



Maximum : 4° SUNSET Today 05:43 PM
Minimum : -3° SUNRISE Tomorrow 07:37 AM
Humidity : 63%

News Digest

Pak Summons Indian Envoy
Islamabad: Pakistan on Tuesday summoned a senior Indian diplomat to register its protest over alleged ceasefire violations by Indian forces along the Line of Control (LoC).
CDS Rawat, LG Discuss Security Situation
Jammu: Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat and Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Tuesday discussed the present security situation in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

2 Porters Injured After Falling Off Hill
Srinagar: Two army porters were injured on Tuesday after they slipped from a hill in Uri area of Baramulla district.
17-year-old Mohammad Rameez Poswal and 21-year-old Mohammad Ramzan Poswal slipped from the hill when they were taking some load towards the army's forward in village Nawarunda Uri, reports said Tuesday.

Bus Mows Down Student In Bandipora
Srinagar: A teenage student on Tuesday was crushed to death by a bus in Saderkoot Payeen area of Bandipora district.
15-year-old Liyaqat Ahmad of Chak Garoora area was critically injured when a bus (JK13- 3813) hit his motorbike at Saderkoot Payeen area on the Srinagar-Bandipora highway on Tuesday afternoon, news agency KDC reported.

Two Held For Raping Minor In Jammu
Jammu- Two men were arrested here on Monday for allegedly raping a minor girl, police said.
Jammu residents Balbir Kumar and Rahul Kumar were arrested on a complaint lodged by the victim's mother with Arnia police station, they said.
The girl's mother alleged in her complaint on Sunday that the two men raped her daughter after kidnapping her, said police.

Highway Restoration May Take 10 Days

SRINAGAR: The traffic authorities on Tuesday said that the restoration work on the portion of damaged road along the Srinagar-Jammu highway might take nearly ten days to make the strategic surface link motorable.
Jammu-Srinagar National Highway shall remain closed due to sudden collapse of retaining wall of a bridge near Kela Morh, Ramban on January 10 at 6:20 p.m. Repairing by concrete filling and settling of the concrete for making it motorable may take approximately 10 days as per NHAI, a statement issued by traffic police headquarters read.
It further said that in the interim, to restore connectivity a Bailey bridge is being launched by the border roads organisation (BRO).
The statement further said that Jammu-Doda-Kishtwar, Jammu-Ramban, Gool Sangaldan, Magerkot-Banihal, and Banihal-Qazigund stretches are open for local traffic.
The 270-kilometre Jammu-Srinagar highway was closed for traffic after a portion of the road caved in near Ramban town on Sunday, hours after it was thrown open for traffic after remaining closed for seven days.



Picture Courtesy: Twitter

THE 270-KILOMETRE JAMMU-SRINAGAR HIGHWAY WAS CLOSED FOR traffic after a portion of the road caved in near Ramban town on Sunday, hours after it was thrown open for traffic after remaining closed for seven days.

Escape Tunnel To Be Ready By March: Govt
The Jammu and Kashmir administration said on Tuesday that the escape tunnel of crucial Z- MORH, connecting Kashmir with Ladakh Union Territory is likely to be completed by March this year.
The information regarding it was given to the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole during a meeting to review pace and progress made on Z- MORH and Zoijilla tunnels connecting Valley with the Ladakh region, an official spokesperson said. At the outset, he said, Executive P06

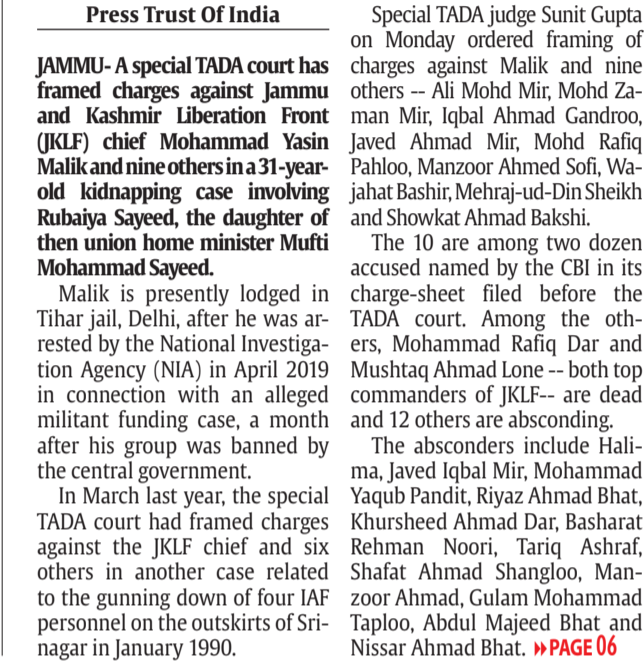
Night Temperature Falls Across Kashmir
The night temperatures decreased across Kashmir valley with Gulmarg recording the highest plunge to remain the coldest place in the Valley, the weather-man said on Tuesday.
Srinagar city recorded a low of minus 0.9 degrees Celsius down from minus 0.2 degrees Celsius the previous night, said a MET official.
The official said that the minimum temperature in Gulmarg tourist resort settled at minus 11.2 degrees Celsius down P06

