

Widom

Quote!

“Do not look for happiness outside yourself. The awakened seek happiness inside.”

—Peter Deunov

NEWS DIGEST

Govt Suspends 13 PDD Officials

SRINAGAR: Two executive engineers were among thirteen officers-cum-officials suspended by government on charges of delinquency here on Wednesday. "Pending enquiry, the delinquent officers/officials of Power Development Department and Finance Department are hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect, in terms of Rule 31 of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control

● More On P8

Guns Roar Along LoC In Karnah Sector

SRINAGAR: The Indian and Pakistani troops on Wednesday exchanged gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Karnah sector of north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

Pakistani troops restored to unprovoked ceasefire violation and targeted forward posts of the Indian army in Karnah sector on Wednesday evening, sources said. ● More On P8

Cardiac Arrest Kills CRPF Man

SRINAGAR: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel on Wednesday died of a cardiac arrest in south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Vinod Kumar of CRPF 183 battalion died of cardiac arrest at the district hospital Pulwama on Wednesday morning where he was shifted after he fell unconscious, news agency KDC reported. He was a resident of Baghat district of Uttar Pradesh.

Arms Recovered From Village Along LoC

JAMMU: State forces recovered arms, ammunition and explosive materials from a militant hideout in Dabbi village along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Wednesday, officials said. The recoveries were made based on the disclosure of militant associates arrested on Sunday.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Army have recovered two pistols, 70 pistol rounds and two grenades kept in bushes along the LoC in Dabbi village of Balakote sector in Mendhar sub-division, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Poonch, Ramesh Kumar Angral said. ● More On P8

Labourer Dies Inside Railway Tunnel

SRINAGAR: A labourer on Wednesday was killed after a rock crushed him inside the under construction railway tunnel in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir.

34-year-old Safdar Ali of Gandoh area of Doda district was working inside the under construction railway tunnel No. 49B in Hangani area of Ramsoo when a rock hit him, news agency CNS reported Wednesday. He died due to the impact of the rock. Meanwhile, the report said that Police have registered a case in this regard.

Cop's Son Among 3 Militants Killed In Encounter: Police



Soldiers standing near the "encounter" site in Lawaypora area of the city outskirts on Wednesday. —KO photo. Abid Bhat

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Three 'non-listed militants', including a policeman's son were killed by the government forces on Wednesday in the city outskirts on Srinagar Baramulla highway.

In a handout issued here Wednesday evening, a police spokesperson said that the soldiers of army's 2 RR around 5:30 pm Tuesday launched a cordon and search operation near Hokersar on the basis of a specific input. The militants, he said, hurled grenades on the soldiers ● More On P8

Mainstream Camp Demands Time-Bound Probe

SRINAGAR: Several mainstream parties, including National Conference (NC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and CPI (M) on Wednesday demanded a time bound probe ● More On P8

CRPF Warning Shot Hurts Constable

SRINAGAR: A central reserve police force (CRPF) trooper was injured on Tuesday in Bandipora district when the sentry at a camp fired warning shots after noticing ● More On P8

'They Were Innocents', Families Shout Outside PCR



A wailing relative of one of the three killed youths pleads before cops outside PCR Srinagar on Wednesday.

AUQIB JAVEED

SRINAGAR: Barely hours after police claimed to have killed three militants in an "encounter" in Lawaypora area of the Srinagar outskirts, the families of the three slain youth vouched for their innocence and accused the state forces of killing them in a "staged gunfight."

The families of the three alleged militants appeared outside the Police control Room (PCR) here on Wednesday afternoon and claimed that their kin were not even remotely connected with militancy.

Cold Wave Returns To Kashmir After Light Snowfall

Gulmarg Shivers At Minus 11 Degrees Celsius

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Intense cold wave conditions swept Kashmir on Wednesday as the mercury fell below the freezing point across the valley, officials said.

The cloud cover ahead of Tuesday's snowfall had kept the night temperature around the freezing point for two consecutive nights in most parts of the valley but the respite ended as the mercury plunged to minus 11 degrees in Gulmarg in north Kashmir, the officials said.

They said Gulmarg tourist destination was the coldest recorded place in the valley.

