



Maximum : 5°C  
Minumum : -2°C  
Humidity : 44%

SUNSET  
Today 05:21 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 07:22 AM

# OBSERVER

14 Jumada al-awwal | 1441 Hijri | Vol:23 | Issue:09 | Pages:12 | Price: ₹3

www.kashmirobserver.net • twitter.com / kashmirobserver • facebook.com/kashmirobserver • Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016



Contact: -0194-2502327  
FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS &  
YOUR COPY OF



..... Life & Times/ 08

## SOME SOUP BROTHS MAY HELP COMBAT MALARIA: STUDY

Some traditional vegetable and meat soup broths may help fight malaria by curbing the growth and transmission of the deadly parasite, a first-of-its-kind study claims.....



OS /News....

## TWEEPLE HAIL AS PROTESTERS

SING 'JAN GAN MAN' AT JAMA MASJID  
Several hundred people took out a march on Wednesday night in old Delhi against the citizenship law and ended their protest with the national anthem.....

04/News.....

## ZARIF PRIOR TO IRANIAN STRIKE: 'BEAUTIFUL MILITARY EQUIPMENT DOESN'T RULE WORLD - PEOPLE DO'

Ahead of Wednesday's retaliatory strike in response to the US killing of General Soleimani, Javad Zarif spoke to an American edition.....



## News Digest

### Heart Attack Kills BSF Trooper

Nashik: A Border Security Force (BSF) trooper from Adgaon in Nashik district of Maharashtra died due to cardiac arrest while serving on duty at a post situated at 70 km distance from Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir. According to sources, the BSF trooper, Appa Madhukar Mate (36), was on duty at a chowki situated 70km away from Srinagar. He suffered a heart attack due to lack of oxygen and died on Tuesday (January 7) night, they said. His relatives were informed about his death late Tuesday night itself, the sources said. His mortal remains will be brought to his native town Adgaon on Thursday, they said. **PI0**

### Minor Knocked To Death In Kupwara

Srinagar: A nine-year old girl was killed after hit by a vehicle in a village in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Thursday. Reports said that a speedy vehicle hit a minor girl at Bramrari injuring her critically. Soon after the incident, the minor girl was rushed to hospital where doctors declared her brought dead. Reports said the driver of the vehicle fled from the spot and left the vehicle on the accident site. Meanwhile, police have registered a case and started further investigations in this regard.

### Advisor Khan's Public Meet Today

Srinagar: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan will convene public hearing in this capital city on Friday. Khan will meet people at grievance cell, Church Lane, Sonawar, on Friday from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, an official spokesperson said. "The public deputations and individuals, who wish to bring their grievances and demands into the notice of the government, can meet the Advisor at the said venue," he added.

### Govt Approves Road Accident Victim Fund

Srinagar: Government today accorded sanction the creation of Road Accident Victim Fund and issuance of Jammu and Kashmir Road Accident Victims Fund Rules 2020 for regulating the fund. Principal Secretary Transport Department, Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon said that the aim of the fund is to introduce a welfare scheme for providing succour to the legal heirs of the persons killed/injured in road accidents of passenger cum private vehicles including the vehicles owned by Government/ Corporation/ **PI0**

### Pakistani Woman Comes Back To Life At Funeral Bath

Karachi: In a bizarre incident, a 50-year-old woman pronounced dead by a hospital in Pakistan "came back to life" at her funeral bath, according to a media report on Thursday. Rasheeda Bibi was admitted to the Abbasi Shaheed Hospital in Karachi where the doctors pronounced her dead and also issued a death certificate, the Express Tribune reported. The woman "miraculously came back to life while being given her funeral bath on Wednesday". **PI0**

Do You Get Your Copy of Kashmir Observer Regularly?

If Not



Contact Circulation Incharge: Irshad Ahmad 7006276927 Office 2502327

# 16 Diplomats In Kashmir On Government Invite



Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: US Ambassador to India Kenneth I Juster and envoys from 15 other countries arrived here on Thursday on a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir, the first visit by diplomats since August last year when the state's special status was revoked and it was downgraded to a union territory. The Delhi-based envoys, who

came here on a special chartered flight, landed at Srinagar's technical airport and were taken directly to the army cantonment for a briefing. Top officials from the newly carved out union territory of Jammu and Kashmir received the delegation, which will be going to Jammu later in the day and stay the night there. The envoys, who are here as part of the government's diplomatic

## EU Diplomats Reject Invitation Of 'Guided Tour' To Kashmir

As envoys from 15 nations, including the US arrived here on a 'fact finding mission' ambassadors from European countries have rejected New Delhi's invitation for a two-day Kashmir visit, seeking instead the "freedom to meet the people unescorted", media reports said on Wednesday.

Envoys from 15 countries visiting Srinagar from Thursday is the first by New Delhi-based diplomats since BJP led government revoked the special status of Kashmir and imposed a harsh crackdown in August 2019. According to NDTV, European diplomats said they didn't want a "guided tour" and "would visit later and meet the people they want to meet". Quoting diplomatic sources, The Hindu reported that diplomats from EU had decided not to accept the invitation and asked for "more freedom to travel and meet people unescorted".

Consequently, the Indian government has decided to organise a separate visit for the European envoys at a later date, the report added. The report says Australia, Afghanistan and the Gulf countries were also invited for the visit but declined due to "other commitments".

"While many ambassadors are still on winter vacations and have not returned to Delhi, some are dealing with the fallout of US-Iran tensions on the region," the report said, quoting diplomats. "When asked, government **PI0**

outreach, will meet Lt Governor G C Murmu as well as civil society members and receive briefings on the security situation from various

agencies, officials said.

