



Maximum : 4°C
Minumum : -4°C
Humidity : 64%

SUNSET
Today 06:03 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 07:25 AM

OBSERVER

23rd year OF PUBLICATION KASHMIR

11 Jumada ul-Sani | 1441 Hijri | Vol:23 | Issue:31 | Pages:08 | Price: ₹3

Contact: -0194-2502327
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NEWS/07

DRAFT UN RESOLUTION CONDEMNS ISRAELI ANNEXATION IN TRUMP MIDEAST PLAN

A draft United Nations Security Council resolution on Tuesday condemned an Israeli plan to annex its settlements in the West Bank in a rebuke of President Donald Trump's pro-Israel peace proposal.....

BRING AMBEDKAR & GANDHI TOGETHER

In an interview that he gave last year, the Kannada writer (and activist), Devanur Mahadeva, urged democrats not to view Ambedkar and Gandhi as rivals and adversaries. In the journey towards true equality, he said, they should rather be seen as colleagues and co-workers.....

08/SPORTS.....

TAYLOR TON GUIDES NZ TO MORALE-BOOSTING VICTORY

Ross Taylor and stand-in captain Tom Latham combined in a 138-run stand to guide New Zealand to a morale-boosting four-wicket victory over India in the first one-day international in Hamilton on Wednesday.....

News Digest

Pistol Recovered From Anantnag

Srinagar: Government forces on Wednesday recovered a pistol inside the zonal office of Jammu and Kashmir Bank in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. Army's 1 RR and conducted a search operation at the zonal office of the bank located in the old building at Bakshi Abad Anantnag and recovered a pistol, official sources said. A private security guard, they said was detained by the joint team for questioning.

5 Youth Held In Pulwama Raids

Srinagar: At least five youth have been detained by government forces during nocturnal raids in south Kashmir's Pulwama district. Government forces carried out night raids in the twin villages of Parigam and Lehhar and rounded up five youth, quoting sources, a local news gathering agency KNO reported. All the youth have been detained for questioning.

SDA Conducts Demolition Drive In Bemina

Srinagar: The Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) on Wednesday carried out a demolition drive in Bemina area of the city here. According to an official spokesperson, the drive was carried out under the supervision of Vice Chairman Vikas Kundal at Mansoor Colony Bemina during which illegal constructions raised at different places, plots and strips were removed. The drive was also carried out against street vendors, who were operating their businesses illegally along the roadside within the limits and jurisdiction of SDA.

Illegal Occupants From Govt Quarters To Be Evicted

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory administration on Wednesday directed the estates department to evict unauthorized occupants from government quarters in Jammu and Srinagar. Principal Secretary Planning, Development & Monitoring Department, Estates and Information Department Rohit Kansal today directed the Estates. ● P06

CASO Carried Out In Kulgam

Srinagar: Security forces on Wednesday launched a Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) in south Kashmir district of Kulgam. Official sources said that following specific information about presence of militants, a joint CASO was launched by Special Operations Group (SOG) of J&K Police, Army and CRPF at Bugam in Kulgam early on Wednesday morning. They said the security forces were conducting door to door searches in the area. "Searches were also going on in nearby orchards and fields," they said. However, they said so far no contact was established with militants.

Shootout In City Outskirts, 3 Killed

Police Says 2 Militants, CRPF Trooper Die In Gunfight; Family Of Injured Youth Contest Police Claim

AUQIB JAVEED

SRINAGAR: A CRPF trooper and two local militants were killed on Wednesday while another alleged militant was arrested after a brief shootout in Lawaypora area of the city outskirts.

The shootout took place on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad Highway near Tahira Khanam's Paramedical College, Lawaypora around 11:45 this morning when a joint team of CRPF and police intercepted a group of three militants travelling on a two-wheeler, eyewitnesses told Kashmir Observer. One of the militants, witnesses said took out a pistol and fired at a CRPF trooper identified as Ramesh Rajan of 73 Battalion killing him on the spot.

"In the brief exchange of fire, two militants were killed while another was arrested in an injured condition. He is being treated at the hospital," Special Director General (ADG) CRPF Zulfikar Hassan said while addressing a joint presser with Director General of Police (DGP) J&K Dilbagh Singh at Police Control Room Srinagar here.

Revealing more details of the shootout, Hassan said that CRPF and police had erected checkpoints at different places along the Srinagar-Parimpora stretch



GOVERNMENT FORCES EXAMINE THE SITE of shootout in Lawaypora area of city outskirts . Pic: Abid Bhat

after receiving inputs.

