

# **News** *Digest*

#### **NIA Takes Over Nagrota Gunfight Probe**

Srinagar: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has taken up the investigation into the January 31 encounter in which three Jaish-e-Mohammed militants were killed on the outskirts of the city, officials said on Monday. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs issued a notification on Monday directing the agency to carry out a thorough probe into the circumstances in which the three militants had sneaked into Jammu and Kashmir through International Border at Sambha. Jammu and Kashmir Police has arrested • P10

#### **CASO** Conducted In Ganderbal

Srinagar: Government forces on Monday evening launched a Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) in central Kashmir district of Ganderbal. 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, 5 RR and CRPF at Kondibal, Mansabal in Ganderbal on Monday evening. They said security forces were conducting house-to-house searches in the area. "Searches were also being conducted in nearby fields," they said, adding • P10

#### **Train Chugs After Day-Long Suspension**

Srinagar: Train service was on Monday resumed after remaining suspended for a day due to security reasons in Kashmir valley. A railway official said that train service has been restored on Srinagar-Budgam and Baramulla in north Kashmir track. Similarly, he said train is running normally on Budgam Srinagar-Anantnag-Qazigund in south Kashmir to Banihal in Jammu region track. Train

# **Ability To Garner Votes, Twitter Clout Land Omar** Abdullah In Trouble

The Govt Dossier Says Former CM Favours Radical Thoughts

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR - Former chief minister Omar Abdullah's "considerable influence" over people, including the ability to attract voters to polling booths despite poll boycott calls and the potential for channelling energies of public for any cause, has been cited in support of his detention under the strin-

## **Omar's Sister Challenges PSA In SC**

ormer Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah's sister Monday moved the Supreme Court challenging his detention under the J&K Public Safety Act, 1978 saying the order of detentior is "manifestly illegal" and there is no question of him being a "threat to 🔎 P10



gent Public Safety Act (PSA). old Omar, who had served as and industries, states his abil-The PSA dossier prepared by minister of state for external ity to convince electorates to the police against the 49-year- affairs as well as commerce vote in huge numbers **»PAGE 10** 

## No Basis To Charge Omar, Mehbooba: Priyanka

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Con Monday said it is "pretty clear" the government has no basis to charge Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti under the Public Safety Act and the two former Jammu and Kashmir chief ministers must be freed. Since when becoming a " • PIO

#### **Sunny Day In Kashmir Ahead Of** Fresh Snow Spell AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Ahead of another spell of light to moderate snow under the influence of a fresh Western Disturbance (WD) predicted from Tuesday, the temperature during the day remained several degrees above normal as bright sunshine greeted people since Monday Even though there was slight

improvement in the night temperature across the valley, it was still several degrees below freezing point.

A Met department spokesperson said that weather is expected to remain dry during the next 24 hours in the valley.

However, he said a fresh WD, which originated from the Arabian Sea and is approaching the region though Afghanistan and Pakistan, will hit J&K on Wednesday.

"Under the influence of this WD which will gain movement on Wednesday, light to moderate snow could occur at some places in J&K for three days from February 12," he added.

Despite improvement of about a degree in the night temperature, world famous health resort of Pahalgam, about 100 km from here • P10

# **Told Not To Venture Out During Shelling** Indian Envoy Summoned After 10 Civilians 'Injured' in PcK PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

...LoC TENSION

**Poonch Residents** 

JAMMU: The district authorities on Monday issued advisory to the residents of Poonch to avoid unnecessummoned Indian Charge d'Affaires over the alleged ceasefire violation by Indian troops that left 10 civilians in

Pakistan-controlled-Kashmir (PcK) injured. "The district administration cautious and avoid unneces-

Nearly a dozen shells failed to explode during the crossborder shelling and are being defused by experts, he said.

"We are lucky to survive the intense shelling by Pakistan sary movement during shell- on Sunday. Life has become a ing, even as Pakistan today virtual hell for the border residents due to frequent crossborder shelling," Mohammad Aslam, 68, a resident of Drana village of Mendhar said.

