

Widom

Quote!

"We can know only that we know nothing. And that is the highest degree of human wisdom."  
—Leo Tolstoy

NEWS DIGEST

Ahangar, LG Discuss SKIMS Functioning

JAMMU: Director SKIMS Prof. AG Ahangar on Saturday briefed Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on the functioning of the Valley's premier healthcare institute.

According to an official spokesperson, Ahangar called upon LG at the Raj Bhavan here on Saturday and briefed Sinha about the functioning of SKIMS, and apprised him about the academic activities and faculty status of the Institution.

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Militant Associate Held In Kulgam: Army

SRINAGAR: Army on Saturday claimed to have arrested a militant associate and recovered arms and ammunition from his possession in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The militant associate was arrested during a search operation by the security forces in the Hattipura area of Kulgam in south Kashmir, an Army spokesman said, according to PTI.

He said a Chinese pistol, a Chinese hand grenade, two AK magazines with 28 rounds and a German compass were recovered from his possession.

NC Calls For End To Border Skirmishes

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) on Saturday called for an end to skirmishes on Line of Control (LoC) in Karnah, saying it is the people living along LoC that bear the brunt of escalating tensions in the border region.

Expressing concern over the losses incurred by people in Karnah, MP Baramulla and North Zone President Muhammad Akbar Lone, Qaisar Jamsheed Lone, Kafilur Rehman, and Dr Sajad Shafi Uri have in a joint statement issued on Saturday expressed unison with the affected families and impressed upon the administration to come to their rescue.

"Such skirmishes are no less than a terrible nightmare for the locals; the situation in the forward posts has remained as it is since long, making the lives of locals miserable.

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Pregnant Woman Airlifted From Gurez

SRINAGAR: The district administration Bandipora on Saturday said it airlifted a pregnant woman, facing serious complications from snow bound Gurez Valley to Bandipora in a chopper.

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora Dr Owais Ahmad, a pregnant lady was airlifted from Gurez to Bandipora for immediate medical aid.

An official said that the district administration received an SOS from the family for evacuation of the patient, who was in the advanced stage of pregnancy and developed some serious complications.

DC Bandipora immediately directed to arrange a special chopper to airlift the patient, he said. Pertinently, Gurez Valley remained cut off from the rest of the Valley during winters due to heavy snowfall in the Valley—(KNO)

Leopard Captured After 4 days

SRINAGAR: A leopard was on Saturday afternoon captured alive by the Wildlife department in Bagh-e-Mehtar area of Central Kashmir's Srinagar district.

A wildlife official said that the leopard was spotted four days ago in the area, who quickly entered into the residential house. After hectic efforts, the leopard was captured alive by the Wildlife department officials in the afternoon with the support of police. A Wildlife official said that they have left the area towards Dachigam wildlife century, where the leopard will be set free—(KNO)

MeT Predicts Wet Spell In Kashmir From Monday



A youth holds a slab of ice formed inside the lake at Srinagar's Botanical garden, where minimum temperature was recorded minus 5.9 Degree Celsius on Saturday. — KO Pic: Abid Bhat

OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

SRINAGAR: The weather department on Saturday predicted three day wet spell across Jammu and Kashmir from Monday during which most places in the Union Territory will receive light snowfall while some places, especially Pirpanjal range, Chenab Valley, and south Kashmir may witness heavy snowfall.

According to a meteorological official, most of the places in Jammu and Kashmir are likely to receive moderate rain, snow between January 4 and 5 under the influence of a fresh western disturbance approaching the region on January 3. Also, the official said, isolated places in the Union Territory particularly Pirpanjal range, Chenab Valley, and parts of south Kashmir are likely to witness heavy snowfall during the period.

The weather forecast has prompted the disaster management authorities to issue a low level avalanche warning for Ramban district.

Director, Meteorological department (MeT), Sonum Lotus said that the wet spell will begin in Jammu from January 3 and would persist till January 5.

According to a local news agency KNO, Lotus also said that foggy mornings will also come to an end from tomorrow morning in Jammu region.

"Srinagar-Jammu highway may also be closed after fresh snowfall. Those scheduled to travel to and from Srinagar should confirm the situation of the road before travelling," he said.

Meanwhile, Valley continues to reel under intense cold conditions even as Srinagar recorded a low of minus 5.9 degrees Celsius while mercury settled at minus 8.4 degrees Celsius in Pahalgam, a MeT dept official said.

In Ladakh, Kargil remained the coldest with the minimum temperature plunging to minus 20.4 degrees Celsius while Leh recorded a low of 15.6 degrees Celsius, he said.

He said that the minimum temperature in Srinagar was five notches higher than the previous night's minus 6.4 degrees Celsius. So far the season's coldest night in Srinagar was recorded on December 19 last when the mercury plunged to minus 6.6 degrees Celsius.

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One-Way Traffic On Banihal Highway

Only one-way traffic was on Saturday resumed on the 270-km-long Srinagar-Jammu national highway after remaining suspended on Friday for maintenance. However, the historic 86-km-long Mughal road remained shut while Srinagar-Leh national highway has been closed for winter months since Friday due to accumulation of snow which has frozen.

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Cross-LoC Shelling Peaks After Soldier's Killing

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The cross-LoC shelling intensified in Rajouri district of Jammu region on Saturday, a day after mortar shells fired by Pakistani soldiers left an army officer dead.

The Pakistan Army opened heavy fire and shelled mortars at forward posts along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district on Saturday, prompting Indian troops to retaliate, officials said.

