



Maximum : 3°C  
Minimum : -5°C  
Humidity : 78%

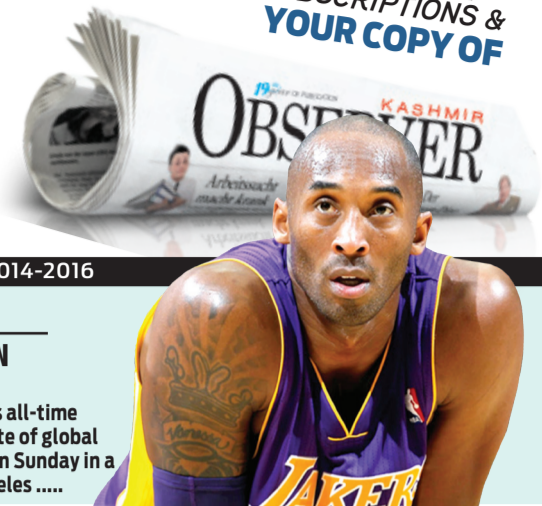
SUNSET Today 05:55 PM  
SUNRISE Tomorrow 07:31 AM

# OBSERVER

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**NEWS/06**  
**CHINA VIRUS DEATH TOLL NOW AT 80, MORE THAN 2,700 CASES CONFIRMED**  
China continued to reel under deadly coronavirus epidemic on Monday with the death toll due to it sharply rising to 80 amid the country's National Health Commission reporting 2,744 confirmed....



**07/BUSINESS.....**  
**NEW INDIAN LAW TO PROTECT FOREIGN INVESTORS TO EXCLUDE TAX DEMANDS: REPORT**  
New legislation will improve protection for foreign investors in India by offering relief from possible policy changes but will uphold the state's right to tax them, according to its draft and government documents seen by Reuters.....

**08/SPORTS.....**  
**KOBE BRYANT KILLED IN HELICOPTER CRASH**  
Kobe Bryant, one of the NBA's all-time greatest players and an athlete of global renown, was killed at age 41 on Sunday in a helicopter crash near Los Angeles .....

## News Digest

### LG Congratulates Padma Awardees

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu on Monday congratulated Padma Awardees from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Murmu congratulated senior PDP leader Muzaffar Hussain Baig, recipient of Padma Bhushan. He also conveyed his greetings to Shiv Datt Nirmohi and Javed Ahmad Tak on being conferred with Padma Shri for their valuable contributions in the field of Public Affairs, Literature & Education and Social Work respectively

### Grenade Lobbed At CRPF Picket

Srinagar: Suspected militants hurled a grenade towards a CRPF bunker near police station MR Gunj here in Srinagar on Sunday night, police sources said Monday. They said suspected militants hurled a grenade towards the bunker of CRPF 23 Battalion at Maharaj Gunj last night. However, the grenade did not explode. Police and troopers rushed to spot while Bomb Disposal Squad was called in that diffuse the grenade. (KNT)

### Man Slips From Moving Train, Injured

Srinagar: A middle aged man was injured after he fell down from a train in Qazigund area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district. Satprakash Singh, son of Lal Singh from Delhi slipped from a running train in Qazigund, thus causing severe injuries to him, reports said. The incident took place when the train was heading towards Banihal from Srinagar. The injured person as per the officials was shifted to Emergency Hospital Qazigund (EHQ) where he is undergoing treatment. Officials said that the condition of injured man is stable. (KNO)

### Kupwara Shuts On Massacre Anniversary

Srinagar: A partial shutdown was observed in frontier district of Kupwara on Monday against the killing of 27 civilians including three policemen allegedly by the soldiers on this day in 1994. Majority of the shops and business establishments remained closed and skeletal movement of traffic was

### 550 Employees Of BSNL Opt For VRS In J&K

Srinagar: 84000 employees of state-run telecom operator BSNL have opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme which included 550 employees of J&K. Public Relations Officer J&K BSNL Masood Bala confirmed the development. "182 employees are in Kashmir division," he said. Notably, the BSNL has recently announced a voluntary retirement scheme for its employees. The 31st January

## Met Predicts Another Snow Spell From Today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**SRINAGAR:** The weather department on Monday predicted fresh spell of rain and snowfall across the Valley from Monday night, even as the minimum temperature in Srinagar settled above the freezing point, providing residents some relief from cold conditions.

A Met department spokesperson told Kashmir Observer that light to moderate snow would occur during the next 48 hours from Monday night across the Valley as a fresh

western disturbance has hit the region. The official said that the weather will improve from Wednesday afternoon.

Meanwhile, Srinagar city recorded a minimum temperature of 0.6 degrees Celsius, up from the minus 0.2 degrees Celsius on Sunday, a MET official said.

He said the night temperature in the city was above the freezing point for the first time in recent days and it was 1.6 degrees above normal for this part of the season.

In Qazigund the gateway town to the valley in south

Kashmir the minimum settled at a low of 0.8 degrees Celsius an increase of 1.5 degrees from the previous night's minus 0.7 degrees Celsius.

The night temperature in Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir settled at a low of minus 10.4 degrees Celsius down over seven degrees from the minus 3 degrees Celsius on Sunday and Pahalgam was the coldest recorded place in the Kashmir Valley, the official added.