He said the situation is peaceful today but nobody knows when the guns start has advised people to remain roaring again. "We appeal to the government to speed up sary movement during shell- the work on the community ing," a police official said, and individual bunkers for our adding that the local residents safety. The 15 community bunhave also been directed not to kers and a few individual buntouch the mortar shells lying kers have been sanctioned for scattered in different localities. our village »PAGE 10

# 13 Army Men, 2 BSF Troopers Killed In 2019 CFVs: Rajnath

The Pakistan army was involved in a total of 3,479 ceasefire violations along the Jammu and Kashmir border in 2019, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday. In a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha, he said 13 Indian Army personnel and two soldiers of the Border Security Force (BSF) were killed in action in 2019 due to ceasefire violations (CFVs) and cross border • PIO

## 9 Cases Of Fratricide In Armed Forces In 5 Years: Govt

Nine cases of fratricide occurred in the armed forces between 2015 and January 2020, according to data shared by the government on Monday. Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik shared the figures in a written reply in Rajya Sabha in response to a question. As per the data shared, the number of cases of fratricides in year 2015-2019 are -- one in Army (2015); • PIO

# Media Curbs: Journalists In Kashmir Break Silence 'Stop Practice Of Summons And Attacks On Journalists'

#### **OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE** sociations took part noted with down in the region since August

**SRINAGAR:** The Kashmir Press Club on Monday convened an gust 5, the government is not summons to journalists are beurgent meeting to discuss physical attacks, threats, intimidation being meted out to the journalists in Kashmir by J&K Police.

The meeting in which representatives of all journalists as- longed six-month internet shut- go) in Srinagar has **PAGE 10** 

Article 370 was removed on Au- physical attacks, threats and enabling journalists and media ing employed by security agento operate freely from the Val- cies to intimidate journalists. In ley, Kashmir Press Club said in a fact, the summons and harassstatement released on Monday. ment to journalists to Police's "This is evident from the pro- counter-insurgency centre (Car-

concern that from first day since 5. As if that was not enough.



service was on Sunday suspended for security reasons in Kashmir valley, where life was crippled due to strike on the seventh death anniversary of Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru, who was hanged in Delhi's Tihar jail on this day in 2013.

#### **Under-Construction** Hospital, Resto sealed

Srinagar: Srinagar Mu-nicipal Corporation (SMC) officials on Monday sealed under-construction Paras Hospital building at Sonwar and a restaurant for violating norms. According to an official spokesperson, on the directions of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Baseer Ahmad Khan, Commissioner SMC and SHO Ram Munshi Bagh reached the underconstruction Paras Hospital building at Sonwar and took swift action in the matter and against those involved. Four persons were also detained for being involved in it. The team also re-sealed the Samci restaurant at Polo View which was operating in violation of earlier orders. he Divisional Commissioner • P10

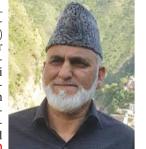
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

been under preventive SRINAGAR: The Jammu detention since August 5 last year when the Cenand Kashmir administration on Monday tre announced the nulslapped the Public Safety lification of Article 370 Act (PSA) against Hi- and bifurcated it into lal Lone for being the union territories. "brain child" behind his The Deputy Comfather National Confer- missioner of Bandipore ence leader Mohammad served him a dossier in-Akbar Lone's "seditious forming him that he had and anti-national" statebeen booked under the ments, officials said. PSA as the **PAGE 10** 

Hilal Lone, 47, had

## NC MP's Son Slapped With PSA 👗 NIA Summons Cong Leader **Over Kishtwar Militancy Cases**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA JAMMU: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has summoned senior Congress leader and former minister G M Saroori to appear before it on February 11 for questioning in connection with the militancy incidents in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. • P10



# Another Batch Of Foreign Envoys To Visit J-K Tomorrow

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SRINAGAR: A fresh batch of foreign envoys including many from the European Union will visit Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday to get first-hand information about the ground situation after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, officials said on Monday.

The envoys will be here on a would interact with civil society, security officials and politicians,



two-day visit during which they who were not detained by the administration in August last year. The delegation will comprise

envoys mainly from the European Union as well as from Gulf countries. The visit comes ahead **PAGE 10** 

# In A First, Outside Companies Earn 100 Percent Mining Rights In Kashmir

#### ATHAR PARVAIZ

SRINAGAR: As mineral blocks in River Jhelum and its tributaries in all the 10 districts of Kashmir valley have been opened for non resident bidders, for the first time, bidders from outside Kashmir have earned 100 percent sand mining (and other minerals) rights in Srinagar and Budgam districts, over 60 percent rights in Pulwama and 67 percent in Baramullah (so far).

Bidding for other districts is yet to be started.



rivers and streams was opened of Article 370 under which no This year, the bidding for min- for bidders from outside Jammu outside company was able to oping of mineral blocks in Kashmir's & Kashmir following abrogation erate in Jammu and Kashmir un- points set up by the **PAGE 10** 

less the government desired so, through lease agreements.

The applications for competing for the mining rights were invited electronically and the aspirants had to fill up and submitforms online at a time when internet was not available in Kashmir (in December and first three weeks of January). Internet connectivity in Kashmir remains very week following the government's decision to restore 2G mobile data only on post-paid mobile numbers. Nonetheless, many local con-

tractors have managed to submit the forms at the internet touch

Finance Department Government of J&K

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