SKIMS-Bemina Resumes OPD Services
SRINAGAR: After leading the COVID-19 patient care since March last year, SKIMS-Bemina has resumed the non-Covid facilities after the Government de-notified it from Covid designated hospital list.
Outpatient services, in Patient Services and elective surgeries were stopped in March last year after it was designated as specialized Covid facility centre.
However, with the daily tally of Covid cases falling in the past few months, non-COVID, the OP and IPD services were resumed today.
"This is the first day after the march we have resumed the OPD services and today we issued more than 200 OPD cards, since it P06

Bukhari Demands Statehood, Early Polls
JAMMU: Apni Party (JKAP) president Syed Altaf Bukhari on Tuesday advocated the early restoration of statehood and holding of assembly elections in the Union Territory, asserting that the people desperately need a popular government as the present administration is paralysed.
Bukhari also pitched for the immediate restoration of the 4G internet mobile service, stipend for unemployed educated youth, release of arrested youth and rehabilitation policy for misguided youth who are returning to the mainstream after shunning the path of violence.
Making a fervent appeal to P06

Farmers Refuse To Join SC Panel Will Hold Tractor Parade On Republic Day
New Delhi (PTI): Farmer leaders on Tuesday said they welcome the Supreme Court order staying the implementation of the three farm laws till further orders, but they will continue to protest till the contentious legislations are repealed and expressed doubts over the neutrality of the panel formed by the top court to end the impasse, a view shared by the Congress.
The agitating farmers also made it clear that they will not participate in the SC-ordered committee process.
Reacting to the SC ruling, P06

RUBAIYA SAYEED ABDUCTION CASE
Court Charges Yasin Malik, 9 Others In 31-Year-Old Case
JAMMU- A special TADA court has framed charges against Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Mohammad Yasin Malik and nine others in a 31-year-old kidnapping case involving Rubaiya Sayeed, the daughter of then union home minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed.
Malik is presently lodged in Tihar jail, Delhi, after he was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in April 2019 in connection with an alleged militant funding case, a month after his group was banned by the central government.
In March last year, the special TADA court had framed charges against the JKLF chief and six others in another case related to the gunning down of four IAF personnel on the outskirts of Srinagar in January 1990.
Special TADA judge Sunit Gupta on Monday ordered framing of charges against Malik and nine others -- Ali Mohd Mir, Mohd Zaman Mir, Iqbal Ahmad Gandroo, Javed Ahmad Mir, Mohd Rafiq Pahlou, Manzoor Ahmed Sofi, Wahajat Bashir, Mehraj-ud-Din Sheikh and Showkat Ahmad Bakshi.
The 10 are among two dozen accused named by the CBI in its charge-sheet filed before the TADA court. Among the others, Mohammad Rafiq Dar and Mushtaq Ahmad Lone -- both top commanders of JKLF-- are dead and 12 others are absconding.
The absconders include Hallima, Javed Iqbal Mir, Mohammad Yaqub Pandit, Riyaz Ahmad Bhat, Khurshid Ahmad Dar, Basharat Rehman Noori, Tariq Ashraf, Shafat Ahmad Shangloo, Manzoor Ahmad, Gulam Mohammad Taploo, Abdul Majeed Bhat and Nissar Ahmad Bhat. P06



Press Trust Of India

1 Corona Death In 24 Hours
SRINAGAR: Coronavirus claimed the life of another elderly man in Kashmir Valley on Tuesday, even as the Union Territory reported 113 fresh cases of Covid-19, including a minor, a paramilitary personal besides three travellers during the last 24 hours.
A 67-year-old man from Omar Colony area of Lalbazar here became one more victim of Covid-19 in J&K, taking the fatality count to 1912, officials said.
Srinagar district with 452 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu P06

PLA Has Not Pulled Out Troops From Frontline: Army Chief

NEW DELHI: Army chief Gen MM Naravane on Tuesday hoped for an amicable resolution of the military standoff with China in Ladakh through talks and based on "mutual and equal security" even as he said the collusive and potent threat from China and Pakistan to India cannot be "wished away".
Gen Naravane at the same time asserted that Indian troops are fully prepared to deal with any eventuality along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and will hold their ground as long as it takes to achieve the "national goals and objectives."
The Chief of Army Staff was addressing a news conference here ahead of the Army Day on January 15.
On increasing security challenges at the LAC, he said a need was felt about "rebalancing" of troops along the northern borders and subsequently steps have been taken to put adequate focus on the borders with China.
BRO Launches Op 'Himank' For Troop Movement
The Border Roads Organisation has launched a special snow-clearing operation to keep strategic roads and passes open for troop movement amid the tension along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), officials said, as the force's personnel brave freezing temperatures P06
"I am sure that through dialogue and discussion, we will be able to reach an amicable solution P06