"Three men travelling on a two-wheeler without helmets were asked to stop. One of the men got down and fired at the CRPF man in his head. Alert parties of CRPF and police retaliated the fire killing two militants and arresting another in injured condition," Hassan said.

However, the family of the injured youth contested Hassan's claim and said that their son was not a militant but

Injured Youth's Family Contest Police Claim

The family members of Omar Fayaz, who was injured in a shootout in the city outskirts on Wednesday, contested police claim saying the youth is a shopkeeper and is not even remotely connected with militancy. "He isn't a militant but a civilian. He was hit by a stray bullet at his shop nearly half-a-kilometer away from the encounter spot. Fayaz's Aunt told Kashmir Observer at the SMHS hospital here. Fayaz's aunt, who was present at her house at Lawaypora which is just few meters away from the shop run by her nephew, said "I ● P06

INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE (IGP) KASHMIR, VIJAY KUMAR identified the slain militants as Lashkar-e-Toiba militant Zia-ur-Rehman from Budgam and Khateeb Das of Hizbul Mujahideen from Bijbehara. Dass, police said was brother-in-law of ISJK militant Mugees Mir of Parimpora who was earlier killed in an encounter.

Gulmarg Shivers At Minus 11 Degree Celsius

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: There was considerable improvement in the day temperature due to sunshine though ice cold winds continued in Kashmir valley, where world famous ski resort of Gulmarg was the coldest place at minus 11 degree.

Meanwhile, the mercury during the night remained below normal at most places in the valley, where isolated snow and rain is predicted during the next 24 hours. A Met department ● P06

History's Longest Ever E-Curfew Continues In Kashmir: RSF

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Reporters Without Borders (RSF) on Wednesday slammed the Indian government over the continued communication blockade in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Aside from the absurdity of the measures announced by Narendra Modi's government, his response to the supreme court's ruling has been insulting and dismissive," ● P06



India Committed 'Fatal Mistake' By Revoking J&K Special Status: Imran Khan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Wednesday that his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi has committed a "fatal mistake" by revoking the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the Legislative Assembly of Pakistan-controlled

Kashmir in Muzaffarabad, Khan also alleged that Modi did it because he got mandate after using Pakistan as a scapegoat in election.

"Modi made a fatal mistake, one that he could not step back from...He cannot go back from where he has taken India. The genie of Hindu nationalism is out of bottle and it cannot ● P06

Things Happening In Kashmir Are Very Troubling: US Congressman

AGENCIES

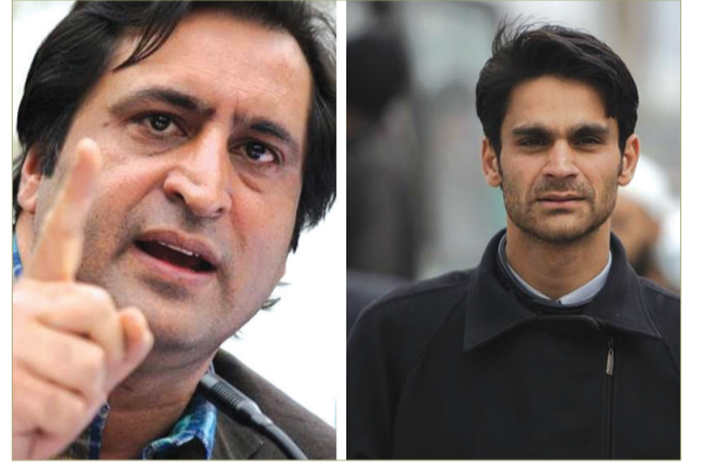
WASHINGTON: The US Congress lawmakers raised concern over the alleged human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir, calling it 'troubling'.

Talking to Pakistan based Geo News, Chairman of the US House Foreign Affairs Committee Eliot Engel said that the US

Congress will conduct its own 'investigation and fact-finding' on the alleged human rights abuses in Jammu and Kashmir

"There are things happening in Kashmir that are very troubling, they are troubling me, to my colleagues and people here," the US lawmaker told Geo News. Congressman Engel said that the issue ● P06

Sajjad Lone, Waheed Parra Released After Six Month Detention



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR: Senior politician and People's Conference chairman Sajjad Lone and PDP leader Waheed Parra, close aide of detained former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, were released by the authorities here on Wednesday, officials said.