"At about 1645 hours today, the Pakistan Army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and intense shelling with mortars along the LoC in Nowshera

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8 Civilians Hurt In Tral Grenade Blast

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Eight civilians were injured on Saturday after suspected militants hurled a grenade on an ITBP vehicle in Tral township of South Kashmir.

Around 11:20AM, suspected militants lobbed a grenade towards the vehicle of ITBP 3rd battalion at Bus stand Tral, a police spokesperson said. The grenade, he said, missed the intended target and exploded in the market leaving at least eight civilians injured.

All the injured persons were removed to the nearby hospital, where their

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J&K Conducts Dry Run Of Covid-19 Vaccination



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Bracing up for the roll out of much awaited coronavirus vaccine, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday conducted dry run for vaccination at three identified districts of Srinagar, Jammu and Kulgam.

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Budgam Woman Dies Of Covid-19

OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

Coronavirus claimed life of one more person in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, even as 244 fresh cases of Covid-19 were detected across the Union territory during the last 24 hours.

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Vaccines Belong To Humanity: Omar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR: COVID-19 vaccines do not belong to any political party, but humanity, National Conference leader Omar Abdullah said on Saturday, hours after Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav termed coronavirus vaccines to be rolled out in the country as "vaccine of the BJP".

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Slain Jeweller's Son Delinks Killing With Domicile Certificate



Relatives mourn killing of Satpal at his Indira Nagar house on Thursday. KO file photo: Abid Bhat

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Three days after unknown gunmen shot dead a non-local jeweller in Saraibala area of this capital city, his son on Saturday said that the killing has no connection with the domicile certificate obtained by his family.

On Thursday, unknown gunmen shot dead 70-year-old Punjab born jeweller Satpal Nischal inside his shop in Saraibala area of the city. He had received three gunshots in chest and died before making it to the Srinagar's SMHS hospital for treatment.

A little known militant outfit The Resistance Front (TRF) claimed responsibility for killing Satpal, hours after the shootout. The statement of militant outfit went viral on the social media in which it threatened that "any Indian national irrespective of faith, caste or colour who comes to Kashmir with the intention of settling here, will be treated as an agent of RSS and not as a civilian" However, rejecting the connection between his father's killing

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Lawaypora "Encounter" Father Digs Grave For Buried Son

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Four days after his militant son was killed by government forces in Lawaypora area of the city outskirts, the father of slain youth Ather Mushtaq on Saturday threatened to commit suicide if his son's body is not returned to the family.

"My innocent son was killed in cold blood. I am asking Indian government and particularly DC Pulwama to hand over the body of my son to me" Athar's father Mushtaq Ahmad said Saturday.

Ahmad, made these remarks while digging a grave for his teen son, who has already been buried by the authorities in Sonmarg area of Ganderbal district after the Lawaypora "encounter".

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87% Drop In Stone Pelting Incidents In 2020: DGP



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: There was a 87.13 per cent dip in incidents of stone-pelting last year as compared to 2019 in Jammu and Kashmir, according to Director General of Police Dilbag Singh.

In 2019, there were 1,999 incidents of stone-pelting, of which 1,193 took place after the Centre announced abrogation of the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir

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Court Rejects Bail Plea Of Two 'Extortionist' Cops

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: A court here rejected anticipatory bail plea by three persons including two counter intelligence policemen facing charges of misusing their official position to "extort money" from a person over "frivolous" allegations of militancy against him.

A per police report, on 10 December last year, police station Kothibagh received a complaint by one person forwarded by SSP CIK Srinagar for lodgment of FIR on the allegations that Selection Grade Constable Bashir Ahmad, presently working in CIK along with Head Constable Ajaz Ahmad, made a telephone call to him that there are adverse reports with CID CIK against him for providing logistic support and financial assistance to the banned militant organizations for which his presence is required.

The complainant stated that he took along one of his friends and met with one Shamim Ahmad of Pulwama, friend of

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HC Quashes 3 PSA Detention Orders

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The high court has quashed detention orders under Public Safety Act against three detainees.

The detainees whose detention orders have been quashed include Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat of Shopian, Ishfaq Ahmad Ganie of Pulwama, Amir Shafi Bhat of Pulwama and. Barring Amir's, the orders of detention were quashed by the court's single bench.

"There is no dispute with regard to the proposition put forth by the counsel for the respondents (government) that the preventive detention can be ordered even if the detainee is in custody in connection with substantive offences but in such situation the detaining authority is under an obligation to spell out compelling reasons for taking such action under preventive law," the court said in Mukhtar's case. "The detaining authority

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KASHMIR In Capital: Mother-Daughter Duo's Delicacy Durbar



In this second part of 'Kashmir in Capital' series, Kashmir Observer tells a story of a mother-daughter duo serving Kashmiri cuisine to the world away from their homeland.

ROMAAN ARORA

It was late afternoon when I went to visit one of the most popular Kashmiri restaurants in the Delhi NCR, Kashmiri Kitchen.

The restaurant, which maintains an eye-catching name, was in front of me with all its glory; a giant billboard, a beautiful facade, and a fascinating window.

But, to my chagrin, it was closed with a lock attached to the door.

The next moment when I was about

to leave, a woman in her mid-50s arrived. To my relief, she was Qamar Kamili, the owner of the restaurant.



We wanted to popularize the Kashmiri cuisine here among the locals, just like Chinese and other cuisines