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P4 OBSERVER OUTPOST

**NO ISRAEL RECOGNITION UNTIL RESOLUTION OF PALESTINE ISSUE: PAKISTAN TO UAE** 

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi says he has informed the United ...



SIC'S CLOSURE **MAKES RTI REDUNDANT** IN J&K

CIC's circuit bench needs to be established on the pattern of CAT



P10 LIFE & TIMES

**CLIMATE RISKS TO HEALTH SET TO WORSEN INEQUITY, HARM CHILDREN** 

Rising global health risks driven by climate change will hit the poorest, most vulnerable people the hardest - and failure to prepare ...



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a man anything, you can only help him find it

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#### **Board Exams Postponed Again**

**NEW DELHI:** Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" on Tuesday ruled out conducting board examinations for classes 10 and 12 till February next year in view of COVID-19 situation.

He said a decision on when the exams will be conducted will be taken later after due consultations and assessment of the situation.

#### **Bhutanese Woman Found Dead In Srinagar**

**SRINAGAR:** A Bhutanese woman on Tuesday was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Eidgah area of Srinagar's Old City.

Amrita Lohar from Bhutan was found dead under mysterious conditions in Takanwari locality of Eidgah on Tuesday afternoon, + news agency GNS reported. The body of Amrita, a labourer, was at the house of her local landlord identified as Hafizullah Dar.

A police official said that a case in this regard has been registered and further investigations taken up.

#### **Guns Roar Again Along LoC In Poonch**

JAMMU: Indian and Pakistani troops on Tuesday exchanged gunfire and mortar shells along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir after a day's lull.

to a defence spokesperson, Pakistani troops opened fire and shelled mortars at forward posts along the LoC in Poonch district on Tuesday. There was no report of any damage on the Indian side, he said.

#### Sexagenarian Woman **Dies Of Burns**

**SRINAGAR:** A sexagenarian woman died of burn injuries at a hospital here on Tuesday, a week after she allegedly set herself ablaze in central Kashmir's Budgam district.

The 65-year-old woman from Soibugh area of Budgam district succumbed to her injuries at Srinagar's SMHS hospital, news agency KDC reported Tuesday. The sexagenarian, the report said, was undergoing treatment at the hospital for burn injuries which she had suffered after allegedly setting herself ablaze at her home in Chan- Mohalla village on Tuesday last.

Quoting unnamed officials, the report said that a case under various sections of law has been registered and further investigation is going on in this regard.

#### **Police Recovers** 'Abducted' Kulgam Girl

**SRINAGAR:** Police on Tuesday claimed to have rescued a girl and arrested her abductor in Devsar area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

Acting on a complaint that a girl has been abducted by a youth identified as Ishtiyaq Ahmad Wagay of Pazalpora, police filed a case FIR No. 127/2020 on December 15 and started investigations, a police spokesperson said. He said to crack the case; a special team was also constituted.

"The special team headed by DySP PC Kulgam along with SHO PS Devsar while acting on specific leads were able >> More On P8

# **Gupkar Ahead But Independents Hold The Key**

### DDC POLLS

#### **PAGD Bags Over 100** Seats From JK. BJP Wins 73 DDC Constituencies

JAMMU: The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), an amalgam of seven political parties, won over 100 seats while the BJP emerged as the single largest party after winning 73 seats in the district development council (DDC) polls, as results for 260 of the 280 seats had been announced by late Tuesday night.

As many as 47 seats were bagged by Independent candidates, while the Congress party won 22 seats.

By winning three seats in Kashmir, the BJP on Tuesday won an election for the first time from any seat in the Valley while facing regional heavyweights like the National Conference and the People's Democratic Party. The NC and the PDP are part of the Gupkar Alliance.

As per the latest information from the state election authority (SEA), the BJP has bagged the highest number of 73 seats, followed by 59 seats by the NC. 26 seats by the PDP and 22 by the Congress.

As per the data, the newly setup Apni Party bagged 11 seats followed by seven seats by J&K Peoples Conference, five seats by CPIM, three seats by J&K People's movement, two each by Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers' Party (JKNPP) and the Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and one seat by the BSP

BJP won 13 of the 14 constituencies in Kathua district. Several former ministers and legislators - Tai Mohideen, Aijaz Khan, Gharu Ram, Abdul Gani, Jagjeevan Lal won the DCC elections.

Aijaz Hussain won the Khonmoh-II District Development Council seat in Srinagar, while Aijaz Ahmad Khan gave the party more reason to cheer by winning the Tulail seat in Bandipora district. PDP leader Waheed Para, under arrest for his alleged links with militants, won from his hometown in Pulwama constituency by a huge margin.

#### **Jailed PDP Youth Leader Wins From Hometown**

PDP youth president Waheed Para, who is in custody of the National Investigation Agency for alleged links with militants, on Tuesday won the District Development Council (DDC) elections from Pulwama district in Jammu and Kashmir.

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#### **JKPCC Chief's Son Tastes Defeat**

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) president Ghulam Ahmad Mir' son Naseer Ahmad Mir on Tuesday lost the District Development Council (DDC) polls from Anantnag district of the union territory.

