

Maximum : 9°
Minimum : -3°
Humidity : 45%

SUNSET
Today 05:39 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 07:37 AM



Quote!

"you can measure the size of a person by what makes him or her angry"
— Dale Carnegie

NEWS DIGEST

Army porter injured in mine blast

KUPWARA: A land mine blast left an Army porter wounded in the frontier district of Kupwara on Friday.
The blast occurred near an Army Post in Tangdhar Nad area of North Kashmir's Kupwara.
Sources said that the porter sustained serious injuries in the blast. He was shifted to Srinagar hospital for treatment and has been identified as Showkat Chak son of Rasool Chak, a resident of Tangdhar area of Kupwara.
● More On P6

SSB trooper dies of heart attack

SRINAGAR: A paramilitary Sashtra Seema Bal (SSB) personnel died due to heart attack during duty in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Friday morning.
A police officer said that the trooper Anish belonged to F Company of SSB's 31 battalion and suffered the heart attack during duty at Gurwath area of Khanshab.
He was immediately referred to a nearby hospital where doctors declared him brought dead, they added.

CASO launched in multiple localities

KUPWARA: Cordon and Search Operations (CASOs) were launched in various areas of Kashmir on Friday.
Reports said that a Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) was launched in a locality in Devar Lolab area of frontier district Kupwara.
Local sources said that Joint Forces including soldiers from 28 Rashtriya Rifles laid a siege in the Khan Mohalla Locality after inputs about the presence of militants. Thorough searches were made by the government forces in and around the suspect houses, as per locals.
CASO was called off as nothing substantial was found.
Search operations were also launched in Gooripora Sopore, Rabtaar Kakpora of Pulwama and Resipora area of Handwara.

Lawyer seeks exam centre in Srinagar

SRINAGAR: Jammu Kashmir High Court Friday directed the Bar Council of India to consider the representation of Kashmiri Lawyers to get an examination centre established in Kashmir Valley for the 'All India Bar Examination'.
Pertinently, 'All India Bar Examination' is being conducted with no examination centre in Kashmir capital Srinagar. The aspirants are decrying injustice, appealing the Bar Council to set up an examination centre somewhere in Srinagar. ● More On P6

ACB produces charge sheet

SRINAGAR: Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) has produced supplementary chargesheet against Showkat Ali, then Statistical Assistant, posted in Planning/Housing & Urban Development Department, Civil Secretariat in Disproportionate Assets case.
A spokesperson from ACB said that supplementary Charge Sheet was produced against Showkat Ali of Nangali Tehsil Basholi, the then Statistical Assistant, posted in Planning / Housing & Urban, development Department, Civil Secretariat, J&K, presently Section Officer for raising assets disproportionate to his known sources of income to the tune of Rs. 44,48,078 in his name and in the name of his close friends and relatives as benami properties.
The spokesperson said that during the investigation of another case few additional properties were detected/raised by the accused Showkat ● More On P6

Srinagar-Jammu Highway Opens for Essential Supplies After 5 Days

Weather to remain dry till Jan 14, says MET

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: After remaining closed for five days Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, the only road link between Kashmir and rest of the country opened on Friday for stranded vehicles including those laden with essential supplies.

The 270 Km road was closed for vehicular movement due to the heavy snowfall, landslides, and shooting stones at several places.

According to reports flight operations continued smoothly at Srinagar Airport on the second day after remaining closed for four days due to heavy snowfall in the valley.

An official said that they have only allowed the essential supplies vehicles towards the

valley which were stranded at Udhampur sector that include petroleum products.

He said that no other commercial or passenger vehicle was allowed to ply on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway today.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir P.K Pole (IAS) said that the essential supply vehicles which include petroleum and Gas were allowed to move towards the valley, however the road is closed for general vehicle movement.

"The decision on re-opening the highway for fresh traffic will be taken once all the stranded vehicles are cleared and the condition of the road will be assessed as the road has become slippery at several places due to snowfall," he added.