The ski-resort of Gulmarg, in north Kashmir, registered a minimum of minus 10.2 degrees Celsius, the

**THE NIGHT TEMPERATURE IN PAHALGAM TOURIST RESORT** in south Kashmir settled at a low of minus 10.4 degrees Celsius down over seven degrees from the minus 3 degrees Celsius on Sunday and Pahalgam was the coldest recorded place in the Kashmir Valley, the official added.

### Saini To Take Charge As Army Vice Chief Today



AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI:** Lt Gen Satinder Kumar Saini will take charge as vice chief of Indian Army on Tuesday.

Lt Gen Saini, who was the Southern Command chief so far, will inspect a Guard of Honour before taking charge.

The army vice chief's post fell vacant after incumbent,

## 2G Restoration Brings Little Relief In Kashmir

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** The restoration of mobile internet, 2G, in Kashmir after nearly six months of no internet has proved to be of little help due to extremely slow speed.

Even permissible sites listed as 'white listed sites' by the government are not accessible at times.

"We are not able to upload photos, let alone mail them," Amir, a photo journalist said. "The speed is extremely slow and the websites just don't open."

For broadband restoration the businessmen are signing bonds committing not to allow IP address for accessing social media.

The bond also bars use of 'VPNs', WiFi, encrypted files, videos and uploading of photos. All USB ports of the computer



will have to be disabled also. The business units or the company will be responsible for the breach or misuse of the internet.

The business house will provide complete access to all its content and infrastructure as and when required by security agencies.

MAC (minimum access control) will ensure restriction to the use of internet access to registered devices through single PC. That the restoration

## No Power Can Stop Pandits From Returning To Kashmir: Rajnath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**MANGALURU:** No power can now stop Kashmiri Pandits from going back to Kashmir, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday, forcefully defending the NDA government's decision to reorganise Jammu and Kashmir and abrogating its special status under Article 370.

In an address at a rally here, the Defence minister also sent a strong message to Pakistan and said India will not let anyone live in peace if it is harmed.

"We will not touch anyone, but if someone bothers us, then we are not going to let them live in peace," he said.

Referring to the migration



of a large number of Kashmiri Pandits from the Valley in the late 1990s at the height of militancy, Singh said no power now can stop them from returning to their homes.

On the Citizenship Amendment Act, the minister said it is not a law to hurt the

## Row Over Dropping 'Sher-E-Kashmir': NC Alleges Vendetta

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**SRINAGAR:** The National Conference on Monday took strong exception to the dropping of words 'Sher-e-Kashmir', an epithet used for the party founder Sheikh Abdullah, from the nomenclature of JK police medals.

The party, whose top leaders are in detention since the scrapping of special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5 last year, alleged that the administration was taking its "vendetta to a higher level" and distorting history with this move.

"It is a calibrated effort to trim every single symbol of J-K's political individuality. The



present ruling dispensation in New Delhi heaving with subjective prejudices and complexes against ideals revolving around the Indian Constitution and the spirit of its accommodative federalism hasn't ceased its witch-hunt against everything recognizable with Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah," district president of the party Peer Afaq Ahmad alleged in a statement.

He said the step should be seen as yet another glaring attempt "aimed at distorting J-K's history"

"His (Abdullah's) persona is above petty recognitions, and awards. A conscious leader, he preached to his countrymen to overcome timidity and prejudices," Ahmad said, adding his vision of J-K was shorn of regional and religious prejudices.

He claimed the present ruling dispensation "still fears a leader, who has physically left the world three decades back".

NC spokesman Imran Nani Far also criticised BJP leader Nirmal Singh's reported remarks against Sheikh Abdullah.

### Train Service Resumes

**SRINAGAR:** After being suspended for a day in view of security reasons, the train service resumed in Kashmir on Monday.

The train service between Banihal and Baramulla takes 16 to and fro trips, covering the entire length of the valley.

More than 20,000 people use the train service every day.

The train service remained suspended for the longest period of time, almost 100 days due to the revocation of Article 370, but subsequently the service was resumed on November 26.

### Troubled To See Omar Abdullah's Picture: Stalin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**CHENNAI:** DMK President M K Stalin on Monday said he was deeply troubled to see a photograph of National Conference leader Omar Abdullah in which he sports an overgrown beard and demanded the Centre immediately release all leaders in detention in Jammu and Kashmir. The top Dravidian party leader took to Twitter to demand his release and said "Deeply troubled to see this picture of @OmarAbdullah" and tagged three images of the Kashmiri leader.

While the first

## Hanjura, Hajini Meet LG Murmu

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Justice (Retd) MK Hanjura, Chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Law Commission and Dr Aziz Hajini, Convener, Northern Regional Board, National Akademi of Letters, New Delhi, on Monday met Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu at the Raj Bhavan here.

Hanjura and the LG discussed wide ranging issues pertaining to the functioning of the J&K Law Commission and how the mandate of Law Commission could be used for securing quick and fair justice to the aggrieved. Meanwhile, former Secretary Jammu & Kashmir



Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) Dr Hajini also called on LG Murmu.

Hajini sought LG's intervention for addressing certain issues on the cultural domain including adoption of Cultural policy for J&K, preservation and promotion of regional languages, implementation of various schemes of JKAACL etc.

The LG assured Hajini that all the genuine issues and demands raised by him would be looked into meticulously and redressed at the earliest.

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