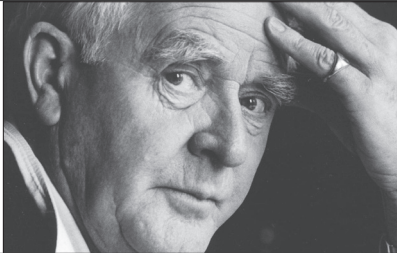




**P9 LIFE & TIMES**  
**PATIENTS WITH NON-CARDIAC CHEST PAIN ARE REASSURED WITH BRIEF EDUCATION: STUDY**  
Patients diagnosed with non-cardiac chest pain are reluctant to believe they do ...

**P5 OPINION**  
**REMEMBERING JOHN LE CARRE**  
John le Carré, author of Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy, dies aged 89



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**US SANCTIONS NATO ALLY TURKEY OVER PURCHASE OF RUSSIAN DEFENCE SYSTEM**



**Wisdom Quote!**  
“If you’re gonna burn a bridge behind you, make sure you’ve crossed it first.”  
—Quentin R. Bufogle

**news DIGEST**

### Women Helpline ‘181’ Starts Awareness Drive

**GANDERBAL:** Women Helpline ‘181’ and SAKHI-one stop center (OSC) project of the Union Ministry of Child and Women’s Development carried out an awareness drive from Central Kashmir Ganderbal.

The purpose of the drive was to make people aware especially women that if they are facing any violence like, domestic violence, dowry abuse, mental torture, sexual assault, eve teasing, cyber-crime, child sexual abuse, rape, economical violence ,etc, a handout issued by Women’s helpline J&K said Tuesday. [➔ More On P8](#)

### Leopard Captured In Budgam

**BUDGAM:** Wildlife department officials on Tuesday captured a leopard, who had strayed into a residential house in Paimus area of central Kashmir’s Budgam district.

Early Tuesday morning, a leopard was spotted in Paimus village, who quickly entered into a residential house, reports said. The inmates were rescued by locals immediately and taken to a safer place. [➔ More On P8](#)

### 6 Govt Employees Suspended

**SRINAGAR:** At least six government employees on Tuesday were placed under suspension by the district administration in north Kashmir’s Bandipora for dereliction of election duties.

District Panchayat Election Officer, Bandipora Dr Owais Ahmad ordered suspension of the six employees for dereliction of election duties in the district, news agency KDC reported.

It added that the suspended employees shall remain attached in the office of the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora during the suspension period pending inquiry.

### Woman Attempts Self-Immolation

**SRINAGAR:** An elderly woman allegedly attempted self-immolation in Soibugh area of Budgam district, reports said Tuesday.

The 65-year-old woman (name withheld) allegedly set herself ablaze at her house in Chan Mohalla of Soibugh area of central Kashmir district, news agency KDC reported Tuesday. The lady suffered serious burns and was rushed to a nearby hospital. [➔ More On P8](#)

## DDC ELECTIONS

# 298 Candidates To Try Their Luck In Phase VII Today



### OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** The fate of as many as 298 candidates will be decided during the seventh phase of district development council (DDC) polls to be held across 31 constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday.

Besides DDCs, by-elections to 438 Panch and 69 Sarpanch seats will also be held on Wednesday, State Election Commissioner (SEC), KK Sharma said Tuesday, while addressing a press conference here.

Sharma said that a total of 31 DDC constituencies will go to polls including 13 seats from Kashmir division and 18 from Jammu division.

Giving further details, the SEC said that against the 13 DDC constituencies of Kashmir division going to poll tomorrow, there are 148 candidates in fray including 34 females. In Jammu division, there are 150 candidates in fray for the 18 DDC constituencies in this phase, including 38 females.

He said a total of 1852 polling stations have been designated with 1068 in Kashmir division and 784 in Jammu division.

The SEC further informed that of 117 Sarpanch vacancies notified in the 7th phase, 30 have been elected unopposed. There shall be a contest in 69 constituencies and 231 candidates including 79 females are in fray, he added. [➔ More On P8](#)

### Two Youth Held With Petrol Bombs In Poll Rally

**SRINAGAR:** Police on Tuesday arrested two youth with petrol bombs during the District Development Council (DDC) election rally in north Kashmir’s Kupwara district.

The two unidentified youth were arrested by police on Tuesday when Tariq Manjoon Mir, a PAGD candidate was conducting a rally in Kupwara, news agency KDC reported. The duo, report said, were apprehended with two petrol bottles.

