



Maximum : 11° Minimum : 0° Humidity : 68% SUNSET Today 05:22 PM SUNRISE Tomorrow 07:26 AM

23rd year OF PUBLICATION KASHMIR OBSERVER

24 Rabi-us-Sani | 1442 Hijri | Vol:23 | Issue: 275 | Pages:08 | Price: ₹3



Contact: -0194-2502327 FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS & YOUR COPY OF

www.kashmiobserver.net • twitter.com / kashmiobserver • facebook.com/kashmiobserver • Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016

P6 LIFE & TIMES



CHILDREN LEARN MORE EFFECTIVELY FROM STORYTELLING THAN DEMONSTRATIVE ACTIVITIES, STUDY REVEALS

P5 PANORAMA

WHY YOUNG PEOPLE STILL WANT TO GO TO UNIVERSITY, EVEN THOUGH IT'LL BE VERY DIFFERENT TO USUAL



P7 NEWS

FARMERS REJECT GOVT PROPOSAL, TO INTENSIFY AGITATION WITH NATIONWIDE PROTEST



Wisdom Quote!

"The journey is what brings us happiness not the destination." —Dan Millman

news DIGEST

KU Organises Webinar On Domestic Violence

SRINAGAR: Kashmir University's Centre for Women's Studies and Research (CWSR) on Wednesday organised a webinar on domestic violence.

Registrar Dr Nisar Ahmad Mir inaugurated the day-long webinar "Domestic Violence: Chronicling the Ordeal and the Way Out", organised in collaboration with the University Grants Commission (UGC).

In his presidential remarks, Mir as per a statement, referred to recent news

Two 'Drug Peddlers' Held In Rajouri

JAMMU: Two drug peddlers were arrested with heroin in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Wednesday, officials said.

A police team on routine highway patrolling in Tandwal Thandikassi area of Rajouri spotted the two pedestrians moving suspiciously, they said.

During frisking, 385 grams of heroin was recovered from their possession after which they were arrested on the spot, they said.

The accused were identified as Mohammad Arif, resident of Dabbi Balakote in Poonch, and Mohammad Asif, resident of Samattee Challas in Doongli area of Rajouri, police added.

Bear Kills 10 Sheep In Handwara

SRINAGAR: At least ten sheep were mauled to death by a black bear in Drangsoo Mawar area of Handwara in Kupwara district, reports said Wednesday.

The ferocious beast barged into cowsheds belonging to Mohammad Magbool Chopan, Abdul Ahmad Chopan and Nazir Ahmad Pir last night killing at least ten sheep before being chased away to nearby forests, locals said Wednesday.

Blaming the Wildlife Department of lackadaisical approach, the affected families alleged that despite all attempts made to reach the department concerned, "no official or even any employee has so far bothered to visit us to assess the damage."

The inhabitants have in the meantime demanded the authorities concerned to act swiftly and catch the roaming beast to avert any future tragedy. (GNS)

2 Held With Narcotics In Uri

SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday arrested two people and claimed to have recovered contraband drugs from them in Uri area of Baramulla district.

In a statement issued today, a police spokesperson said that acting on inputs, a naka was established by police in Gungal Uri during which two persons were apprehended from a vehicle.

He said that the driver of the intercepted vehicle tried to flee the spot, however was caught and during interrogation deposited himself as Mohammed Hanief Quershi of Parapilla besides another on-board associate as Jahangir Ahmad Khan (alais Pappu) son of Mohammad Hussain Khan residence Mohura.

"During search of vehicle a packet containing Heroine like substance about 1 Kg was recovered," the police spokesperson said.

PULWAMA ENCOUNTER

3 Militants Killed, Civilian Injured

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Three local militants were killed and a civilian injured in an encounter in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, police said Wednesday.

Acting on a specific input about presence of militants, special operations group (SOG) of police, army's 55 and 182 RR and the personnel of CRPF 183 battalion laid a siege around Tiken area of the district on Wednesday morning and launched a search operation, a police spokesperson said. The militants hiding in a residential house, he said, turned down surrender offer and opened fire upon the joint team.

"In the ensuing encounter, three militants were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of the encounter. As per police records, the killed militants were part of groups involved in many cases including planning & executing several major attacks



KO File Photo: Abid Bhat

4 Civilians Injured In Pattan Grenade Blast

SRINAGAR: Four civilians on Wednesday were injured in a grenade blast in Singhpora area of Baramulla district.

Around 9:55 am Wednesday, unknown militants hurled a grenade towards the vehicle of paramilitary Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) personnel in

Car Used In HMT Attack Found: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday recovered the car used by militants in last month's attack in the HMT area of the city outskirts that left two soldiers dead.

Army's 2 RR and police recovered the Maruti 800 car (JK04A-6535) during a cordon and search operation in Mustafa-

'Illegally Detained' For Third Time: Mehbooba



KO File Photo: Abid Bhat

If my movements are curbed due to 'security concerns' then why are BJP ministers allowed to campaign freely"

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday claimed that authorities detained her at Gupkar Road residence here for the third time in a fortnight.

"Illegally detained today for the third time in less than a fortnight. Too much democracy indeed. If my movements are curbed due to 'security concerns' then why are BJP ministers allowed to campaign freely in Kashmir while I've been asked to wait until the culmination of DDC elections?" Mehbooba tweeted.

Officials, however, did not comment on the claim.

