



Maximum : 05°C
Minimum : -1°C
Humidity : 69%

SUNSET
Today 05:44 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 07:36 AM



News Digest

Army Porter Dies Of Burn Injuries

Srinagar: A speech and hearing impaired porter working with army has died after suffering grave burn injuries at an army camp in Andherhama, Drugmulla in north-Kashmir's Kupwara district on Wednesday evening.

32-year-old porter identified as Bhowan Patra from Assam, working as Industrial Person was at residential quarters at DOU Andherhama Drugmulla when the incident took place. The porter was immediately removed to 168 Medical Hospital Drugmulla with grave burn injuries and in the **● P06**

Bandipora Admin Airlifts Injured Girl

Srinagar: The administration in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Wednesday airlifted a critically injured girl from Tulail area near the Line of Control (LoC) for advanced treatment. Toiba Manzoor of Badugam Tulail sustained serious head injuries on Tuesday after she fell from the roof of her house, reports said. The doctors advised her to be shifted to SKIMS for specialised treatment.

After receiving an SOS from the family for evacuating the patient, the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Dr Owais Ahmed passed directions for airlifting the injured girl from **● P06**

Rs 74K Fine Imposed On Budgam Traders

Srinagar: The district authorities on Wednesday imposed a fine of Rs 74,000 during a market checking drive in central Kashmir's Budgam district.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, who is also the Adjudicating Officer today imposed a fine of Rs 74,000 on various food outlet owners, shopkeepers, traders and wholesale dealers for violating the food safety standards in the **● P06**

One Corona Death, 13 Cases In Ladakh

Leh: Thirteen people tested positive for coronavirus in Ladakh, where one person died of the infection, taking the fatalities in the Union territory to 128 and the virus caseload to 9,634, officials said on Wednesday. The latest COVID-related death was reported from Kargil district on Tuesday, they said. Of the 128 deaths so far, Leh district has accounted for the highest 84 deaths and Kargil 44. According to officials, 12 people tested positive for COVID-19 in Leh and one more in Kargil, while 15 patients were discharged after successful treatment, bringing down the active cases to 180 175 in Leh and five in Kargil.

IAF Ferries 75 Stranded Passengers

Srinagar: The Indian Air Force (IAF) ferried 75 stranded people between Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on Wednesday. An official here said 21 passengers were airlifted from Kargil to Srinagar, 27 passengers, including two infants, from Srinagar to Kargil and 27 passengers from Kargil to Jammu. The passengers were facilitated by Anwar Hussain, Liaison Officer Kargil, Mohammed Raza, Liaison Officer Srinagar and Mohammed Yusuf, Liaison Officer Jammu and their team of **● P06**

US Poised To Impeach Trump



Picture Courtesy: Agencies

Armed Guard Deployed To Protect US Capitol

As the House opened its impeachment hearing, the District of Columbia National Guard said it has been authorized **● P06**

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: The House of Representatives was set to impeach President Donald Trump for inciting insurrection Wednesday, with several key Republicans backing the Democrat-led push to bring down the real estate tycoon in flames just a week before he leaves office.

Washington was in a state of siege as lawmakers opened their session, with armed National Guard soldiers deployed, central streets barred to cars and public spaces fenced off.

The expected majority **► PAGE 06**

'Dying' Trump Sanctions Imam Raza Shrine

While Donald Trump was virtually gasping for breath to stay alive as President of the United States for a few more days he imposed new sanctions on two Iranian foundations on Wednesday. The designations announced by the U.S. Treasury Department target Execution of **● P06**

Kashmir Reels Under Intense Cold Wave

Srinagar Freezes At Minus 7.8°C Lowest In 8 Years

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir Valley reeled under severe cold, with Srinagar city—the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir—recording its lowest minimum temperature in eight years, the Meteorological Department said here on Wednesday.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 7.8 degrees Celsius, which was the lowest temperature recorded in the city in eight years, an official of the MET department said.