He said that in view of good weather today flight operations were smooth at Srinagar Airport and there were 29 flight

movements today.

Meanwhile, Mughal Road, the alternative route which connects the Valley with Jammu division through Shopian and Rajouri, continued to remain closed for the traffic due to heavy snowfall.

Kashmir is currently under the grip of 'Chillai-Kalan' the 40-day harsh winter period and has higher chances of snowfall during this period, which often leads to the disruption in air and surface connectivity between the valley and rest of the country.

In a communiqué by Traffic Police Headquarters J&K which read, "Subject to fair weather and better road condition, only stranded vehicles between Udhampur and Banihal shall be allowed towards Srinagar on Saturday."

Meanwhile, the Srinagar MET department said weather condition has improved across the Valley and it is likely to remain dry till January 14.

Govt Extends Ban On 4G Till Jan 22

AGENCIES

Srinagar: The government on Friday extended a ban on high-speed 3G and 4G internet services in Jammu and Kashmir barring Ganderbal and Udhampur districts till January 22.

The Home Department in an order issued said "certain restrictions" have been placed on access to high speed mobile data connectivity to "curb uploading/downloading/circulation of provocative videos and defeat the nefarious designs of the forces within and from across the border to create a narrative by running a disinformation campaign."

The apprehensions of the law enforcement agencies regarding misuse of high speed mobile data services for infiltration and for coordinating (militant) activities gets credence from investigation of on-going cases and recent incident of interception of (militants) and recoveries of ● More On P6

BJP Worker Escapes Gun Attack in Jammu

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: A BJP worker had a narrow escape as unknown gunmen attacked his vehicle near Qasim Nagar Chowk in Bagh-e-Bahu Jammu on Friday evening.
Official sources said that at around 1805 hours, a scorio vehicle (JK02CD-0799) parked at Qasim Nagar was fired upon with a pistol. There was no loss of life or injury in the incident as the vehicle owner Liaqat Ali son of Showket Ali of Raika Bahg-e-Bahu Jammu was purchasing

house goods from Narwal market, reported news agency GNS.

Ali is said to be a BJP worker, they said. Police reached the spot and started the investigations.

Preliminary investigations, sources said, indicate that the attack was not linked to militancy. "Those who have carried the attack will soon be behind the bars," they said.

DIG Jammu-Kathua Range Vivek Gupta said that FIR has been registered and investigations have been taken up. "we will share the details later," he added.

Army to Evacuate Kargil Lower Plateau

Army to complete evacuation process in 6 months

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

KARGIL: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the LAHDC Kargil and the Army to evacuate the Kargil Lower Plateau.

The MoU was signed between the Deputy Commissioner and CEO, LAHDC, Kargil Baseer ul Haq Choudhary on behalf of the LAHDC, Kargil and Brigade Commander, 121 Infantry Division Brigadier Vivek Bakshi on behalf of the Army in presence of the Chairman and Chief Executive Councilor, LAHDC, Kargil Feroz Ahmad Khan and the General Officer Commanding (GOC), 8 Mountain Division Major General

Praveen Kumar Airy, AVSM.

As per the MoU, substitute land shall be provided to the Army near Maratha Unit Kurbathang and Mulbekh area.

An official statement reads that the MoU also outlines that the Army shall complete the process of evacuation within 6 months time.

The CEC, LAHDC, Kargil and the GOC, 8 Mountain Division said that it is a landmark decision which was a long pending demand of the people of Kargil and will pave way for the establishment of a new and well planned township in Kargil with all modern amenities under Smart City Project.

PAGD Leaders Have No Sincerity of Purpose: Bukhari

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari on Friday rebutted a news report about a dinner meeting between him and one of the leaders of PAGD that has purportedly taken place in New Delhi.

Referring to this news story, Bukhari said that he is not at all interested about the formation, composition or any kind of split within PAGD which came into existence in J&K by propagating lies and deceit among the people.

"Such a superficial alliance was formed to make its allies relevant among the people in a politically hostile atmosphere. These parties have always duped the people of J&K for the last over 70 years through hollow and misleading slogans. People know that this alliance will collapse on its own," he added.