Ex-Bank Manager Held Over Rs 3 Cr Fraud
SRINAGAR: Police on Tuesday arrested a retired bank manager of Jammu Central Cooperative Bank (JCCB) over charges of alleged misappropriation of public money to the tune of around Rs 3 crores.
Abdul Karim, the former Branch Manager of JCCB, Mendhar was arrested by police after a local from Thera Mendhar complained that the money deposited by him with the bank has not been credited into his account, officials said Tuesday P06

HC Rejects Cooperative Bank Employee's Plea Says He's Public Servant Thus Liable Under Penal Code, PC Act
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has dismissed a plea of a Cooperative Bank's employee who had sought quashing of an FIR against him by CBI and subsequent framing of charges under penal code and Prevention of Corruption Act for not being a public servant.
A bench of Justice Rajnesh Oswal referred to the explanation appended to section 21 of the penal code to reject the petition by the Bombay Mercantile Bank employee.
"In view of (the) explanation, it is evident that every officer or servant employed by a Cooperative Bank whether for the whole or part time is a public servant within a meaning of section 21 RPC and likewise section 2(2) of the J&K Prevention of Corruption Act..." the court said and P06

INTERVIEW: 'Kashmir Has Far Better Eye Care Than Other States'

Hibah Bhat
Over the years as Kashmir witnessed an 'eye emergency' due to renewed rage and offensive, eye specialists found themselves grappling with the growing calamity inside the critical care units turned 'war-theatres'.
Eventually, as the strife-torn eye-load crowded the outside clinics to fix their enforced darkness, the questions were raised on the valley's ability to handle the eye-crisis, even as a certain Tamilian would lead the way by showing up as an 'eye-messiah' at the peak of the searing summer of 2016.
Availing the expert services of the same south Indian surgeon, Kashmir's 50-year-old clinic is now trying to attune itself to play a larger role in mitigating the eye crisis of the valley.
Apart from spreading awareness through medical camps, Dr. Manzoor or Eye Care Centre is trying to end Kashmir's reliance on the outside clinics by making treatment convenient and affordable.
In a candid chat with Kashmir Observer, son of (late) Dr. Manzoor, Dr. Khurshid Ahmed—who previously worked as a chief eye surgeon in a government mobile health unit—talks about Kashmir's eye crisis, his clinical interventions and why Kashmir doesn't need the outside eye-care anymore.
Where does Kashmir stand in terms of eye care facilities?
Well, in terms of eye care, Kashmir is far better than most of the states. Equipped with latest technology, our two medical colleges and health centres are doing an excellent job in making this 'second-to-none' distinction.
But we can still improve eye care by holding more eye camps, especially in far-flung areas. As we live in the 'subspecialtiesera', we also need specialists to deal with a certain kind of diseases. In this regard, government intervention and support is must.
So, what're the most common eye diseases in Kashmir?
Cataract, which is a treatable blindness, is the most common eye disorder in Kashmir, followed by diabetic and hypertensive retinopathy. Besides, age-related eye degeneration, glaucoma and misalignment of the eyes remain the common eye problems in Kashmir.
What approach is needed to prevent these eye diseases?
I would say social awareness is the key. In absence of it, many patients tend to overlook eye disorders or signs making them prone to eye diseases in future.
And since Kashmir houses sizeable diabetic patients, they're prone to eye-impairment and blindness called diabetic retinopathy.
Similarly, any patient over the age of 40 can develop an eye disorder called glaucoma, which can cause blindness by damaging an optic nerve.
Children and people above the age of 45 are most vulnerable to eye problems. The best way to prevent these eye diseases is to have regular eye-checkups, at least once in a year.
People from smaller states mostly prefer going to outside clinics or hospitals for treatment. Is that the case with Kashmiris too especially when it comes to eye care? P06



Dr. Khurshid Ahmed, an eye surgeon, is seen in his clinical setting, discussing the eye care situation in Kashmir. He mentions that Kashmir is well-equipped with modern technology and has two medical colleges and health centers providing high-quality eye care. He notes that common eye diseases in Kashmir include cataract, diabetic and hypertensive retinopathy, and age-related eye degeneration. He emphasizes the importance of social awareness and regular eye checkups for preventing eye diseases. He also mentions that people from smaller states often prefer going to outside clinics for treatment, and this is also the case with Kashmiris.