, Low Flow Witnessed On Day-1

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The government on Wednesday re-opened the parks and gardens in Jammu and Kashmir for general public after the gap of nearly four months.

The gardens and parks were closed in wake of the deadly COVID-19 outbreak, which has claimed over 148 lives and infected nearly 9,000 people so far.

All the public parks and gardens including the Mughal Gardens like Nishat, Shalimar and Cheshma Shahi were re-opened for the general public today, an



official spokesman said. However according to reports very few people were seen visiting otherwise popular gardens like Nishat, Shalimar and Botanical Garden. According to eyewitnesses

Shutdown In Many Parts On Burhan Anniversary

SRINAGAR: Many parts of Kashmir on Wednesday observed a shutdown to mark the fourth death anniversary of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani, who was killed on this day in 2016.

Shops and business establishments in many areas, including the city and south Kashmir districts, remained closed during the day.

The authorities snapped mobile internet services in four districts of south Kashmir, officials said.

Wani and his two of his associates were killed by state forces in the Kokernag area of Anantnag district on July 8, 2016, triggering a massive summer agitation in Kashmir which left over 100 people were dead. A statement attributed to

Doc Thrashed In Karnah, FIR Registered

KUPWARA: Police on Wednesday registered a case against three persons for manhandling and abusing a doctor at his residence in Karnah area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

Officials said that three local attendants, who visited a doctor on Tuesday evening abused a doctor, posted at Public Health Center (PHC) Gabara and also tried to overpower him.

A short video surfaced on Tuesday in which a doctor and attendants can be seen engaging in a duel at doctor's residence. In the video, one of the attendants can also be heard abusing the

Staggered Amarnath Yatra 500 Yatris To Have Darshan Daily

NEW DELHI: The annual Amarnath Yatra in the Himalayas will be conducted in a staggered manner and not more than 500 pilgrims will be allowed to visit the sacred cave shrine of Lord Shiva daily due to the coronavirus pandemic, officials said on Wednesday.

The issue of pilgrimages to the Amarnath and Vaishnodevi shrines, both located in Jammu and Kashmir, was discussed at a high-level meeting attended by Union ministers G Kishan Reddy and Jitendra Singh and senior officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Jammu and Kashmir administration.

The Amarnath Yatra is likely to commence on July 21.



"This year's pilgrimage will be conducted in a staggered manner and not more than 500 pilgrims will be allowed to visit the shrine daily due to the COVID-19 situation," an official privy to the discussion said.

Around 9,000 people have been tested COVID-19 positive in the Union Territory and around 145 people succumbed to the

KU Extends Suspension Of Class Work Till July 31

SRINAGAR: Kashmir University has notified that class work in the varsity shall continue to remain suspended till July 31.

The order issued by Registrar KU reads that suspension of class work till end of July.

As per the order the faculty members shall work from home and utilise the time online educational activities as per the approved academic calendar by the administration.

The order however asked all Deans/ Heads/Directors/ Coordinators/ Officers/ Incharges of all Schools/departments/ Campuses/ institutes/Centres/ Units/ Registry of the University have been asked to attend their duties and ensure

proper functioning in their respective administrative units after working out the rationalization / utilization rosters of the staff.

"The rationalization/utilization/rosters shall, however, be subject to feasibility and available staff strength at a particular administrative unit office."

Meanwhile, as per an addendum to the circular, the Registrar has notified for information of all the faculty members as well as non-teaching employees "to remain available via their telephones and report to their official duties in person as and when called for the same by the concerned controlling authority".

Dispatch From Punjab: Kashmiri Students Decrying Campus Hostility

Mrinal Pathak

KASHMIRI students of Chandigarh Group of Colleges (CGC), Mohali have alleged that they're asked to pay the hostel fees for the semester which has not been even commenced yet!

A majority of the students left for their homes in mid-March, in the view COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, most of their belongings remain in their hostel rooms.

Teheleel Manzoor, president of Global Students Union, Chandigarh, told Kashmir Observer that Punjab-based private colleges are forcing the students to pay fees for the current semester when they are yet to conduct exams for the previous

semester. "While tuition fee is being asked to be paid in installments, hostel fee is being asked to pay in one go," Manzoor said.

According to him, the authorities at CGC have told the students - 'either pay, or vacate the hostel'.

"The college administration is telling the students that they are not forcing anyone to leave, rather they are starting new bookings," Manzoor said. "But if this is not forcing one to leave, then what is?"

When contacted, Anup Singh, senior CGC official concerned with hostel management told Kashmir Observer that the college hasn't demanded any fees from students. "We're not forcing our students to pay the hostel fees. We just want



to get a little confirmation from the students whether they want to continue with the hostel for the coming session or not," Singh said. On the allegation that the hostel authorities have put students' belongings in the common room, Singh

said, "There is nothing of that sort." But the Kashmir students studying in the college aren't buying this official statement.

During the current lockdown phase when economic activities have nosedived, they said, a major-

ity of parents are finding it hard to pay the fees for the new semester. "The minimum tuition fee is Rs. 48000," Manzoor said. "And if the hostel fee is included, it will be a huge amount."

Demanding a complete fee waiver, he said the Kashmiri students are just requesting the administration to abide by the guidelines prescribed by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

According to the UGC guidelines, students are not bound to pay either the hostel fees or the tuition fees until the smooth functioning of college resumes.

"Initially," Manzoor said, "students from many colleges were facing similar problems, but through our efforts, the matter was