

Maximum : 6°C
Minum : -3.5°C
Humidity : 64%

SUNSET
Today 05:45 PM
SUNRISE
Tommrow 07:37 AM



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Business/ 07

RBI MAY PUT RATE CUTS ON EXTENDED PAUSE AFTER SPIKE IN INFLATION

A spike in India's retail inflation in December has raised the chances the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will put rate cuts on hold for some time despite economic growth languishing at more than six-year lows....



SOLEIMANI KILLING SPARKS MAJOR RAPTURE IN US-UK TIES: REPORT
President donald trump's order assassinate iranain Maj. Gen.Qassem Soliemani has triggered a major rapture between US and its historically ally, the UK.....

08/Sports....

KOHLI NAMED CAPTAIN OF ICC'S ODI AND TEST TEAMS OF THE YEAR

India skipper and batting mainstay Virat Kohli was on Wednesday named captain of the International Cricket Council's ODI and Test teams of the year, capping off a memorable season for the world No.1.....



News Digest

Selected Hajj Aspirants Told To Deposit Payment

Srinagar: The J&K Haj Committee on Wednesday asked all the provisionally selected pilgrims of Hajj - 2020 to deposit the advance According to a circular, the committee has asked the provisionally selected pilgrims of Kashmir to deposit advance Haj amount of Rs. 81,000 by February 15, 2020 while the first instalment amount of Rs 1, 20,000 has to be deposited by March 15, 2020. The desired pilgrims can deposit both amounts together, the committee said. The payment can be made ● P02

CET To Be Held On April 26

Jammu: The J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examinations on Wednesday announced that the Common Entrance Test (CET) for BE/B.Tech Engineering courses/B.Sc Nursing, 2020 will now be held on 26 April 2020 instead of 19 April 2020. The re-scheduling of date of CET has been made due to the fact that the Union Public Service Commission has notified conduct of National Defence Academy/Naval Academy-I Examination on 19 April 2020, an official spokesperson said.

572 Posts Created For 52 GDCs

Jammu: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has accorded sanction to the creation of 572 posts of various categories in the 52 Degree Colleges sanctioned during the year 2019. The posts include 52 posts of Principals, 208 posts of Assistant Professors, 52 posts of Physical Training Instructors and 52 posts each of Junior Assistants, Library Assistants, Accounts Assistants, Orderly and Chowkidars, an official spokesperson said. In order to provide access to quality education to ● P02

Fire damages house, 2 shops

Bandipora: A residential house and two shops were gutted in a fire incident in a village in north Kashmir's Bandipora district, officials said Wednesday. They said that that fire broke out in the house of Irshad Ahmad Khan, son of Mohammad Akbar Khan of Watrina on Tuesday night causing extensive damage to the house and two shops. However, no loss of life or injury was reported during the incident, officials said, adding that the cause of fire was electric short-circuit. (KNO)

Water Conservation Works Reviewed In Anantnag

Anantnag: District Development Commissioner Anantnag Mr. Khalid Jahangir on Wednesday reviewed the status of ongoing water conservation works in the district. ACD Anantnag, DPO, AD Planning, Project Officer IWMP and other concerned attended the meeting, an official spokesperson said. "The DDC directed the concerned to complete all the ongoing 500 water conservation works by the end of February 2020 and to ● P02

JK Clubs Internet To Militancy In Valley

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR: The J&K administration has cited possible misuse of the internet by anti-national elements and militants as a reason for not restoring these services for the general public and media in the Kashmir Valley.

Complying with the Supreme Court's directions issued on January 10, the union territory's administration on Tuesday evening ordered restoration of 2G mobile internet services on postpaid connections in five districts of Jammu division and broadband facilities in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions only for institutions dealing with essential services and tourism, such as hospitals, banks and hotels.

The order, issued by Principal Secretary, Home, Shaleen Kabra late on Tuesday, however, did not restore mobile internet services for Kashmir division. It said misuse ● PAGE 02

Internet Partially Restored To Hotels, Govt Offices; Public To Wait

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: After more than five months of internet blackout, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday evening allowed broadband in hotels, travel establishments and hospitals but only on white-listed websites.

The government order again excludes media houses which remain without internet since August 4.

In a three-page order, the home department asked internet service providers to install firewalls and carry out "white listing" of websites before providing these services. However, social media websites continue to be banned.

Internet service providers will offer broadband facility (with Mac binding) to all institutions dealing with essential services, hospitals, banks as also government offices. Mac Binding means to enforce a client machine to work from a particular Internet Protocol address.

