



Maximum : 7°
Minnum : -4°
Humidity : 68%
SUNSET Today 05:22 PM
SUNRISE Tomorrow 07:28 AM

23rd year OF PUBLICATION KASHMIR OBSERVER

27 Rabi-us-Sani | 1442 Hijri | Vol:23 | Issue: 278 | 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



P4 THINK

TRYING SRI LANKAN MODEL IN KASHMIR

The ongoing District Development Council (DDC) elections in Jammu & Kashmir call to mind a similar exercise in Sri Lanka four decades ago...

P5 THINK

DILIP KUMAR AT 98

In 1934, Indian cinema's first diva, Devika Rani, and her husband, Himanshu Rai, set up Bombay Talkies, which produced several hit movies with Ashok Kumar ...



P8 OBSEVER OUTPOST

FARMERS INTENSIFY STIR, TAKE OVER TOLL PLAZAS

The Delhi Police on Saturday increased deployment of personnel and placed more concrete barriers at various border ...



Wisdom Quote!

"Wisdom is having things right in your life and knowing why." -William Stafford

news DIGEST

Pak Violated Truce Along LoC: Army

JAMMU: The Pakistan army violated ceasefire by resorting to unprovoked firing with small arms and mortar shelling on forward posts and villages along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, a defence spokesperson said.

Teen Labourer Dies Of Electric Shock

SRINAGAR: A teenage labourer died of electrocution on Saturday in Dooaru area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Soldier Falls Into Gorge, Dies

SRINAGAR: A soldier died on Saturday after accidentally falling into a deep gorge along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu region, officials said.

LAWDA Demolishes Illegal Constructions

SRINAGAR: The Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) on Saturday demolished several illegal constructions in green belt areas of this capital city.

DDC Polls: 245 Candidates In Fray For Phase VI

Polling On 77 Sarpanch, 334 Panch Seats Too: SEC

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: As many as 245 candidates are in fray in the sixth round of District Development Council (DDC) elections being conducted in 31 constituencies across Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday.

Addressing a press conference here, State Election Commissioner (SEC), KK Sharma said that of the 31 DDC constituencies that will go to polls, 14 seats are from Kashmir Valley and 17 from Jammu division.

121 candidates in fray for the 17 DDC constituencies in this phase, including 53 females," he said. He said a total of 7,48,301 electorate, including 3,57,869 women are eligible to vote in this phase, for which 2,071 polling stations with 1,208 in Kashmir division and 863 in Jammu province have been set up.

For sarpanch bypolls, Sharma said a total of 229 candidates, including 65 women, are contesting from 77 constituencies, out of total 127 seats in this phase, while a total of 740 candidates, including 180 women, are in fray for 334 vacant seats out of 1,548 vacant panch constituencies.

Sharma said all necessary arrangements have been made to ensure peaceful polling besides special emphasis has been made to keep the voters safe from COVID-19.

Cop Arrested For 'Threatening' Panch

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday arrested a cop for allegedly threatening a Panchayat member from abstaining from voting in the ongoing District Development Council (DDC) elections in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

PAGD Violating Seat-Sharing Pact: Cong

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Congress on Saturday accused the PAGD of violating their seat-sharing agreement by fielding National Conference candidates at a few District Development Council (DDC) seats in Rajouri district.



IN THE BACKDROP of snowcapped mountain, a man rows his boat inside Dal Lake on Saturday, Kashmir's plains received season's first snowfall overnight closing major highways. -KO Pic: Abid Bhat

Amid Suspense Admin Gives Assurance to Gulmarg Hoteliers

GULMARG: As suspense looms large over the extension of lease to 69 hotels in the popular ski-resort of Gulmarg, the district authorities on Saturday said hoteliers will be taken into confidence before any action is initiated.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, G N Itoo said Saturday that all the hoteliers will be taken on board before taking any decision about the matter related to lease.

"All the issues and concerns raised by the hoteliers today in a meeting will be raised with the government soon. I assure you that the government will listen to every single hotelier here," he said.

Itoo further added that everything will be done as per the directions given by the High Court. -More On P2

2 Civilians Injured In Sopore Grenade Blast

Soldier Dies Of Heart Attack During CASO

OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

SRINAGAR: At least two civilians on Saturday were injured in a grenade blast in Sopore town, while a soldier died of heart attack during a search operation in south Kashmir's Shopian district.

On Saturday evening, suspected militants lobbed a grenade on government forces near Sopore bus, officials said. However, the grenade, they said, missed the intended target and exploded on the roadside leaving two civilians injured.

The injured identified as Shabir Ahmad and Zaffar Ahmad were removed to the nearby hospital for treatment. Soon after the attack, additional reinforcements of state

forces reached the spot and carried out a search operation to nab the attackers, reports said. "Police has registered a case in this regard under relevant sections of law. Investigation is in progress and officers continue to work to establish the full circumstances of this crime," a police spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, a Territorial Army soldier identified as Abdul Majeed suffered a heart attack during a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Zainapora village of Shopian district, reports said Saturday.

Majeed, who was attached with army's counter-insurgency unit Rashtriya Rifles, was rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment. However, the doctors declared him dead on arrival.

7 More Corona Deaths, 419 New Cases

OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus claimed seven more lives in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday while 419 new cases, including nine soldiers, two minors besides 23 travelers, were detected in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours, officials said.

