



#### P4 WORLD

**TALIBAN KILLS 13 POLICEMEN IN ATTACKS ON TWO CHECKPOINTS** At least 13 Afghan policemen were killed when Taliban militants attacked two checkpoints overnight in the north of the ....

## THE RISK OF NOT **BEING VACCINATED**

**P**7

THINK

At the turn of the nineteenth century, the typical gambler in America knew almost nothing of the mathematics of risk but did have a sense.

Tourists enjoying a sledge ride on

a snow covered hill in Sonamarg Valley on Thursday. - Pic: Abid Bhat



P10 LIFE & TIMES **HOPE CAN MAKE YOU** HAPPIER WITH YOUR LOT, **DISCOVER RESEARCHERS** Harbouring hope for the future could protect people from risky behaviours ..



**J&K Reports** 

Deaths, 385

**New Cases** 

last 24 hours.

K Mandi Jammu.

Jammu region.

9 More Corona

SRINAGAR: At least nine more

people died of coronavirus

in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, even as 385 fresh cases

of Covid-19, including 25 security

men. 2 minors were detected in

the Union Territory during the

According to the officials, five

people lost the battle with the

deadly disease in Jammu division

while four others died of Covid-19

in Kashmir Valley. Among others,

they said, the victims included a

65-year-old man from Kangan, a

38-year-oldman from Sopore, a

56-year-old woman from Safakadal

and a 68-year-old man from Soura

here and an 85-year-old man from

With these deaths, the total fatality count in J&K reached 1826– 1161 in the Valley and 665 in the



"If a man could have half of his wishes, he would double his troubles." —Benjamin Franklin



## **Army Canteen Gutted In Blaze**

SRINAGAR: A two-storeyed wooden shopping complex, designated as 'CSD', was reduced to ashes in an overnight fire incident at an Army Infantry Brigade Camp at Lawoosa area of Nowgam Sector in north-Kashmir's Kupwara district

An official said that the fire broke out around 2300 Hours last night inside Army's 17 Infantry Brigade Camp premises which later spread to adjoining area, reported news agency GNS. re On P8

# **Govt Employee Held With Pistol**

JAMMU: Police arrested an employee of Animal Husbandry department and recovered one pistol and six bullets from his possession after an accident on + Wednesday night, police said

Thursday Senior Superintendent of

Police Rajouri Chandan Kohli said that on Wednesday night, an accident took place when a car (JK11B-9271) driven by Jasvinder Singh of Nonial Nowshera skidded off the road at Chatta Siot. More On P8

## **Kashmiri Youth Arrested In Goa**

PANAJI: A 25-year-old man from u and Kashmir working

**Kashmir Valley Hit By Intense Cold Wave** 

# Srinagar Records Season's Coldest Night At Minus 6.4 Degree Celsius

SRINAGAR: The minimum tem- recorded a low of minus 6.4 de- recorded place in the UT. perature across Kashmir plummeted several degrees below the freezing point on Thursday Celsius

owing to a clear sky as the valley reeled under cold conditions, with Srinagar experiencing the coldest night of the season so far at minus 6.4 degrees Celsius, MeT Department officials said. The night temperature contin-

ued to drop across the valley owing to the clear sky and the minimum temperature settled several degrees below the normal for this part of the season, the officials said. They said Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

grees Celsius down from the previous night's minus 4.8 degrees

The minimum temperature was nearly five degrees below the normal for this part of the season. This was the coldest night of the season so far in the city, resulting in the freezing of several stagnant water bodies, the officials added. The mercury in Gulmarg, the famous ski-resort in north Kashmir, settled at a low of minus 11.0 de-

grees Celsius over six degrees below the normal for this time of the season, they said.

Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir recorded a low of minus

end of this month in the UT, there is a possibility of light to moderate snowfall during December 21-22 The resort was the coldest at isolated places of Kashmir.