In order to facilitate tourism, broadband internet would be provided to hotels and tour and travel establishments, the administration's order signed by Principal Secretary Shaleen Kabra, said. The order however is silent on internet ban on media organisations operating in the Kashmir Valley.

The relaxation comes three days after the Supreme Court ordered the ● P02

Heavy Snowfall Cripples Life Across Kashmir

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Heavy snowfall continued for the third straight day across Kashmir throwing normal life out of gear, even as the weather department on Wednesday predicted more snow and rain in the Valley till Friday.

There was no respite from weather woes in summer capital, Srinagar, where life remained disrupted for the third day on Wednesday due to fresh snowfall since early this morning.

Srinagar had turned white due to fresh snowfall as people woke up on Wednesday morning. Roof of houses and vehicles ● PAGE 02



TOURISTS PLAYING WITH SNOW AT THE BOTANICAL GARDEN here in this capital city on Wednesday. Pic: Abid Bhat

5000 Vehicles Stranded On Banihal Highway

Fresh landslides kept the Jammu-Srinagar Highway shut for the third consecutive day on Wednesday, leaving over 5000 vehicles stranded. "There were four fresh landslides in Digdol and Panthiyal belts on highway in Ramban district. The traffic ● P02

Air Traffic Again Suspended At Srinagar Airport

Air traffic at Srinagar International Airport was on Wednesday again suspended due to poor visibility and fresh snowfall since early this morning. Air traffic had resumed only on Tuesday afternoon after remaining suspended for two days in the valley due ● P02

KU Postpone All Examinations

Kashmir University (KU) on Wednesday postponed all scheduled examinations due to fresh snowfall since early this morning. Meanwhile, students have appealed to KU to extend the date for submitting entrance forms for B.Ed examination. A spokesman of the KU said that due to fresh ● P02

Advisor Bhatnagar Gets Sweeping Powers On Security, Policing Matters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: Lt Governor of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir G C Murmu has issued an order giving his advisor Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar sweeping authority on security and policing, including reshuffling of Station House Officers (SHOs).

The order, issued by the general administrative department, gives powers to Bhatnagar, a retired 1983-batch IPS officer who has never served in JK, which include deciding on ground-level postings in consultation with Senior Security Advisor in Home Ministry, K Vijay Kumar, who has

spent 11 months in the erstwhile state as advisor to former governor Satyapal Malik. As per the two-page order issued by the home department on Tuesday night, Bhatnagar would also oversee deployment of para-military forces and armed unit of Jammu and Kashmir police for "optimum effect".

Bhatnagar, who recently retired as Director General of CRPF, would also address various aspects pertaining to intelligence activities and timely follow up besides co-ordinating with the Senior Security advisor.

The order said Bhatnagar would also suggest ● PAGE 02

Situation Normal; All Communication Channels Would Be Restored Soon: LG



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: The situation in Jammu and Kashmir is normal and people are participating in the development process, Lt Governor G C Murmu said on Wednesday assuring no stone would

be left unturned for the rapid development of the Union Territory.

The administration is reviewing the situation continuously and all the formal communication channels would be restored in the coming days, he said.

"Jammu, of course, was normal and the other part (Kashmir) is also normal. The people are cooperative and they have understood and are now participating in the development process," Murmu told reporters

after inaugurating the upgraded Maulana Azad Stadium here.

The stadium was renovated at a cost of Rs 40 crore under Prime Minister's Development Package to host national and international cricket matches. It is the first such facility in Jammu and Kashmir.

Asked about the partial restoration of the internet services in Kashmir and 2G mobile internet services in five districts of Jammu region after being ● PAGE 02

Ex-CM Omar Likely To Be Shifted From Hari-Niwas

SRINAGAR: Former chief minister Omar Abdullah is likely to be shifted from Hari-Niwas sub-jail to a government building close to his Gupkar residence, official sources said Wednesday.

Omar, who is currently lodged at the Hari-Niwas sub-jail since August 5, is being shifted from there due to harsh winter conditions.

"Yes, there is a plan to shift Omar. Final call will be taken tomorrow," a top official told a local newsgathering agency. Omar's father, Dr Farooq Abdullah has also been serving detention since August 5. He has been slapped with Public Safety Act (PSA) and is lodged



at his Gupkar residence.