He said the exact same minimum temperature was recorded in the city in 2012 on January 14.

The rest of the valley was also reeling under intense cold.

Pahalgam tourist destination, in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 11.7 degrees Celsius – down from the previous **● P06**

Grenade Hurlled At CRPF In Rainawari

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Panic gripped Rainawari area of the city on Wednesday after suspected militants lobbed a grenade towards a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) team.

According to the officials, unknown militants hurled a grenade towards CRPF party **● P06**

LG Conducts Whirlwind Tour Of Srinagar City

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday arrived here and conducted a whirlwind tour of the city for the first hand assessment of the situation following recent heavy snowfall.

According to an official spokesperson, Sinha conducted a whirlwind tour of Srinagar city to inspect the snow clearance and other restoration works. During his tour, LG visited Lal Chowk, TRC crossing, Sonwar, Dalgate, Nishat, Foreshore road, Hazratbal, Saida Kadal, Rainawari, Khanayar, Dastgeer Sahib, Babademb, Mu-



nawarabad and other areas of the city and took the firsthand assessment of the situation.

"At Lalit Ghat, the LG interacted

with the Shikarwalas and enquired about the present tourism scenario. He also assured early redressal of the genuine issues put forth by them

LG Meets Slain Jeweller's Family, Assures Action

A high-level investigation is underway into the assassination of Punjab born Jeweller Satpal Nischal here last month so that his killers are brought to justice very soon, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said Wednesday. Sinha, who arrived **● P06**

during the interaction," he said.

The official spokesperson said that earlier Sinha received a firsthand appraisal of the **► PAGE 06**

IndiGo Plane Gets Stuck In Snow At Srinagar Airport



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Authorities on Wednesday deboarded passengers from a flight of Indigo airlines after it came in "close proximity" of accumulated snow at the parking bay of the Srinagar airport.

Sharad Kumar, Director, Air-

port Authority of India, said the passengers were shifted to other aircraft in order to avoid any incident, reported news agency GNS.

"There was the possibility of an incident as the plane came in close proximity of snow accumulated there and in order to avoid it (incident), the plane was halted there and then. The passengers were deboarded and shifted to another plane," he said. "The aircraft was later toed and brought back on the way," he said.

The plane was bound for New Delhi and had to be halted at around 12:30 P.M. as it came to the close proximity of the snow accumulation, the **► PAGE 06**

J&K Delimitation Based On 2011 Census: Law Ministry

Agencies

JAMMU: Ministry of Law and Justice in its annual review report has revealed that the delimitation in Jammu and Kashmir would be done on basis of the 2011-census figures under the provisions of 2019-Act.

On 5 August 2019, the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two separate union territories- Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh.

In the Re-organisation Act, it was revealed that the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir will have a legislative assembly while the Ladakh UT **● P06**

Work Begins On Bailey Bridge To Make Highway Through

SRINAGAR: The Border Roads Organization (BRO) has started work on Bailey bridge along the Srinagar-Jammu highway to make it motorable for vehicles carrying essential supplies to the Valley.

ADGP Traffic, T. Namgyal said that the repair work on the damaged portion along the highway was in full swing and that there has to be concrete filling on its side of the bridge, which will take some time to settle down fully.

"In the meantime BRO has initiated the process of launching a Bailey bridge, which will provide interim relief to facilitate movement of essential supplies including petroleum, gas and other essential supplies towards the



Picture Courtesy: Twitter

valley," he said.

Meanwhile, in a fresh communiqué, the Traffic Police Headquarters said that the **► PAGE 06**

BSF Detects Cross-Border Tunnel In Kathua



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A 150-metre tunnel constructed along the International Border (IB) to facilitate infiltration of militants in Jammu and Kashmir from Pakistan was detected by Border Security Force (BSF) personnel in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district **● P06**

CBI Books JK Bank Manager For Depositing Banned Notes

5 Others Also Named In FIR For Depositing Rs 12.84 Cr In Banned Currency

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Over four years after the demonetisation exercise, the CBI has booked the executive manager of a bank, three firm proprietors and two persons for depositing Rs 12.84 crore in banned currency which was later transferred to different accounts through net banking as legitimate money, officials said.

