



Maximum : 29°C
Minimum : 16°C
Humidity : 54%

SUNSET
Today 07:44 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:29 AM



News Digest

LG For 100% Saturation Of Kisan Credit Cards

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu today called for 100% saturation of Kisan Credit Cards in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The Lt Governor stated this while inaugurating a day long Kisan Mela cum Awareness Camp as a part of ongoing "Kisan Pakhwa-da", during his visit to Pulwama district. Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan; Principal Secretary to the Government, Agriculture & Horticulture department, Navin Kumar Choudhary; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K. Pole; IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar; Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama, Dr. Raghav Langer and heads of various departments were present on the occasion. The Lt Governor interacted with the officers of Agriculture and allied departments and enquired about the implementation of **P-02**

Elderly Woman Crushed To Death

Sopore: A 70-year-old woman was crushed to death by a speedy vehicle at Lalab area of Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Reports said that an elderly woman identified as Fatima Begum, resident of Lalad Sopore was crushed to death by a speedy vehicle in Lalad area of Sopore in the afternoon. Police sources, however, said the driver has managed to escape from the spot. Meanwhile, police has taken cognizance of the road accident.

Gusty Winds Damage Houses, Uproot Trees

Baramulla: Gusty winds on Saturday damaged residential houses and uprooted dozens of trees and electric poles in Tangmarg area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Reports reaching here said that the gusty winds in Kunzer Tangmarg village and other adjoining villages damaged residential houses and uprooted dozens of trees and electric poles. "Dozens of trees were uprooted while the rooftops of some residential houses also suffered damages due to the winds while as power lines also fell down in the village," they said.

LG Visits Pulwama, Meets People

SRINAGAR, JULY 11: Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu today stressed on active public participation for achieving the goals of holistic development, besides giving shape to the bottom up planning process for inclusive development of the districts. The Lt Governor stated this during his visit to District Pulwama, where he interacted with several delegations and Public Representatives as a part of the Government's initiative to get the first hand appraisal of the public issues. He also e-inaugurated 19 developmental projects worth Rs 91.91 crores and laid foundation stones of various projects today. He was accompanied by Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan; Member Parliament, Nazir Ahmad Laway; Principal Secretary to the Government, **P-02**

Covid-19 Death Toll Reaches 171

11 More Deaths In 24 Hours, J&K Sees Record Surge

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday recorded eleven more Covid-19 related deaths, the highest single day spike in fatalities so far. The deaths—nine from Valley and two from Jammu, took the fatality count due to the deadly virus in J&K to 171. Also, 102 people have died in little over three weeks in J&K as the death toll stood at 69 on June 18.

Officials said that the victims include a 50-year-old from Handwara, 58-year-old from RS Pora Jammu, 73-year-old male from Pattan Baramulla, 55-year-old man from Bari Brahmana Jammu, 45-year-old man from Trehgam Kupwara, 25-year-old woman from Anantnag, 50-year-old man from Nuner Ganderbal, 56-year-old woman from Shalimar and 77-year-old man from

268 New Cases In J&K, Covid-19 Tally Crosses 10000 Mark

15 Army Soldiers, 10 CRPF Men, 5 Bank Employees Among New Victims

SRINAGAR: The number of covid-19 cases in Jammu and Kashmir crossed 10000 mark as 268 news infections were reported on Saturday. The cases which include 15 army soldiers and ten paramilitary personnel take the overall tally to 10156.

87 cases were reported from Jammu division and 181 from Kashmir including

four pregnant Ladies, five employees of J&K Bank Employees Handwara and three policemen from Tangdar and Kralgund.

Giving district wise break-up of the cases, officials said that Srinagar reported 67, 37 each from Baramulla and Kupwara, Rajouri 29, Kulgam 23, Jammu 21, Kathua 20, six each from Anantnag and Samba, Pulwama 5, four each from Budgam and Reasi, three each from Ud-

hampur and Poonch besides one each from Shopian, Ganderbal and Kishtwar.

Dr. G H Yatoo, Nodal Officer Coronavirus Control Measures at SKIMS Soura said that out of 1366 samples which were processed at the viral diagnostic laboratory of the hospital today, 64 returned positive for the virus.

Professor Farooq Jan, Medical Superintendent SKIMS Soura told GNS that they **PAGE 02**

“HE WAS VERY SICK AND WAS ON VENTILATOR (UNDER DOUBLE PRESSOR SUPPORT) IN IDB BLOCK,” Professor Jan said, adding, “He expired at 7.45 a.m., today,”

Court Restrains Rath From Posting

SRINAGAR: A court in Jammu has directed suspended senior police officer Basant Rath not to publish any post or material by any means of communication which is defamatory or derogatory against six persons who claimed to be “acquainted with the current Director General of Police, Dillbagh Singh.”