Bukhari said it hardly needs any political machinations to engineer fissures within a politically opportunistic alliance that was primarily formed without any sincerity of the purpose.

"I have not participated in any dinner meeting in New Delhi as has been reported by the news agency. PAGD may develop cracks on its own but there are few political elements within this formation who would like to wash their dirty linen in public by spreading such canards through the media," he observed.

Bukhari said the so called Peoples' Alliance (PAGD) has started feeling the ● More On P6

Half of Army Under Stress, Says Military Think Tank

"Prevailing Stress Levels in Indian Army due to Prolonged Exposure to Counter Insurgency Environment"

KO MONITORING DESK

NEW DELHI: Indian Army loses scores of its personnel to suicides, fratricides and untoward incidents every year and in the past two decades, there has been a significant increase in their stress levels, a survey has revealed.

"At present, more than half of the Army seems to be under severe stress.... this is due to operational and non-operational reasons," say the findings of the country's leading think tank, United Services

Institution (USI), which is compiling a book from the outcome of a seminar "Prevailing Stress Levels in Indian Army due to Prolonged Exposure to Counter Insurgency/Counter Terrorism Environment", which it had organised in October 2020, according to a report published by The Tribune on Friday.

Excerpts of the same have been put up on the USI website under 'strategic perspectives' for the period October-December 2020.

Among the JCOs and jawans, the study identifies reasons, including delay and denial of

leave, excessive engagements, domestic problems, humiliation by seniors, lack of dignity, unreasonable restrictions on the use of mobiles, lack of recreational facilities, conflict with seniors as well as subordinates, health problems, inadequacy of train reservation, inefficient administrative support, financial problems, lack of transparency in promotions, delay in crediting of financial claims and poor quality of rations. "There is a need to remove all shortcomings at the earliest," says the study, according to the report.

Hables-E-Commerce Fraud 2 Arrested By J&K Crime Branch

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: The Crime Branch of Jammu and Kashmir police on Friday arrested two people from Poonch and Jammu districts in connection with the 'Hables-e-commerce' multi-crore fraud case, officials said.

The case pertains to huge financial fraud committed by a non-banking financial company in the name and style of 'Hables-e-Commerce Private Limited' run by six accused people who swindled the hard-earned money from

gullible people in the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri after inducement on the pretext of providing them different products with huge interest, they said.

A case was registered in 2019 in Jammu wing of the Crime Branch in this connection.

Ali Mohd and Mohd Sayeed Khan of Dhakki Behra in Mendhar tehsil were arrested following multiple raids in Poonch and Jammu districts, they said.

Both the accused are involved in ● More On P6

COVID-19: 127 Fresh Cases in 24 Hrs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir's COVID-19 caseload climbed to 1,22,303 on Friday with 127 fresh infections while the death toll mounted to 1,907 as four more people succumbed to the disease, officials said.

Of the fresh cases, 85 were from the Jammu division and 42 from the Kashmir division of the union territory, they said.

Jammu district recorded the highest number of fresh cases at 48, followed by 22 in Srinagar and 10 in Samba, the officials said. ● More On P6

Govt Providing Handholding for Talented Youth: LG

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Friday called for creating a robust ecosystem to promote the young talent of J&K.

Underscoring the significance of the event, the Lt Governor said that the aim is to provide a platform to bring the youth of the country together, giving opportunities to showcase their talents in various activities, promoting the spirit of communal harmony and brotherhood among the youth.

Lt Governor was speaking at the National Youth Festival celebrations here at Teachers Bhawan, Jammu.

Youth of J&K needs opportunities to showcase their capabilities. The Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is hereby pleased to delegate his Financial powers to accord Administrative Approval, Technical Sanctions, Award of Contracts, Sanction for sale of Minor ● More On P6

LG Delegates Financial Powers Partly to Forest Deptt

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor office in Jammu and Kashmir has partly delegated financial powers, involving various inter-departmental transactions, to officers of the Forest Department.