Some 50 odd politicians were detained on August 5 and lodged at various places under preventive custody in the wake of roll back of Article 370. (KNO)

UNSC To Discuss Kashmir For Second Time In 6 Months

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) will hold a meeting on Wednesday (Thursday morning in India) on the situation in Kashmir, reports reaching here said.

The body is likely to receive a briefing by the UN military observer group over the situation along the Line of Control (LoC), which has seen escalation of tensions over the last few months resulting in deaths of several civilians and soldiers from both sides.

This is for the second



time in six months that the UNSC has called a meeting on Kashmir, as the erstwhile state under the Indian control remains under a communication and security lockdown. The UNSC had held its consultative meeting in August last

year after the Indian government imposed a lockdown and communication blackout and repealed the special status of Jammu and Kashmir

A meeting was held when China asked the world body to review ● PAGE 02

Abrogation Of Art 370 A Historic Step: Army Chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Army chief Gen M M Naravane on Wednesday hailed the abrogation of provisions of Article 370 as a "historic step" and said the move has disrupted plans of the "western neighbour and its proxies".

The armed forces have "zero tolerance against terrorism", he said at the 72nd Army Day function in the Cariappa Parade Ground here.

"We have many options to counter those who promote terrorism and we will not hesitate to use them," he said.

On August 5 last year, ● P02

Hizb Commander Killed In Doda Gunfight

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: A top Hizbul Mujahideen militant was killed by government forces while one of his accomplices escaped during an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Wednesday, officials said.

The encounter between the militants and personnel of the army and police took place in the district's Gondana belt, Public Relations Officer, Defence, Jammu, Lt Col Devender Anand, said.

Government forces had received information about

Associate Of Hizb Militants Nabbed: Police

An associate of militants was arrested on Wednesday from Awantipora area of Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. "Police in Awantipora arrested a militant associate of proscribed outfit Hizbul Mujahideen," a police spokesman said. The ● P02

the presence of militants in the area, the officials said.

In the gun battle, Hizbul Mujahideen's Haroon Wani, an A++ category militant, was killed. He belonged to the Gattah belt of the district, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban

Range, Sujit Kumar, said. He said another militant has fled towards higher snow-bound areas and operations are on to track him.

Kumar said an AK-47 rifle, three magazines, 73 rounds, a Chinese grenade and a radio set have been recovered.

Kashmir Police Organise Debate On Human Rights

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Police on Wednesday organized a debate on the importance of human rights at the police control room here in a bid to develop a vibrant understanding of Human Rights among the officials serving in the valley, a police spokesperson said.

While addressing the participants, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Central Kashmir, V.K. Birdi emphasized that the respect for human rights should be reflected

in the investigations carried out by the police officials.

"He said that the aim and objective of organizing the debate is to sensitize the officers about the importance of laws governing humans," the police spokesperson said.

"He stressed that while performing their duties, they should be conscious of all those laws and rights in order to facilitate the people friendly policing activities in their areas," he added.

Highlighting the challenges of policing, he said that we must abide by ● PAGE 02

CBI Starts Probe Into Patnitop Master Plan Violations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The CBI has launched a probe into alleged violations of the master plan of the Patnitop area in Jammu and Kashmir, dispatching 30 officers of its special team to inquire into encroachment of forest land by hoteliers in the region, officials said on Wednesday.

The agency had registered a preliminary enquiry on the orders of



the Jammu and Kashmir High Court dated December 31, 2019, they added.

"This order has been passed on a PIL filed by the president of the Hotel and Restaurant Association, Patnitop, wherein he has alleged

glaring violations of the master plan of the Patnitop area, resulting in 70 per cent of hotels and restaurants having been constructed without permission," a CBI official said.

In order to meet the deadline of eight weeks given by the high court to conclude the inquiry and submit a report, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had dispatched a special team of 30 officers to ● PAGE 02

LG Inaugurates Maulana Azad Cricket Stadium

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu on Wednesday inaugurated the renovated Maulana Azad Cricket Stadium here today.

In his inaugural address, the LG congratulated the sports fraternity of J&K for having the international level sports facilities here at the newly inaugurated MA Cricket Stadium, an official spokesperson said.

LG expressed delight to inaugurate the renovated

Maulana Azad Stadium that has been upgraded under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) which is one of the priorities of the present Government.

"When the Development Package was prepared, I was fortunate enough to be a part of it, he said, adding that, around Rs 40 cr have been spent out of the Rs 200 cr earmarked for sports infrastructure and rest of the amount would be spent for developing sports facilities all over the UT," " Apart from cricket, ● PAGE 02

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