The order was passed by the judicial officer Jeevan Kumar Sharma, 2nd Additional Munsiff Jammu, on a suit filed by six persons—Parveen Kumar Mittal (businessman dealing in Plywood Manufacturing), Virender Dubey (Medical practitioner), Saurabh Dang (businessman), Rahul Bansal (businessman), Davinder Verma (businessman) and Amit Kohli (businessman). **P-02**

Inputs About Possible Fidayeen Strike Keeps Forces On Toes

BARAMULLA: Inputs about possible militant attack in north Kashmir have been received and a high level of alert is being maintained by the troops to foil all such bids, General officer Commanding (GoC) of Baramulla based army's 19 infantry division Major General Virender Vats said Saturday.

He also said that a major infiltration bid was foiled today at Nowgam sector in Kupwara district in which two militants were killed from whose possession Indian and Pakistani currency worth Rs 1.5 lakh besides arms and ammunition was recovered.

Addressing a press conference, at Baramulla, GoC of 19 Infantry division, Vats, said that

ever since India announced the August 5 decision, Pakistan is trying hard to push more and more militants into the valley, an attempt to instigate the people which they have failed to do for long now.

“Lauchpads across the line of control are fully occupied by militants and as per our guess, some 250 to 300 militants are ready to infiltrate,” the army officer said.

About today morning's operation at Nowgam sector, he said two heavily armed militants were killed along the Line of Control in Nowgam sector appropriate response by troops on ground was taken against the militants who were **PAGE 02**

Conduct Hearings Virtually: CJ to HC's Sgr Wing

SRINAGAR: Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Gita Mittal on Saturday directed the Srinagar Wing of the High Court, which is located in the area declared as “Red Zone” to conduct the hearing of cases through virtual mode.

The directions were passed by the Chief Justice keeping in view the sudden spike in Covid-19 cases in areas declared as “Red Zones” by the Governments of UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and with a view to prevent further spread of infection.

“In Srinagar Wing of the High Court which is located in the area declared as “Red Zone”, the hearing of cases shall be conducted through virtual mode. The **P-02**

Decision On Reimposing Lockdown Likely By Monday: Report



DISTRICT OFFICIALS sealed several shops in Regal Chowk and adjacent areas for violating Covid-19 related advisory on Saturday. KO Photo abid Bhat

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Amid spike in the number of Covid-19 cases in Srinagar, a high-level meeting was chaired by the district administration on Saturday wherein the surge in the Coronavirus cases was discussed.

The meeting was attended by the administrative, police officials and other stakeholders.

Media reports said that earlier a high-level meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary.

Sources said that the meeting was informed that the contacts of positive cases, which are being tested positive, have also gone up. “During the period of lockdown, one or two contacts of any positive case were coming positive. But, after the relaxation in the lockdown, at least 15-20 contacts of an infected person test positive,” officials informed the meeting.

They further said that the cases are witnessing a surge in the Srinagar district because of being the busiest place with people from other districts also visiting the city with majority of them not following the advisories.

Srinagar's high number of cases also include a large numbers from other districts referred to tertiary care hospitals for advance treatment. Most of them test positive here during mandatory testing before medical procedures, the meeting was informed. Urging people to follow Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) in letter and spirit to help in reduce the number of positive cases, a senior official said, the people have two options. Either to follow the health guidelines or to risk another lockdown, which will be for a longer period.” Sources said, government **PAGE 02**

If People Don't Follow Guidelines, Extended Lockdown Likely

First Life, Then Business; Waiting For Govt Decision: KTMF

Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Federation (KTMF) president Muhammad Yaseen Khan Saturday said that if government takes any decision to re-impose the lockdown in the wake of rise in Covid-19 cases and deaths due to the pandemic, traders will support the move. “There is no suggestion from me as of now. The only thing is that if government decides to re-impose lockdown as suggested by some health experts, **P-02**

2 Militants Killed While Crossing LOC In Kupwara

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: The army claimed to have foiled an infiltration bid by killing two militants at Nowgam sector in north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

“Early morning today, a suspicious moment was detected by own troops at Nowgam sector in Kupwara in north Kashmir's Kupwara district along the Line of Control (LoC). Own forces swiftly launched an ambush, resulting in the killing of two militants. Two Ak-47 and war like stores recovered. Details to follow,” Defence spokesman in Srinagar, Colonel Rajesh Kalia said.

Defence sources said that a



combing operation was on in the area to rule out the presence of more militants in the area. On June 30, the army had said that an infiltration bid was foiled at Parkian Gali sector in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on the intervening night of June 29 and June 30 when a group of 6-8 militants, in two groups tried to sneak in.

After the initial exchange of fire, the militants, **PAGE 02**

Woman Who Set Herself Ablaze Succumbs

BANDIPORA: A 30-year-old woman who allegedly set herself ablaze last evening at her home in Bandipora succumbed to her injuries at SMHS hospital Srinagar on Saturday.

The woman (name withheld), hailing from Auitmulla, was at her in-laws house at Chattibandi Aragam when she set ablaze herself after pouring kerosene oil over her body.