Sources said that mainstream politicians including Altaf Bukhari, Ghulam Hassan Mir,

Shoaib Lone and others also met the foreign envoys today. A delegation from journalist fraternity of Kashmir also met the **PI0**

## Army Chief Visits Siachen



SRINAGAR: Army Chief General MM Naravane on Thursday visited forward posts in Siachen Sector and interacted with the troops deployed there.

In his first maiden visit after assuming charge of Army Chief, Naravane visited forward posts in Siachen Sector today, an army spokesperson said today. The Army Chief was briefed on the operational readiness being maintained in the Sector by Commander, Siachen Brigade. He also interacted with troops deployed at the forward posts in the Siachen Sector.

"Complimenting them for their tenacity and high morale despite the extreme challenges posed by inclement weather, difficult terrain and super high altitude conditions, he said that the entire nation is proud of the soldiers who are deployed in Siachen, defending the territorial integrity of India," army spokesperson said.

Naravane exhorted the troops to continue to discharge their duties with the same enthusiasm and **PI0**

.....PLEAS ON KASHMIR CURBS

## Supreme Court To Deliver Verdict Today



NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court is scheduled to deliver on Friday its verdict on a batch of pleas including that of Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad challenging the restrictions imposed in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir following abrogation of provisions of Article 370.

A bench of Justice N V Ramana, Justice R Subhash Reddy and Justice B R Gavai had reserved the judgement on November 27 last year.

On November 21, the Centre had justified restrictions imposed in Jammu and Kashmir after the ab-

rogation of provisions of Article 370 and said that due to the preventive steps taken, neither a single life was lost nor a single bullet fired.

Besides Azad, the apex court had heard the petitions filed by Anuradha Bhasin, Executive Editor of Kashmir Times, and few intervenors questioning restrictions in the valley.

The Centre had referred to violence in the Kashmir Valley and said that for the past so many years militants were being pushed through from across the border, local militants and separatist organisation had held the civilians captive **PI0**

## Kashmir Rail Line To Be Completed By Dec 2021

Press Trust of India

Jammu: Kashmir will be connected to the rest of India through railway network by December next year as the government has set a fresh deadline for completion of the world's highest railway bridge.

The rail line is expected to be 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower. Konkarn Railway has said it was most challenging project in the post-independent history of the Indian Railways.

"It is most challenging task in the 150-year-long history of the railways. The highest railway bridge in the world, connecting Kashmir with rest of country through rail line will be completed by December 2021," Konkarn Railway Chairman Sanjay Gupta told reporters here on Wednesday night.

"The construction of the bridge is the most challenging part of the Kashmir rail link project undertaken post independence and, once completed, it will be an **PI0**

## PDP Sacks 8 Leaders For Holding Parleys With Govt

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: The People's Democratic Party (PDP) on Thursday expelled eight party leaders for going "against the will of the people" by engaging in parleys with the government.

"PDP expels leaders for going against the will of the people," the party said in a press release posted on its official Twitter handle.

The leaders who have been expelled are Dilawar Mir, Rafi Ahmad Mir, Zaffar Iqbal, Abdul Majeed Padroo, Raja Manzoor Khan, Javid Hussain Baig, Qamar Hussain and Abdul Rahim Rather -- all former MLAs.

"In view of the development post August 5 and the unilateral move of the government of India which has violated the will and hurt the sentiments of people, it has come to attention of the party that certain party leaders have been part of the

## Baig Says Mehbooba Provoked Delhi To Downgrade J&K Status

Senior PDP leader Muzaffar Hussain Baig on Thursday said former chief minister and party president Mehbooba Mufti's "provocative" statement over Article 370 resulted in downgrading of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories.

Mufti had in 2017 warned the Centre that if special rights and privileges to the people of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution are tinkered with, then there would be no one in the state to hold the tricolour. "The statement was made by Mehbooba Mufti in my absence. I was not there when she made it. I have on record said that the statement like it resulted in downgrading **PI0**

parleys which go against the interests of the state, official position and core beliefs of the party," the release said.

It said the party disciplinary committee has recommended the expulsion of all these leaders from the basic membership of the party.

The expelled leaders have thrown their weight behind former PDP leader Syed Altaf

Bukhari and were part of the delegation that met Lieutenant Governor G C Murmu On Tuesday.

They also met the visiting envoys from 15 countries, who arrived here on Thursday on a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir. This is the first visit by diplomats since August last year when Jammu and Kashmir's special status was revoked and it was downgraded to a union territory.

## Class 10th Results Out, 75 Percent Students Qualify Exams

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE) Thursday declared the results of class 10th regular examination 2019 for Kashmir division. Officials in the JKBOSE said that 74.79 per cent students have qualified the examination this year. However, no position holders have been declared by JKBOSE so far.

The officials said that a total of 65393 students appeared in the Class 10th regular examination 2019. "Out of 65393 students, 33981 were boys and 31412 girls. 75 per cent boys and 74.55 per cent girls passed," they **PI0**

## JK Begins Implementing Central RTI Act-2005

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday directed all departments to appoint Public Information Officers and First Appellate Authorities under the Central Right to Information Act

The General Administration Department (GAD) today directed all public authorities in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to appoint Public Information Officers (PIOs) and First Appellate authorities under Right to Information Act- 2005. "Consequent to repeal of the Jammu and Kashmir **PI0**

## Sena Supports Woman Who Held 'Free Kashmir' Poster In Mumbai

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: The Shiv Sena on Thursday hit out at BJP leader and former CM Devendra Fadnis for targeting Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray over the "Free Kashmir" placard displayed by a woman at a protest in Mumbai against the JNU violence.

When Mehek Prabh, a Marathi woman from Mumbai stood up for the pain of Kashmiris by holding the placard, the opposition termed it as "sedition, the Shiv Sena said, adding that there cannot be **PI0**