“Two local youths were arrested as they were carrying petrol bottles during a DDC election rally here and both are under custody, further questioning is on,” the report quoted an unnamed police official as saying. [➔ More On P8](#)

### Two Booked For Destroying Ballot Papers

**JAMMU:** Two people were booked by the police for destroying polling materials in Jammu and Kashmir’s Poonch district, officials said on Tuesday.

The presiding officer of the Keri polling station in the Balakot District Development Council constituency informed the Gursai police station about the destruction of polling materials at a booth on Sunday, they said.

The application said that in the DDC election at the government high school in Keri, two people, namely Gafoor Ahmad, agent of Rabia Younis Khan (Independent), and Wahidullah Khan, polling agent of Saima Khan (Independent), attacked the polling staff and snatched ballot papers in order to cast bogus votes, the officials said. Ballot papers and other polling materials were torn apart by the duo, who later escaped from the spot, they said.

### Mudgul Shifted, Ramaswamy Gets Additional Charge



**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday transferred Yasha Mudgul, Managing Director, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited, and asked the 2007-batch IAS officer to await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department.

Meanwhile, as per an order issued by the government by the orders of Lieutenant Governor, Prasanna Ramaswamy G (IAS), Director of Census Operations/ Director of Citizen Registration (DCR), Jammu and Kashmir, shall be asked to hold the charge of MD, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

## Cold Wave Grips Kashmir

**Gulmarg Shivers At Minus 10.2 Degree C**

**SRINAGAR:** Night temperatures in the Kashmir Valley dipped below the freezing point owing to a clear sky, with the famous ski-resort of Gulmarg shivering at minus 10.2 degrees Celsius, Meteorological department officials said here on Tuesday.

All weather stations in the Valley recorded sub-zero night temperatures several degrees below the normal for this part of the season, the officials said.

They said the temperature in Gulmarg, the famous ski-resort in north Kashmir, settled at a low of minus 10.2 degrees Celsius, which is six degrees below the normal for this time of the season. The resort was the coldest recorded place in the UT, the Met officials said.

Pahalgam tourist resort in south



File Photo: Abid Bhat

Kashmir recorded a low of minus 5.3 degrees Celsius, and Srinagar the summer capital of the union territory recorded a low of minus 3.2 degrees Celsius, they said.

Qazigund the gateway town to the valley recorded a low of minus 2.6 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara, in the north, registered

a low of minus 2.3 degrees Celsius and Kokernag, in the south, minus 4.2 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

The Met Office has said the weather is likely to remain mainly dry till December 21 with the possibility of a further decrease in night temperatures. (PTI)

### India Gears Up For Vaccine Storage

**29000 COLD CHAIN POINTS, 41000 DEEP FREEZERS TO BE USED**

**NEW DELHI:** The Union health ministry on Tuesday said 29,000 cold chain points, 240 walk-in coolers, 70 walk-in freezers, 45,000 ice-lined refrigerators, 41,000 deep freezers and 300 solar refrigerators will be used for COVID-19 vaccine storage.

Providing the details about cold-chain management at a press conference here, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said guidelines for estimation of electrical and non-electrical cold chain equipment and their strengthening have been issued to states by the Centre. [➔ More On P8](#)

### J&K Witnesses 10 More Covid-19 Deaths

**SRINAGAR:** Coronavirus claimed the lives of ten more people in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, raising the fatality count since the outbreak of pandemic in the Union Territory to 1812.

In Jammu division, six more people succumbed to coronavirus while four others died of the virus in Kashmir Valley, officials said. Three among the four victims were residents of Srinagar city, including a 57-year-old man from Shalteng, a 60-year-old man and a 75-year-old woman from Khanayar. The fourth victim was an 80-year-old man from Munad Gufan in Kulgam district, officials said.

Among those who succumbed to the virus in Jammu region included one from the J&K’s winter capital—a 89-year-old from Talab Tillo and one from Udhampur besides two each from Doda and [➔ More On P8](#)

## GULMARG LAND SCAM

# Judge Adjourns Hearing For ‘Lack Of Powers’

**SRINAGAR:** Special judge anti-corruption court on Tuesday adjourned hearing of the infamous Gulmarg land scam case in north Kashmir’s Baramulla district for want of powers.

According to news agency IANS, the first additional district and sessions judge, Baramulla, who is also the judge of the special anti-corruption court for the districts of Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora, has adjourned the hearing of the infamous Gulmarg land scam case for want of powers to try the case.

The case was being heard earlier by Naseer Ahmad Dar, who was transferred and in whose place Mohammad Ashraf Khan was posted.

Khan adjourned the hearing of the case since the Service Regulatory Order (SRO), which would empower him to hear cases under the anti-corruption laws as the special judge anti-corruption

court in addition to his duties as the first additional district and sessions judge, has still not been issued by the Union Territory’s department of law and justice.