He said that the woman had suffered grievous burn injuries and was rushed to district hospital Bandipora from where she was referred to SMHS hospital for specialised treatment.

The official said that she had 90 per cent burn injuries and she succumbed at SMHS hospital today morning.

A senior police officer said that a case under FIR number **P-02**

Prisoner Tests Positive, Anantnag Jail Under Scanner

SRINAGAR: Authorities have decided that all jail inmates and staff members at Anantnag district jail to be tested after a prisoner found positive for COVID-19. An inmate booked under PSA in Anantnag prison has been tested positive. He happens to be brother of JKLF founder Mohammad Maqbool Bhat.

Principal GMC Anantnag, Dr. Showkat Jeelani said one of the jail mates of Anantnag jail has been admitted to the hospital. “He has been kept in an isolation ward,” Dr Jeelani said.

“Doctors have started taking samples of jail inmates at Anantnag jail for COVID testing. It will take two days to collect all the samples,” he added.

DIG Prisons, Mohammad Sultan Lone, said the screening will be held as a measure of precaution.

“One inmate has been tested positive. Few days back he had complained of a fever and was then taken to hospital. Yesterday his report came which is positive,” the DIG Prisons said.

He said all the jail inmates and staff members will be tested. “This prisoner was in a separate room. Still doctors have started collecting samples of others as a precautionary measure. The jail is also being sanitized,” he said.

Asked how long the prisoner has been there, he replied, “I don't have information. But he has been in various jails before shifted to Anantnag. **PAGE 02**

ACB Arrests Former CAO, AEO Budgam

SRINAGAR: The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Saturday said that the former Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) and Agriculture Extension Officer (AEO) Budgam were arrested for alleged misappropriation in government funds.

The ACB said that during the investigation in a case under FIR number 02/2018 P/S ACB Anti-Corruption Bureau Kashmir arrested accused identified as Nissar Ahmad Sheikh, then Chief Agriculture Officer Budgam and Gh. Rasool Bhat, the then Agriculture Extension Officer Budgam.

“The instant case was registered in this Bureau on the directions of erstwhile State Vigilance Commission J&K where under this Bureau was directed to investigate the alleged misappropriation in Govt funds by Chief Agriculture Officer Budgam while his posting in **P-02**

Seeking Sixth Schedule, Craving Kashmir: Shifting Sands In Cold Desert?

Auqib Javed

FINALLY breaking an ‘uneasy’ silence, National Conference's Kargil leaders recently got together in a video interaction with their Kashmir-based party leadership for some tough talking.

In unison, they challenged the last summer's sudden status quo — that saw Ladakh being sliced off from the former state of Jammu and Kashmir and relegated into a union territory.

While demanding restoration of their geographical, political and historical links with the Muslim majority Kashmir, the Kargil leaders told the party leadership that Ladakh's

NC unit still operates under the Kashmir provincial set up despite Kargil being part of Ladakh.

“The party should pursue the case in the Supreme Court with all its legal arguments and facts to get the Article 370 and statehood restored to J&K as it existed on August 4 last year,” Qamar Ali Akhoo, former minister from Kargil, said during the virtual interaction.

The NC leaders said that they were not happy with the current arrangement and that they had “serious reservations about their status, culture and opportunities in the UT of Ladakh”.

Domicile Demand

The meeting came in the back-

drop of a “strong resentment and concern” among Ladakhis, after New Delhi “failed to protect” their land and jobs.

The new domicile law implemented in J&K gives non-locals the legal basis to own property in the region after meeting certain set criteria.

While the law has triggered a fresh wave of concern from residents of Jammu as well as Kashmir, who see it as a step towards “demographic change”, the residents of Ladakh are alleging that the BJP-led New Delhi central government ditched the locals in the name of UT status.

'An Empty Shell'

Asgar Ali Karbalai, former legislator from Kargil, told Kashmir Ob-



server that BJP not only betrayed the common people of Ladakh, but also their own voters and supporters. “The day Ladakh became Union

territory,” Karbalai said. “But in the month of May, people realised that this is an empty shell and the same people including the chairman of LAHDC knocked the door of Lieutenant Governor with the concerns on 4 May.”

Today, Karbalai continued, Ladakh is in complete chaos and confusion, “as there's no law and rules like we have in J&K UT”.

The former lawmaker raised concern over the “demographic change” in Ladakh and demanded domicile-type law in the cold desert as well.

“Though I'm not in favour of domicile law, as we've rejected abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the former state into two

UTs, but still in J&K, there're some rules that can bar outsiders to get the land and job rights,” Karbalai said. “But in Ladakh there's no state subject or any kind of domicile law.”

People from outside will prefer to live and do jobs in Ladakh rather than in J&K because of the ongoing conflict, the former legislator opined.

“The demographic change will happen fast here and people have realised it already,” Karbalai continued. “Kargil was against this from the day one, and now even people from Leh are acknowledging that we were on the right path.”

After given UT status last year, Ladakh has been directly ruled by New Delhi. It has two **PAGE 02**