Among the seven victims, four were residents of Jammu division while three others hailed from twin districts of Baramulla and Kupwara in the Valley, they said. Among the victims included a 75-year-old man from Kupwara besides two persons from Baramulla district—a 60-year-old man from Dangiachi and a 52-year-old from Hajibal.

In Jammu division, officials said, three of the victims were residents of the winter capital while another one was from Rajouri district. With these deaths, the -More On P2

After Outrage in Kashmir, Jamia Puts Online Exams On Hold

OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

SRINAGAR: The administration of Jamia Millia Islamia on Saturday decided to put off the online examinations on hold after facing a backlash from Kashmiri students over the concern of high-speed internet that remains barred in the Union Territory since August last year.

In a notification issued on Saturday, Jamia's Controller Examination said that the Vice Chancellor has put the odd semester/year-end examination on hold.

Citing the reasons, the notification read that the university has received several representations from the students regarding their problems / issues with online proctored examination. "The university has apprised the University Grants Commission (UGC) -More On P2

116 Journalists Killed In India Since 1990

NEW DELHI: As the year 2020 draws to a close, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) in a 'White Paper on Global Journalism' listed five countries, including India and Pakistan, as the 'Most Dangerous Countries for Practice of Journalism in the World'.

The white paper marks the 13th anniversary of the 'The List of Journalists Killed (1990-2020), during which 2,658 journalists lost their lives in the line of duty. Iraq topped the list of most dangerous countries for practicing journalism, as 340 journalists lost their lives there, followed by Mexico (178 journalists), the Philippines (178 journalists), Pakistan (138 journalists), and India (116 journalists).

This year the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) recorded the killing of 42 -More On P2

JK To Clear Power Dues Incurred Till June 2020



MoU Signed For Availing Second Tranche Of Rs 11024.47 Cr Loan

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday signed another MoU for availing second tranche of Rs 11024.47 crore loan assistance approved under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan to clear the outstanding -More On P2

BJP Vows To Retrieve 17,000 Hectares Of 'Grabbed' Land

ROSHNI SCAM

SRINAGAR: Union Minister Anurag Thakur on Saturday expressed confidence that Jammu and Kashmir will get back 17,000 hectares of land that was grabbed through the Roshni Scheme, and action will be taken against those involved in this corruption.

"Roshni Act has been struck down by High Court and (it) termed the act illegal and unconstitutional. It clearly defined why this act had been brought in... just to help a few big names whether in politics, business

or bureaucracy," Thakur, who is the BJP's election in-charge for Jammu and Kashmir, told reporters here. Thakur said he was glad that the court had taken an initiative and there has been a fair inquiry into it.

"I am sure that 3.42 lakh kanal (17,000 hectares) of land will be returned to state of Jammu and Kashmir. There will be action against who were involved in the corrupt practice," he added.

The Jammu and Kashmir government has filed a review petition -More On P2

Article- 370 Allowed Rampant Corruption: Jitendra Singh

SAMBA: Union minister Jitendra Singh Saturday said the now-scrapped Article 370 had paved the way for rampant corruption in Jammu and Kashmir as successive state governments used it to make their own anti-graft laws, customised allegedly for convenience.

He said the setting up of the District Development Councils (DDC) will bring further accountability, transparency and outcome-oriented approach in the -More On P2

'Why Am I Anxious': Inside 'Hope Sessions' Of Kashmiri Troika-II

HAMEEDA SYED

The realm of mental health in Kashmir has been a personal choice to discover and understand. We have yet to uncover aspects of ourselves that are folded in the linens of society, and growing up, a personal responsibility of wanting clarity has consistently pricked me. Having had my own share of traumatic and core-shattering experiences in different phases meant wanting answers regarding questions that seemed too difficult for my loved ones to delve deep into. For instance, what did it mean to

be a young Kashmiri? What were the problems that we were collectively facing? How did our personal conflicts cross with political trauma — and more importantly, how were we expected to get rid of this helplessness?

As heavy and uncomfortable as these topics are, the need of the hour, with Kashmir facing a raging pandemic and the stark political reality led me and another colleague, Zaqra Binti Zia to

kickstart "Mental Health through Lived Experience" sessions on Zoom.

The sessions were developed with one common goal in mind: Create awareness regarding mental health, and facilitate a friendly, kind and empathetic space for participants to share their issues and listen to others in return.

Zaqra and I were vehement in creating this space — we both passionately believed that the youth of Kashmir



needed someone to hear them out without judgment.

The triple lockdown had left many vulnerable, isolated and in danger of participating in the ever dubious drug addiction activities. What was required was intervention, but not the technical kind.

And so we set out, with our lived experiences on understanding mental health and my Bachelors' degree in Psychology leading the way.

We started with addressing the elephant in the (virtual) room—Mental Health in the context of COVID-19. The platform of operations -More On P6

My experience has taught me so much, one of it being how desperately the youth of Kashmir need our help. And unconditional help...

OK OPTICIANS BIG DISCOUNT ON CRIZAL LENCES ESSILOR BLUE CUT ALL HIGH NUMBERS AVAILABLE ALSO 50% DISCOUNT ON GOGGLES SO COME AND SEE THE DIFFERENCE AT GONIKHAN MARKET, SRINAGAR CELL NO: 7006603055 9906538577