# ANANTNAG ENCOUNTER **Militant Arrested In Injured Condition**

# **CRPF Man Injured In Bijbehara Grenade Attack**

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday arrested a Hizbul Mujahideen militant after a brief encounter while the motorcyclist manin south Kashmir's Anantnag aged to escape from the spot," he district, nearly a week after his added. wife died of cardiac arrest.

Pulwama was arrested by a joint team of army and police in an injured condition after a brief exchange of fire in Naina area of Sangam in Anantnag district during the intervening night of December 16 and 17, a police spokesperson said. Lone, he said, was arrested and shifted to hospital for treatment. He has reportedly suffered bullet injuries in abdomen.

Divulging further details of the operation, the police spokesperson said that on a specific input, a checkpoint was laid during the intervening night near Gund Baba Khaleel along Sangam Naina road.

"During checking, two suspected persons riding a motorcycle were signalled to stop. However, the pillion rider fired upon the joint party in order to escape from the spot," he said.

"The fire was retaliated, leading to a brief encounter, in which an active (militant) got injured

> On Friday last, Lone's wife Rozy Jaan died after government forces in 1999.

The police spokesperson fur-Zahoor Abbas Lone of Inder ther said that incriminating ma-

#### **2 Pak Intruders Killed Along Border: BSF AMRITSAR:** The Border Security Force (BSF) on Thursday claimed

to have killed two Pakistani "armed intruders" along the International Border in Punjab. More On P8

the site of encounter. "All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to

relevant sections >> Mo

Srinagar district with 439 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (339), Baramulla (170), Budgam (105), Pulwama (170), Budgalli (105), Pulwama (88), Kupwara (88), Anantnag (82), Doda (60), Bandipora (57), Udampur (54), Kulgam (53), Rajouri (54), Kathua probe their complicity in other. In this connection a case under (47), Ganderbal (42), Shopian (37),

Samba (34), Poonch (22), Ramban (21), Kishtwar(21), and Reasi (13). Meanwhile, twenty-five security

personnel and two minors besides twelve travelers were among new +covid-19 cases reported in J&K in the last 24 hours, taking the total tally to 117317. More On P8

suffering a cardiac arrest. Lone's brother Nisar was also a militant and was killed in an encounter with

8.9 degrees Celsius, the officials said. They said Qazigund the gateway town to the valley recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.9 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara, in the north, registered a low of minus 5.8 degrees Celsius and Kokernag, in the south, minus 4.8 degrees Celsius, the officials said. The MeT Office said while no major snowfall is expected till the



# J&K Open For Business, LG Tells CII



speaking population, coupled with

terials including arms and ammunition were recovered from

in Goa has been arrested on charges of drug possession, police said on Thursday.

Police Inspector Jivba Dalvi told reporters that a raid was conducted on Wednesday night on getting information about drugs being peddled at Arambol beach village in North Goa. More On P8

## **Bear Caught** In Kupwara

SRINAGAR: The wildlife department officials on Thursday captured a bear, who had strayed into a residential area in Kupwara district of north Kashmir.

The bear was on the prowl in the Wasia area for the last few days and had attacked several cattle, news agency GNS reported Thursday. The presence of the beast, the report said, had created panic among the villagers, who informed the authorities.

"We received several complaints from locals about the presence of a bear. The wild animal had also attacked cattle," an official of the wildlife department said. "The bear was later trapped in a cage by our officials," he added. This was the sixth such catch in Kupwara district this year.



**REGULARY? IF NOT** CONTACT INCHARGE

**Irshad Ahmad** 7006276927



JAMMU: The seventh phase of in Jammu and Kashmir at 84.85 panch and sarpanch by-elections in Jammu and Kashmir recorded 68.43 per cent and 58.64 per cent in the Kashmir division. voter turnout respectively, poll officials said on Thursday.

division had the highest poll percentage in the Union Territory at 81.38 in the sarpanch bypolls, while Bandipora district had the highest turnout at 68.82 per cent in the Kashmir division.

division's Rajouri district registered the highest voter turnout 37,139 women, 52,599 » More On P8

would be dealt on priority and not

the validity of laws at the moment,

unions to resolve the impasse.

