



Maximum : 19°C
Minimum : 05°C
Humidity : 35%

SUNSET
Today 05:33 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:56 AM

OBSERVER

23rd year OF PUBLICATION

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News Digest

DDC Polls To Be Held On Dec 1

Srinagar: The State Election Commission on Friday announced the dates for conduct of elections to the District Development Councils (DDCs) in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. According to the notification issued here today November 16th is the last date for filing of nominations, Nov 17th for scrutiny of nominations and Nov 19th for withdrawal of candidature, an official spokesperson said. "Similarly, December 1st will be the polling date from 7am to 2.00pm and will also be the date of counting after the conclusion of the poll in P-02

Newborn's Body Dumped At Hospital

Srinagar: The body of a newborn on Friday was found abandoned at a hospital in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. According to the reports, police recovered body of a newborn that was abandoned by unidentified people inside the bathroom of Trauma hospital Kangan on Friday morning, news agency CNS reported. The body was found by some attendants, who informed the police instantly. A police officer said that a case has been registered in this regard and further investigations have been started.

Leopards Kill 40 Sheep, Goats In Ramban

Banihal: At least 40 sheep and goats were killed in an attack by leopards in a mountainous area of Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, officials said on Friday. A group of leopards entered the animal sheds of Gulzar Ahmad Chandail and Farooq Ahmad Chandail in Gundi Gagra village in Gool sub-division of the district Thursday night, range officer of wildlife department Ramban Mansoor Ahmed said, adding they killed at least 40 sheep and goats inside the structures. Ahmed said a team of wildlife department officials has been dispatched to the P-02

Man Stabbed To Death In Handwara

Srinagar: An elderly man was on Thursday allegedly stabbed to death by his neighbour in a village in Handwara area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district. 65-year-old Abdul Jabbar Dar was allegedly stabbed to death by his neighbour Farooq Ahmad in Pohrupeth village of Handwara on Friday evening, local news agency KNS reported. Quoting family sources, the report says Dar was going to get his cow back from orchards when he was stabbed near Sagipora Bus stop. They alleged the same P-02

Elderly Man Hit By Scooty, Dies

Srinagar: An elderly man on Friday was killed after being hit by a two-wheeler in Ganderbal district of central Kashmir. Khazir Mohammad Bhat of Nuner Ganderbal was critically injured after being hit by speedy scooty on Friday afternoon, reports said. He was removed to the nearby hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him brought dead on arrival. Meanwhile, police arrested the scooty rider and have registered a case in this regard

Guns Fall Silent In Pampore After 18 Hours, 2 Militants Killed

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two Pakistani militants of Lashkar-e-Taiba were killed while another laid down his arms during an 18-hour-long encounter with state forces in Pampore town of Pulwama district, officials said Friday.

The anti-militancy operation resumed in the wee hours on Friday after being suspended by the combined forces on Thursday night due to darkness, a police spokesperson said. He said in the firefight that started this morning, one holed-up militant was killed.

"However, the opportunity to surrender was yet again offered to the other trapped militants, as a result of which one of them laid down his arms and surrendered before the joint forces," the police spokesperson said, adding "The militant in injured condition was removed to hospital for treatment."

The police identified him as Khawar Sultan Mir of Drangbal locality of Pampore associated with LeT.



Soldiers stand guard near the encounter site in Pampore on Friday. Pic, Abid Bhat

Civilian Injured At Encounter Site Succumbs

A civilian who was critically injured during initial stage of the encounter in Pampore area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Thursday evening, succumbed to his injuries on Friday morning, officials said. P-02

The police spokesperson further said that the third holed-up militant was killed in the afternoon by the state forces. He said two bodies of militants, believed to be Pakistani nationals of LeT were retrieved from the encounter site. "Incriminating materials including arms & ammunition recovered from the P-02

HOWEVER, THE OPPORTUNITY TO SURRENDER WAS yet again offered to the other trapped militants, as a result of which one of them laid down his arms and surrendered before the joint forces."