The previous special judge of the anti-corruption court, Naseer Ahmad Dar had on June 11 directed the anti-corruption bureau to further investigate the case and file a supplementary charge sheet in the case.

The Gulmarg land scam case was registered by the then state vigilance commission (now anti-corruption bureau) in 2009.

The FIR was registered against 20 persons, including two senior IAS officers of that time, who were charged for fraudulently transferring large chunks of state land into private ownership in the Gulmarg ski resort.

The division bench of the J&K high court has passed directions to the trial court to expeditiously decide the case. (Agencies)

## 83% Govt Schools In J&K Have ‘Defunct’ Computers: MHRD

**SRINAGAR:** At least 83 percent of government schools in Jammu and Kashmir have “defunct computer services” which is taking a toll on the students who have opted for computers as one of their subjects.

The figures of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) states that across Jammu and Kashmir only 17 percent of the government schools were having functional computers for the students.

The figures reveal that the Srinagar district has a total of 41.80 percent functional computers in government schools.

The MHRD figures reveal that Anantnag district has a total of 19.62 percent of schools with functional computer services;

Budgam with 18.98 percent, Bandipora with 16.50 percent and 13.18 percent in Baramulla

It also reads that the government schools in Kulgam district in south Kashmir has a total of 19.14 percent functional computer, Kupwara district with 11.18 percent, Pulwama district with 21.70 percent and Shopian district with 22.88 percent respectively.

It was also mentioned that from Jammu division, Doda district has a total of 11.14 schools with functional computer services followed by 17.10 percent in Kathua district, 8.67 percent in Poonch, 10.58 in Rajouri, 13.21 in Ramban, 29.70 percent in Samba and 12.94 percent in Udhampur district of the region—(Agencies)

## Gupkar Leaders Created Only Mistrust: BJP

**SRINAGAR:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) senior leaders on Tuesday said that Muslims in India are safer than Pakistan and the people of Kashmir should not fall into false traps and green heavens.

Addressing party workers regarding the District Council Development (DDC) polls in Khrew in Awantipora and BK Pora in Budgam, the leaders urged people to stay away from such people who are saying Indian Muslims are treated as second class citizens. [➔ More On P8](#)

### BJP Helped By Self-Seeking Politicians: NC

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference on Tuesday said the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) is a rallying force to collectively fight to restore special status of Jammu and Kashmir and expose “false and divisive” narrative of BJP and its ilk. [➔ More On P8](#)

## Snow Leopard’s Sudden Arrival Heralds New Era In Kashmir Jungles

**Kashmir’s wildlife department is optimist about the Snow Leopard Project after the wild cat was spotted in the snowbound central and northern fringes of the valley.**

### KASHMIR OBSERVER NEWS

The recent rare appearance in Kashmir jungles makes many believe that it is a new wild beginning in the region’s restive woods.

Listed as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), snow leopards were seen beyond Razdan Pass in Gurez and in Sonamarg.

Before a survey of the Mountain Wildlife Division of SKAUST Kashmir would confirm their Kashmir presence, the wild cats were majorly found in Ladakh region.

The appearance is likely to lead to a state stage —census of snow leopards in Kashmir. The ‘cousins’ of these wild cats are found in

the higher and trans-Himalayan landscape at an altitude between 3,000 and 5,400 meters.

According to a research by Supriya Bhatt, India’s leopard population has declined by 75-90% over the years due to threats such as the depletion of prey population, destruction of habitat, human-leopard conflict, and poaching.

Before this new addition in Kashmir jungles, its cousin would regularly become news in the routine human-wildlife conflict.

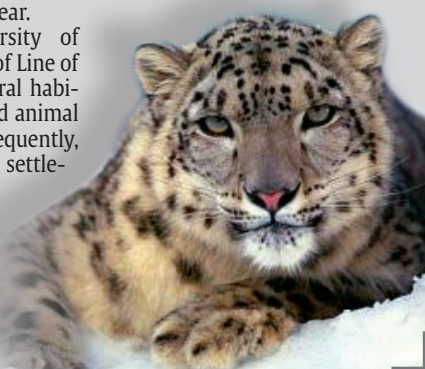


**Widespread conversion of the biodiversity-rich habitats into land for cultivation and human habitation has resulted in extensive habitat loss for wildlife including leopard”**

Experts say the maximum human-wildlife conflict in the valley is because of the proximity of humans with leopard and bear.

A study conducted by University of Kashmir found out that the fencing of Line of Control (LOC) has fragmented natural habitat resulting in the hindrance of wild animal movements across the line, consequently, they are heading towards human settlements adjoining areas.

[➔ More On P8](#)



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