per cent, while Bandipora had the highest voting percentage at 75.66

"There was 68.43 per cent and 58.64 per cent polling recorded in Udhampur district in the Jammu the seventh phase of vacant panch and sarpanch bypolls, respectively, held the other day (Wednesday)," State Election Commissioner (SEC) K K Sharma told reporters here. Bypolls were held for 438 vacant panch seats in the seventh For panch by-elections, Jammu phase and out of a total of 78,866 electors, including 39,727 men and

# **Dr Faroog Seeks Repolling In DDC** Constituency

SRINAGAR: NC president Farooq Abdullah on Thursday demanded repolling in Garoora District Development Council constituency in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora in view of allegations of booth capturing and other malpractices.

Polling for the sixth phase of the District Development Council (DDC) elections was held on December 13.

In a letter to state Election Commissioner K K Sharma, Abdullah expressed concern over an incident of booth capturing and subsequent bogus voting in the recently held DDC polls in Garoora Bandipora.

# **Calls For Unlocking UT's Potential In A Multi-Dimensional Fashion**

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, doing business, single-window Manoj Sinha on Thursday called clearances, competitive regulatofor "unlocking" the potential of ry and policy landscapes assured lammu Kashmir in a multi-dimenpart insurance covers, and rich sional fashion, through systemic natural resources. interventions at the individual and community level. members to partner with J&K and

Addressing the Confederation of be the change that one truly wish-Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit-2020 organized through

virtual mode, Sinha said that J&K future and to invest in a truly possesses great growth potential greenfield project. having talented young English-

"We're open for business. And we're set for growth, which is established supply chains, ease of sustainable and builds businesses with purpose. Come and partner with us! And enrich this partnership summit with your ideas and your inputs" the LG said.

"I want to see industry, jobs, He called upon the CII and its skilled workforce, modern villages, and world-class infrastructure walk hand-in-hand together es to see reflected on the ground, in Jammu Kashmir in 2021. We besides shaping up a magnificent will therefore do our >>> More On P8

# **SC Suggests Putting On Hold** Farm Laws, Centre Opposes

**NEW DELHI:** The Supreme Court on should not infringe the fundamental Thursday acknowledged the right rights of others to move freely and in getting essential food and other supof farmers to non-violent protests and mooted the idea of putting on plies as right to protest cannot mean blockade of the entire city. hold the contentious farm laws to enable negotiations with agitating

The apex court, which said it was farmers which was opposed by the worried with the way things are go-Centre saying agriculturists would ing on, was told by both the Centre then not come forward for the talks. and one of the farmers union that The apex court, which made it the negotiations are not happening clear that the issue of farmers' protest at the moment. and the right to move freely of others

It also said farmers cannot keep on protesting without talking to the government.

also said it was thinking of setting up 'You continue the protest. You an "impartial and independent" panhave the right. But you have a el of agriculture experts and farmer purpose also and that purpose is served only if you talk, discuss and The top court said it was of the reach a conclusion," a bench headed view that the farmers' right to protest by Chief Justice S A >> More On P8

# Amar Singh College Gets 2020 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Award

#### **OBSERVER NEWS DESK**

Amar Singh College, Srinagar, has been recognized with the prestigious Award of Merit in the 2020 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.

In its statement, the UNESCO said the 48 projects that were received collectively represent a significant achievement in the progress of conservation in the Asia-Pacific region.

"Project entries were diverse in scope and typology and were submitted from nine countries across the Asia-Pacific region,"



the statement reads. The jury, consisting of nine international conservation experts, was convened from 20-22 November 2020 to deliberate the project entries. This year the Jury awarded two Special Recognition for Sustainable Development, one Award of Excellence, one Award of Distinction, three Awards of Merit, and one Award for New Design in Heritage Contexts.

"The restoration of the Amar 🞧 Singh College brought back one of the most prominent institutional buildings in Kashmir to its former glory," 2020 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Jury commented. More On P8