After the release of Lone and Parra, 13 political leaders now remain detained at the MLA hostel here which has been temporarily converted into a subsidiary jail. Lone and Parra walked free after being in preventive detention for over 180 days.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration had on Tuesday released two leaders -- former PDP MLA from Wachi in south Kashmir Aijaz Ahmad Mir and trade leader Shakeel Ahmed Qalandar, who is former president of the Federation Chamber of Industries, Kashmir.

Since Sunday, a total of eight leaders have been released from preventive custody. These

leaders were part of preventive detention of mainstream politicians, activists and trade leaders carried out after August 5 last year when the Centre withdrew the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated it into union territories -- Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir.

Among the prominent leaders who are still under detention are NC leaders Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti.

While Farooq Abdullah has been kept at his Gupkar house, his son and NC vice president Omar Abdullah has been detained at Hari Niwas. PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, who was initially lodged at Cheshmashahi huts, has been shifted to a government building in the heart of Srinagar.

The senior Abdullah was slapped with the stringent Public Safety Act on September 17 which was further renewed for a period of three months on December 16.

Oppn Walks Out In LS Over Farooq Abdullah's Detention

Raising the issue of detention of NC leader Farooq Abdullah in Lok Sabha, leaders from opposition parties on Wednesday attacked the government for "illegally" detaining an old leader and walked out of the House. Abdullah, the National Conference leader and former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, has been under detention from August 5 last year since the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A. "Three former chief ministers including Farooq Abdullah are languishing in jails for the past six months, they have been put behind bars without giving any proper reason," Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said, while demanding the release of the sitting member. Abdullah has been illegally detained, Chowdhury alleged. Later Congress members along with those of ● P06

389 Detained Under PSA In J&K: Govt

A total of 389 people are currently in detention under the Public Safety Act (PSA) in Jammu and Kashmir, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Wednesday. Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said detention orders has been issued against 444 people under the JK Public Safety Act since August 2019 when Article 370 was abrogated. At present, 389 people are in detention under the PSA, he said in reply to a written question. Regular reviews are undertaken on a case-by-case basis and accordingly, extension in detention or revocation is made based on reports of field agencies and the ground situation.

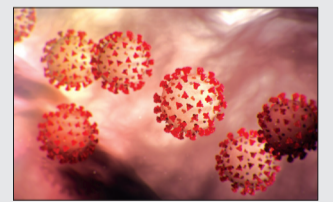
Coronavirus: 21 J&K Residents Return From China, No Positive Case Found

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: Twenty-one people arrived back to Jammu and Kashmir from coronavirus-hit China this week and they have been kept under home observation, officials said on Wednesday.

No case of coronavirus has been found in the UT so far, they added.

As many as 21 persons -- seven from Jammu and 14 from Kashmir -- have arrived in Srinagar and Jammu during the last few days and they



have been kept under home isolation, a senior officer of the Health department said.

Tests were conducted on 11 passengers -- seven from Jammu and four from Kashmir -- and sent to a laboratory in Pune, he said. ● P06

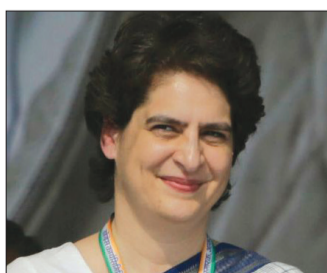
J&K EX-CMs DETENTION

Whether We Are Still A Democracy: Priyanka Gandhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday said that it had been six months since former Jammu and Kashmir chief ministers had been detained and asked whether India is still a democracy.

Former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti were among the many mainstream politicians detained after the Centre



revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 on August 5 last year. ● P06

Indo-Pak Nuclear War Would Harm Ocean Life: Study

AGENCIES

NEW YORK: A nuclear war between India and Pakistan could worsen the impact of ocean acidification on corals, clams, oysters and other marine life with shells or skeletons, says a study.

"We found that the ocean's chemistry would change, with global cooling dissolving atmospheric carbon into the upper ocean and exacerbating the primary threat of ocean acidification," said the study's co-author Alan Robock, Distinguished Professor at Rutgers University in the US.



For the study, published in Geophysical Research Letters journal, the researchers looked at how climate changes stemming from nuclear war would affect the oceans.

They used a global climate model in which the ● P06

Admin Says No Need To Panic

The Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory administration on Wednesday said that there was no need to panic about the coronavirus as the health machinery is fully geared up to tackle the threat. Financial Commissioner, Health and Medical Education, Atal Dulloo said that there were no confirmed case of the virus infection, so far, in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and all the samples taken have been tested as negative. "The government is vigilant and taking regular updates on the situation. The ● P06