#### Sikh Candidates Seal **Victory In Tral**

Two candidates from the minority Sikh community on Tuesday won the District Development Council (DDC) elections in the restive Tral sub-district in south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

#### **Counting Stopped In North Kashmir Over PcK Contestants**

Counting of votes for Hajin-A and Drugmulla constituencies of DDC in Bandipora and Kupwara Districts was stopped as one of the contestants happened to be a resident of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PcK), reports said Tuesday.

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#### **Small Margin Wins In Kashmir Constituencies**

An independent candidate won by just three votes against his National Conference rival, as many winners of the just concluded District Development Council (DDC) elections in Jammu and Kashmir succeeded by small margins due to the low voter turnout recorded

# An independent candidate celebrates his win with supporters

outside a counting centre in Srinagar.—KO Pix: Abid Bhat

## Eye Opener For BJP, **Its Proxy Party: Omar**



National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said people from Jammu as well as Kashmir have extended complete support to the Gupkar alliance and endorsed its plan seeking restoration of J-K's special

## **Centre's August 5 Move** Reiected: Mehbooba



PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday said the results of the DDC elections have made it clear that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have voted for the Gupkar alliance and rejected the Centre's unconstitutional

# In A First, BJP Wins 3 Seats In Kashmir

SRINAGAR: The BJP on Tuesday won an election for the first time from any seat in Kashmir while facing regional heavyweights like the National Conference and the PDP.

Aijaz Hussain won the Khonmoh-II District Development Council seat in Srinagar, while Aijaz Ahmad Khan and Mihna Latief gave the party more reason to cheer by winning the Tulail seat in Bandipora district and Kakpora-II seat in Pulwama district respectively.

Crediting the policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and hard work of party workers for his success, Hussain said the DDC election was a fight between the BJP and rest of

"This is a win for the BJP. The propaganda has been bust as people have shown their

faith in the prime minister and his policies. This is a message that nationalists are prospering in Kashmir," he told reporters outside the counting centre at SKICC here.

Senior BJP leader and Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi had campaigned for the BJP candidate in the predominantly Shia area of Balahama in the Srinagar district periphery.

# Attention for Taxpayers in the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir



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## **KULGAM GUNFIGHT**

## 2 Militants 'Surrender'

**OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE** 

SRINAGAR: Police on Tuesday claimed that two Lashker-e-Taiba (LeT) militants laid down their arms during a gunfight with government forces in south Kashmir's Kulgam district. Acting on a specific input about

presence of militants, police, army's 34 RR and the personnel of CRPF 18 battalion laid a siege around Tungdano village in the wee hours Tuesday and launched a search operation, a police spokesperson here said. The militants hiding in the village, he said, fired a few rounds

Instead of returning fire, the police spokesperson said, the joint forces showed "utmost restraint" and offered surrender opportunity to the holed-up militants. >> More On P8

# J&K Logs Six **Covid-19 Deaths**

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus claimed lives of six more people in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, even as the Union Territory reported 308 new cases, including fourteen travellers during the last 24 hours.

Among the six victims, officials said, included a resident of Kashmir Valley-a 65 man from Kupwara besides five persons from Jammu division—a 61-year-old man Naseeb Nagar Jammu, an 80-year-old man from Bhalwal Jammu, a 78-year-old man from Vijaypur Samba, a 58-year-old woman from Doda and a 45-year-old man from Reasi.

With these deaths, the total fatality count in J&K reached 1850-1169 in the Valley and 681in the Jammu region.

Srinagar district with 443 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (346), Baramulla (170), Budgam (106), Kupwara (89), Pulwama (88), Anantnag (82), Doda (61), Bandipora (58), Udhampur (57). Kulgam (53), Rajouri (54), Kathua (48), Ganderbal (43), Shopian → More On P8

# **MeT Predicts Snowfall In Kashmir Over Weekend**

SRINAGAR: Cold conditions prevailed in and Kashmir recorded a low of minus 5.2 mained below the freezing point across the valley on Tuesday, even as the MET Office said the weather is likely to remain dry and cold till the weekend when a spell of light to moderate snowfall is possible at widespread places.

The weather remained dry across Kashmir on the second day of 'Chillai-Kalan' -- the 40-day harshest winter period when the chances of snowfall are most frequent and maximum, officials said.

They said while the valley continued to reel under sub-zero night temperature, there was slight improvement in the mercury at a few places.

Kashmir as the minimum temperature re- degrees Celsius down from the previous night's minus 4 degrees Celsius, they said.

The mercury in Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir also went down from the previous night's low of minus 4.6 degrees Celsius to settle at a low of minus 5.8 degrees Celsius, the officials said. They said Gulmarg recorded a low of mi-

nus 5.8 degrees Celsius up from Monday's minus 6.4 degrees Celsius. Qazigund the gateway town to the valley recorded the minimum of minus 4.6 degrees

Celsius, while Kupwara, in the north, registered a low of minus 2.4 degrees Celsius and Kokernag, in the south, minus 3.6 degrees Srinagar the summer capital of Jammu Celsius, the officials said.

towards the search team.