Mehbooba had claimed on Tuesday that she was not allowed to visit Budgam district to meet the families who have been evicted from a forest land by the authorities. The

former chief minister also uploaded an image of a letter purportedly written by the Budgam district authorities to the Special Security Group (SSG) that protects her.

"In view of the prevailing security scenario and recent inputs received from intelligence agencies regarding movement of terrorist groups in the subject area, it is requested that the tour programme of the VIP may be deferred till the culmination of the (DDC) elections," the letter sent on Tuesday to the SSG Director reads.

The letter suggests that the SSG had informed the district administration about Mehbooba wanting to visit Budgam district on Wednesday. The election to the District Development Councils (DDC) is underway in Jammu and Kashmir. —PTI

6 More Corona Deaths In J&K, 369 New Cases

SRINAGAR: Six more people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday while 369 fresh cases of Covid-19, including eight soldiers and as many travelers were detected in the Union Territory in the last 24 hours.

In Kashmir Valley, three more people lost the battle with the deadly disease while three others died of Covid-19 in Jammu division, taking the number of virus related deaths in J&K to 1767, officials said.

Among the three victims from Valley, the officials said, included a 70-year-old woman from Kupwara, a 60-year-old man from Bandipora and a 61-year-old woman from Safa Kadal Srinagar.

Regarding Jammu region, they said, one death each was reported from Kathua, Samba and Reasi districts.

With these deaths, the total fatality count in the Valley has reached 1136 and 631 in the Jammu region. Srinagar district with 428 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (318), Baramulla (165), Budgam (104), Pulwama (86), Kupwara (87), Anantnag (81), Doda (58), Bandipora (56), Kulgam (52), Udhampur (52), Rajouri (50), Kathua (44), Ganderbal (40), Shopian (37), Samba (34), Poonch (22), Ramban (21), Kishtwar (20), and Reasi (11).

Meanwhile, 369 more people, including eight soldiers and as many travelers were among 369 people, who tested Covid-19 positive in J&K in the last 24 hours, officials said.

India-China Ties In Most Difficult Phase In Last 40 Years: Jaishankar

NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Wednesday China has given India "five differing explanations" for deploying large forces at the LAC, adding this violation of bilateral pacts has "very significantly damaged" their relationship that is now at its "most difficult phase" in the last 30-40 years.

The comments by Jaishankar during an online interactive session organised by Australian think tank Lowy Institute came against the backdrop of the over seven-month-long military standoff between India and China at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

"We are today probably at the most difficult phase of our

relationship with China, certainly in the last 30 to 40 years or you could argue even more,"



Jaishankar said highlighting various aspects of the bilateral ties in the last three decades.

"The relationship this year has been very significantly damaged." "We are very clear that maintaining peace and tranquillity along the LAC is the basis for the

rest of the relationship to progress. You can't have the kind of situation you have on the border and say let's carry on with life in all other sectors of activity. It's just unrealistic," he said.

Jaishankar further said, "We have this problem because from 1988, our relationship had its hiccups, we had our issues and differences but the direction of the ties broadly were positive."

The external affairs minister said the relationship progressed in trade, travel and various other domains as both sides inked several pacts to maintain peace and tranquillity along the LAC.

"All of this was posited on the fact that while we were trying to solve the boundary

We'll Make Election Hat-Trick In J&K: BJP

SRINAGAR: Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Anurag Singh Thakur said on Wednesday that his party will claim election hat-trick in Jammu and Kashmir also, following its success in Hyderabad and Rajasthan.

Thakur, who is also in-charge of Jammu and Kashmir DDC elections, said that the BJP has emerged

largest political party in the world because it knows the heartbeat of India and delivers on its promises. His party, he said, believes in proactive measures that not only touch but also transform lives and create livelihoods for every citizen.

"We do not do part time politics; we are devoted to the socio-economic welfare of the people in J&K. We are here for the long run, shoulder to shoulder to make this

Sopore Youth Completes LLB In Jail

SRINAGAR: A 26-year-old youth, who is languishing in jail for seven years, has completed his LLB degree from the department of Law in the University of Kashmir.

Feroz Ahmad Dar, a resident of Ahsa Colony Sopore, was arrested on 18 April 2013 and is currently languishing in Central Jail Srinagar. However, despite all odds, Feroz didn't give up on his studies.

Sibling Sendoff Invokes 'Farewell To Arms' Plea In Poonch

KAMRAN ALI

After their frontier wrong turn, when two teenage sisters received a grand repatriation in Poonch's Chankan Da Bagh, Rashid Khan's eyes turned moist over his long-departed clan progeny's safe passage to home.

This battered border resident who lost some of his tribe members to divisive frontlines and combative guns over the years termed the "homecoming" of the two girls as a sign of hope amid growing hostility.

"The human treatment towards the two girls has become one of the rare heartwarming gestures in our seven-decade-long unending trauma here," Khan said.



"Their sendoff makes you believe that humanity still exists in these terrible times. We've seen enough lives getting wasted here due to the constant border shelling. May those little angels now become the beginning of the end of our long torment!"

Khan's village falls in the firing range of PirPanjal, where belligerent borders are known to explode and



bleed civilian lives for decades now. But the blazing guns at the international border in Poonch have only intensified since last year when New Delhi claimed countering the Pulwama bombing with the Balakot strike.

"Guns are still blazing here," Khan lamented. "And we continue to cower in fear." Amid this terrifying situation, two teenage sisters lately landed in Poonch as the cross-border "intruders".

All of us are happy for the girls, but at the same time, those shells should stop rain and ravage our lives now. We want to live in peace. Let these guns fall silent now"