Based on "source information" received on December 10 last year, the CBI has filed an FIR saying Rahul Chaudhary and Dushyant Chaudhary were operating accounts of Shiva Trading Company, Divyanshi Sales Corporation and Shyama Trading company in the Jammu and Kashmir Bank's Ghaziabad branch.

Taking advantage of their rapport with executive manager Netar Sabharwar, the Chaudhary duo were allegedly operating the accounts instead of their proprietors, also named accused in the FIR, officials said.

The CBI has alleged that the accused duo in connivance **► PAGE 06**

In FOCUS

Remembering Mir Shafqat Hussian—The People's Advocate

Mir Urfi

In a Covid-crippled day last year, I had a young visitor at my home. He was incarcerated for many years, and as soon as he saw me, he broke down.

"When I heard about Mir Shafqat Hussian's demise, I felt as if my father has passed away," he cried.

He said whenever he would be jailed, his parents wouldn't take much pains to seek his release.

"It was Shafqat who would fight for my freedom," the youth told me. "On hearing about his death, I felt a hollowness like the one in an orphan's heart."

I discovered this deep and emotional public connection with the

people's advocate soon after joining him in 2003.

Before working with him, I was not much aware about Kashmir's human rights situation. I largely believed that things had returned to normal.

But Mir Shafqat Hussian opened my eyes to the blatant use of power and the plight of peoples' rights in the valley.

Back then, a major issue was the frequently-slapped Public Safety Act (PSA).

In case of PSA detentions, the advocate would often tell me, justice in the first place is not the release of the detained but to bring them to jails close to their homes, "so that their parents could be less troubled



by not having to travel outside Kashmir to meet their children".

Shafqat started practice in 1992 and during that time there was gross and rampant abuse of PSA. Many lawyers at that time would

file petitions against the lawless law and in his decades of work, he fought such cases in thousands.

By 2008, he was the lone lawyer to fight PSA detentions in Kashmir. As courts and offices remained

shut during 2016 protests, the parents of the PSA detainees approached Shafqat. The lawyer used his own money to buy digital equipment so that he and his team could file writ petitions to seek release of these youth.

It was a great time of hardship for our firm as we were not earning anything. And yet he sponsored the legal help for the captives of Kashmir. He tirelessly worked from home, forgetting about his own personal life and falling health.

I am witness to the fact that Shafqat played a pivotal role in helping the Amnesty International to highlight the rights abuse in Kashmir.

He would tell them, "don't trust me", and instead ask the rights ac-

tivists to visit the family of victims and witness their pain first hand. He was in constant pursuit of telling world the true picture of Kashmir.

The legendary lawyer passionately fought for justice.

When the families of those detained would come and meet him,

6 WHEN I HEARD ABOUT Mir Shafqat Hussian's demise, I felt as if my father has passed away," he cried.

they would feel relieved after he would counsel and console them.

In fact, many of his clients over the years have repeatedly told me that they would feel that they have won half the battle after meeting Shafqat.

People would fall in love with him. I always felt it was something spiritual.

Mothers of the incarcerated youth especially would come and kiss his forehead. He would tell them that he was their son and would behave like one.

"Be patient with them," he would always tell us. "Remember their children are jailed and we must let go if they at times are not at their best behavior. Don't think just as a lawyer but also as a human being; try to understand their pain."

I hold his advice in my heart.

Shafqat undoubtedly believed that there was conflict yet he stayed away from politics. As a lawyer he always believed that his role was to fight for the justice within the legal framework.

But that didn't make his job easier. I remember once a man came to our office to confess how he was tasked to execute the lawyer.

"But I returned from **► PAGE 06**