People's Alliance Holding Third Meet In Jammu Today

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) is holding its third round of meeting in the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday to chalk out strategy for the fight for special status restoration besides taking a final call on participation in the upcoming District Development Council (DDC) polls.

According to the reports, PAGD President Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti, Awami National Conference (ANC) senior Vice-President, Muzaffar Ahmad Shah have reached Jammu to attend

the third round of meeting scheduled to be held at NC Patron's Bathindi residence in Jammu on Saturday afternoon.

While Mehbooba was shown black flags by members of right wing groups at the Jammu Airport on her arrival on Thursday, MP Farooq and his son were given a rousing welcome by the party workers on their arrival.

According to sources, the PAGD leaders will also hold consultations on the announcement of eight-phase polls to 20 district development councils (DDCs) in the Jammu and Kashmir starting from November 28.

"The PAGD will also take Jammu based leadership on board.

We Joined Gandhi's India, Not BJP's: Dr Farooq

In his first political rally here since the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status last year, former chief minister Farooq Abdullah on Friday said he won't die until constitutional rights of the people P-02

Govt Follows BJP Agenda, Not Constitution: Mehbooba

The former chief minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti on Friday said that the government doesn't follow the P-02

Deliberations will be held on the fallout of special status revocation and a strategy will be formulated to strengthen the ongoing movement launched by PAGD," sources said.

CPI (M) leader Mohammad Yusuf Tarigami, who is convener of the alliance, told a local news agency KNO that the deputations will start arriving at Farooq's residence from 10:00 AM. P-02

Jammu Admin Seeks Details Of Land Transferred Under Roshni Act

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The administration in Jammu on Friday sought details of land transferred under the recently revoked Roshni Act besides other encroachments on the state land in the winter capital.

Chairing a meeting via video-conferencing, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Sanjeev Verma directed all the Deputy Commissioners of the division to submit details of transferred land under Roshni Act and other encroached state land in the district, an official spokesperson said. Verma, he said asked the DCs to share number of beneficiaries in whose

favour the land has been transferred, total number of land, whether it is residential or agriculture, occupation of the beneficiary and other details

"The Divisional Commissioner directed the DCs to submit details in prescribed format regarding land transferred under Roshni Act in their respective districts," the official spokesperson said.

The Divisional Commissioner, he said also directed the DCs to share details of other state land encroached in their respective districts.

"He directed them to cancel all mutations of illegally encroached land from the revenue record and upload the details on P-02

War With China Can't Be Ruled Out: Rawat

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) is facing "un-anticipated consequences" for its misadventure in eastern Ladakh because of the "firm and strong" responses by the Indian armed forces, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat said on Friday.

In an address at a virtual seminar, Gen Rawat said the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh remained tense and that India's posturing has been "unambiguous".

"The situation along the LAC in eastern Ladakh remains tense and the People's Liberation Army is facing unanticipated consequences for its misadventure in Ladakh because of firm and strong responses by Indian forces," Gen Rawat said.



"Our posturing is unambiguous. We will not accept any shifting of the Line of Actual Control," he asserted. Talking about the overall security calculus, Gen Rawat said border confrontations, transgressions and unprovoked tactical military actions spiralling into a larger conflict

No Party Can Ever Afford To Restore Article 370: Jitendra

NEW DELHI: No political party in India can ever afford to restore Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, Union minister Jitendra Singh on Friday said as he alleged that the bogey of autonomy or self-rule is raised by certain opposition leaders only when they are out of power.

Taking a strong exception to utterances by some of the leaders of "so-called" mainstream Kashmir-centric political parties like the PDP and the National Conference, he said unsubstantiated assertions made by these leaders are only motivated by a desperate attempt to hold back the ground which is fast slipping from under their feet.

"No political party in India can ever afford to restore back Article

370 and the unsubstantiated assertions made by these leaders are only motivated by a desperate attempt to hold back the ground which is fast slipping from under their feet," Mr Singh told PTI.

He also dared the Congress to make its stand clear on the issue, saying if it has the courage and conviction, it should go for the ensuing District Development Council (DDC) elections in Jammu and Kashmir with the slogan that it will restore Article 370 if voted to power at the Centre.