Pahalgam, which serves as the base camp for annual Amarnath yatra in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 9 degrees Celsius -- a drop of six notches in 24 hours.

The officials said the minimum temperature in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, was minus 2.2 degrees Celsius on Tuesday night.

Qazigund the gateway town to the valley recorded the minimum of minus 2.5 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara, in the north, registered a low of minus 2.8 degrees Celsius and Kokernag, in the south, minus 6.5 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chillai-Kalan' -- the 40-day harshest winter period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies including the famous Dal Lake here as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the valley. The chances of snowfall are most ● More On P8

Deadlines For Filing IT, GST Return Extended

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Wednesday extended the deadlines for filing 'Income Tax' and 'GST' returns for assessment year 2020-21. According to the Ministry of Finance's Revenue Department, the deadline for filing ITR by those taxpayers whose accounts are to be audited has been extended till February 15, 2021. Besides, the deadline for filing ITR by other taxpayers has been extended till January 10. Accordingly, the timeline for tax audits has also been extended to January 15, 2021. The previous deadline for filing of returns was December 31. ● More On P8

LG Discusses Kashmir Situation With Amit Shah

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Singh on Wednesday called upon Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi and discussed among other issues, the prevailing situation in the Union Territory and the recently held District Development Council elections (DDC) elections.

In his first meeting with Home Minister since the conduct of maiden DDC polls in J&K, Sinha also discussed reshuffle in administration and police. "Sinha briefed him about the security scenario in J&K and measures being taken by the administration to bring peace. They also discussed the Covid-19 situation since the outbreak of the pandemic in March this year," a source privy to the meeting said.

Similarly, according to sources, both discussed the transfer of top officers in

administration and police.

"Transfer of top officers is on the cards which were discussed in the meeting," the source said, adding that the Home Minister appreciated the J&K administration for conducting DDC polls peacefully.

"Sinha briefed him about measures being taken to empower Panchayats and DDCs in J&K," the source added.

The first-ever DDC elections were held in eight phases to elect 280 members in 20 districts from November 28 to December 22. The polls marked the resumption of political activity in Jammu and Kashmir after revocation of special status and reorganisation of the erstwhile state last year.

The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), an amalgam of seven mainstream parties, swept the polls by winning 110 seats, while the BJP emerged as the single largest party by getting 75 seats.

J&K Reports 1 Corona Death

OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

SRINAGAR: A sexagenarian man died of coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, while 217 more people, including eight security personnel and a minor tested Covid-19 positive in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

A 60-year-old man from Jammu succumbed to coronavirus on Wednesday, taking the fatality count across J&K to 1880, officials said Wednesday.

Srinagar district with 449 deaths tops the list followed ● More On P8

CIK Raids Waheed Para's Residence, Other Locations

OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

SRINAGAR: A team of Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK), wing of Jammu and Kashmir police Wednesday carried out raids at different locations including the residence of PDP youth president Waheed Para.

An official said that CIK sleuths accompanied by a team of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and police conducted searches in Anantnag, Pulwama and Srinagar districts of Kashmir valley. ● More On P8

welcome
NEW YEAR

31 DEC
2020
EVENING

GULMARG PAHALGAM

snowboarding, snow mobiles, snow cycling, sledging, snow tubing, Gondola rides, snowshoeing, cultural programmes and much more





Let's bid adieu to the year 2020 on a positive note and welcome the year 2021 with a renewed hope

Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir

jktourism.jk.gov.in

JKTourismOfficial

jktourismofficial

JandKTourism

0194-2502512

DIPK-NB-4910/20

Udhampur - Baramulla Rail Link



PM Sets Aug 15, 2022 As Deadline To Complete Project

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Prime Minister, Narendra Modi on Wednesday set August 15, 2022 as deadline to complete the 272-km long Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail line being built at a cost of Rs 27,949 crores.

Chairing the 34th PRAGATI interaction with Union Secretaries of various Ministries and Chief Secretaries of States/Union Territories through video-conference, PM reviewed 11 projects related to 7 Ministries including the prestigious Udhampur-Baramulla Rail link being constructed in Jammu & Kashmir, an official spokesperson said.

J&K Chief Secretary, B V R Subrahmanyam along with Administrative Secretaries of ● More On P8