A notification in this regard, of which a copy lies with GNS, reads that "In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 67 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is hereby pleased to delegate his Financial powers to accord Administrative Approval, Technical Sanctions, Award of Contracts, Sanction for sale of Minor ● More On P6

Modern Kashmiri Architecture Lacks Professional Guidance: Top Architect

AUQIB JAVEED

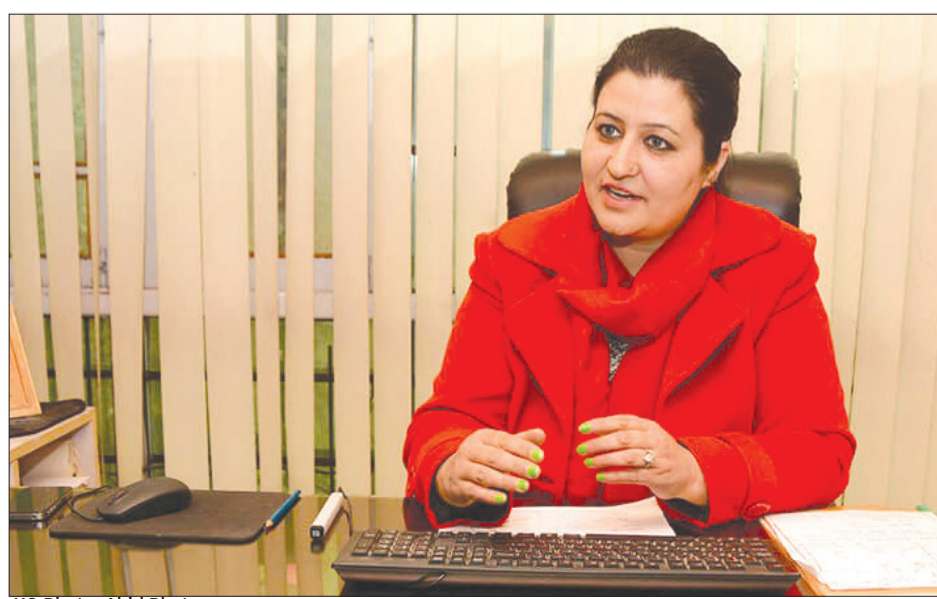
When snow bound roofs caved in across the valley on January 6, Kashmir's first woman architect, IshratNowsheri took to her social media handle to censure people for constructing "ill-designed" structures.

The ace architect joined the debate when several Kashmiris were rushing up to their rooftops on a frantic snow-clearance bid.

The thoughtless construction boom bereft of expert advice, she said, was one of the reasons behind the roof mishap.

As someone who has designed some top-syncretic-structures including Kashmir University's Sheikh-ul-Alam Chair building, Ishrat is counted among the best in building designs in Kashmir. Her design for the Kashmir Haat in Srinagar won her a government award in 2005.

In an exclusive chat with Kashmir Observer, the "Finest architect in Srinagar at New Delhi" awardee offers her building insights in the backdrop of the recent snow-triggered structural collapse.



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Is Kashmir's modern architecture prone to disaster?

No, it only lacks proper professional guidance.

But after some of these new houses fell like a pack of cards recently, many are wondering as what has changed for the otherwise weather-immune architecture of Kashmir?

Nothing has changed except growing reliance on nativity and lack of expert assistance. If you observe vernacular form of architecture, you will clearly see the European, Iranian and Turkish patterns there.

We've many examples in Kashmir like Jamia Masjid located in the heart of Srinagar and the settlement along the river Jhelum.

Not only are these structures architectural marvels, but also sturdy shelters for Kashmiris.

Since much of that architecture has faded now, what's triggering this roof meltdown in our modern houses?

Blame it on the poor design and construction, and lack of maintenance and building code requirements.

See, the roof slope is major factor in preventing snow damage and safety issues on the ground. A shallow slope allows snow to linger on the roof and increase the strain on the building envelope. ● More On P6