Mr Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel, alleged that the bogey of autonomy or self-rule is raised by the leaders of National Conference and other Jammu and Kashmir-based political parties P-02

J&K Bank Posts Rs 50 Crore Profit In Q2

Net NPAs Down To 3.03 %, Advances In J&K Up By 15 %

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Jammu & Kashmir Bank on Friday reported a stand-alone net profit of Rs 44 crore in the second quarter ended September of the current fiscal year.

The state-owned lender had posted a net loss of Rs 916.81 crore during the same quarter a year ago. Sequentially, net profit grew multi-fold from Rs 6.50 crore in April-June 2020 quarter.

Total income fell to Rs 2,194.47 crore in July-September from Rs 2,262.94 crore in the same quarter of 2019-20, J&K Bank said in a regulatory filing.

Asset quality improved as gross non-performing assets (NPAs) fell to



8.87 per cent of the gross advances at the end of September 2020 from 10.64 per cent at the end of September 2019. In absolute terms, gross NPAs stood at Rs 6,317.09 crore as against Rs 7,473.29 crore a year ago. Similarly, net NPAs declined to 3.03 per cent (Rs 2,023.32 crore) from 4.48 per cent (Rs 2,942.04 crore) a year ago. P-02

J&K Reports 5 More Corona Deaths, Toll 1526

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least five more people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, taking the number of fatalities due to the deadly infection in the Union Territory to 1526.

Kashmir Valley reported three more deaths due to Covid-19, while two others succumbed to the infection in the Jammu division, officials said Friday. The three victims from the Valley were residents of Srinagar. Among them were a 65-year-old woman from Lal Bazar, 84-year-old from Natipora and 78-year-old from Naseem Bagg here.

The two victims from Jammu division included one from Kathua and another from Ramban—a 72-year-old from Banihal area of the district.

14 CRPF Men, 33 Travelers Among 581 New Cases

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Friday 581 fresh cases of novel coronavirus, including 33 travelers, 14 CRPF men and seven minors, taking the total number of people infected by the virus in the Union Territory 97805.

While 353 new cases of coronavirus were detected from Kashmir valley, the remaining 228 were confirmed by the P-02

Officials said that the septuagenarian died at CD hospital Srinagar, of the exclusive facilities for the management of the Covid-19 patients, a day after he was admitted.

With these deaths, the fatality count has reached 1526 in J&K—1011 in Valley and 515 in the Jammu region. Srinagar district with 373 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (265), Baramulla (147), Budgam (94), Pulwama (83), Kupwara (73), Anantnag (76), Rajouri (48), Kulgam (48), Bandipora (47), Doda (48), Shopian (35), Ganderbal (35), Udhampur (32), Kathua (33), Samba (25), Poonch (23), Ramban (18), Kishtwar (15), and Reasi (8). (With GNS inputs)

Jamia Masjid Imam Urges LG To Set Free Mirwaiz

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Dozens of members of Anjuman Auqaf, Jamia Masjid on Friday staged a peaceful protest in the old city of Srinagar demanding immediate release of Hurriyat Conference (M) Chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq.

According to reports, dozens of Anjuman Auqaf members after offering congregational Friday prayers assembled outside Jama Masjid and staged a peaceful protest seeking release of incarcerated Chief Mirwaiz Moulvi Muhammad Umar Farooq so that he resumed his duties at the Grand Mosque as the Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir.

Carrying placards and banners, the protesters denounced the continued house detention of Mirwaiz,

who is also head of the Anjuman Auqaf Jama Masjid.

Earlier, Auqaf Vice-President and Khateeb-o-Imam Jama Masjid Syed Naqshbandi popularly known as Imam-e-Hai Friday requested Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to immediately release Kashmir's head priest Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, who continues to remain under house detention since August 5, 2019.

Delivering the Friday sermon at Jama Masjid, Imam-e-Hai said that since August last year, Mirwaiz continues to remain under house arrest and as such is not able to perform his religious duties.

"Mirwaiz is not only a political leader but a religious preacher as well. Confining him to the P-02

