



Maximum : 34°C  
Minimum : 17°C  
Humidity : 35%

SUNSET  
Today 07:45 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 05:26 AM

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## News Digest

### Srinagar Airport Receives 15 Flights

JAMMU, JULY 07: On Day 43 of resumption of operation of routine domestic operations in Jammu and Kashmir, 24 domestic flights with 2,548 passengers on board today arrived at Jammu and Srinagar Airports. A total of 709 passengers aboard 9 regular commercial flights arrived at the Jammu Airport while 15 domestic flights with about 1839

### JK Bank CMD Gets 3 Month Extension

Srinagar: Reserve Bank of India has extended the term of R. K. Chhibber as Chairman and Managing Director of Jammu and Kashmir Bank by a further period of three months with effect from 10th July, 2020 or till the appointment of MD & CEO, whichever is earlier.

### Power Disruption In Srinagar Today

SRINAGAR, JULY 7 According to the Superintendent Engineer, O&M, Circle-II, KPDCI Srinagar, the 11kv feeder 3 of Chanapora Receiving Station shall observe shut down on July 08 from 01:30 pm to 5:30 pm for execution of project works at various locations. Similarly, 11kv, 4 and 5 feeders of Chanapora

### Shepherd Injured In Bear Attack

Baramulla: A shepherd was injured in a bear attack in Kunzar forest area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Tuesday. An official said that the shepherd was attacked by a bear when he went to the forest area with a flock of sheep. He identified the injured shepherd as Mohamad Rafiq Chichi son of Zakir Hussain Chichi, a resident of Poonch. The official said

### Dr Saleem Wani Donates Blood Plasma

Srinagar: Noted Urologist Dr Saleem Wani donated his blood plasma for the treatment of a COVID-19 positive patient admitted at SKIMS, Soura. "Hamdullah, donated plasma for a critically ill COVID-19 patient admitted at SKIMS," he said. It is to be mentioned here that Dr Saleem was himself tested positive

### India Post Invites Applications

Jammu: India Post (Bhartiya Dak Vibhag) has invited online application for engagement to Dak Sevak Posts in Jammu & Kashmir Circle. As per a communiqué, a total of 442 vacancies for the posts of Branch Postmasters, Assistant Branch Postmasters and Dak Sevaks have been notified. The interested candidates can apply online through official

### Forces Search Sonwar Locality

Srinagar: Door-to-door searches were conducted in a Sonwar locality here in Kashmir capital Srinagar. Local sources said that combined forces cordoned off Palpora area of Sonwar and conducted search operation. Locals said that dozens of houses were searched and identity cards of locals were thoroughly checked. A police official said that it is a routine dominance exercise.

## Imbalance Evident In J&K Bureaucracy: Mir

SRINAGAR: Senior politician and former minister, Ghulam Hasan Mir Tuesday said that Kashmiri officers are being sidelined and they feel disempowered at all levels. "In civil bureaucracy, police and judiciary, Muslims in Kashmir feel nowhere. They are being sidelined and there is complete imbalance in the system. Kashmiris found nowhere and even in Civil Secretariat which is the seat of power, the detected Kashmiri officers are felling detached," KNT quoted Mir as saying. He added that even Muslims have been sidelined in Jammu and Kashmir Bank. "There is complete change in scenario after the abrogation of Special Status in Jammu and Kashmir. Outsiders have an edge over locals who whether from

Kashmir or Jammu are not given too much weightage," he said. Ghulam Hasan Mir who is now affiliated with Jammu Kashmir Apni Party led by Syed Altaf Bukhari said that there are loopholes in Domicile Law and those loopholes need to be stitched. "We will fight till we completely secure our jobs and land," Mir said. Castigating National Conference for not showing any 'interest' in Delimitation Process, Mir said that it is the duty of National Conference to represent people of Kashmir in Delimitation Committee and it should not keep itself aloof from the process. "Why I am angry and hold National Conference responsible is that this party has 3 Parliament Members and yet it

## Alarming Groundwater Depletion Fuelling Water Crisis In Kashmir

Observer News Service

ONCE a main source of fresh water in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, Kehmil stream—originating from Shamshabari range near the Line of Control—got choked with pollution and overgrown population with time. With the result, many villagers are facing the constant water woes.

But the problem isn't confined to north only. In central and south Kashmir, many water bodies have already

been devoured by urbanization. Natural ponds and fountains are no longer in sight. The soothing water canals have now become pungent pool of sewerage channels. Many community-level wells have long gone dry — indicating the depletion of groundwater table.

According to Ground Water Year Book 2016-17, none of the 23 wells analyzed for the May 2016 report in Kashmir have shown water level more than 20.0 meters below ground level (m bgl).

"The water level less than 2.0 m bgl has been recorded in 14 (60.87 percent) wells, seven wells (30.43



percent) have shown depth to the water level in the range 2-5 m bgl, whereas 1 well (4.35 percent) has shown water level in the range of

5-10 m bgl, 1 (4.35 percent) well has registered deeper water level i.e., 10-20 m bgl," the report notes.

It also draws a comparison between May 2016 results with November 2015 results. The report suggests that out of 22 stations showing a rise in water levels, 11 wells (50 percent) have shown rise whereas only 10 have shown a decline in water levels.

The report concludes that a majority of the valley areas show a rise in the water levels except for small patches in Kupwara and Srinagar districts.

In Srinagar, a decline more than

4 m bgl has been observed. In some parts of Kashmir, the groundwater is depleting at an alarming rate, says Rayees Ahmad Pir, Hydrogeologist at Central Ground Water Board, Ministry of Water Resources.

"Groundwater can be found at shallow aquifers in the valley," Rayees says, "but it's absent in deep aquifers."

An aquifer is a body of permeable rock that can contain or transmit groundwater.

One of the causes of groundwater depletion, the hydrogeologist says, is the strong

## Parks, Gardens To Reopen From Today

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has announced that all the parks and gardens in the union territory will be thrown open to the public from Wednesday.

Advisor to the J-K Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan made the announcement on Tuesday, an official spokesperson said.

Khan, however, stressed that all the people should strictly observe the protocols and medical advice related to the COVID-19 pandemic



He requested the people to wear face masks, use hand sanitisers and maintain social distancing norms both inside and outside these places.

Khan also directed the authorities to penalise those

found violating the precautionary measures.

Officials informed Khan that there will be thermal screening of people at the entry gates of gardens and parks.

He requested the

THEY ALSO TOLD THE ADVISOR THAT HAND sanitisers would be made available for the use of visitors in the park and gardens.

## Kashmir To Open For Tourism Soon, Detailed Guidelines To Follow

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government Tuesday hinted at reopening Kashmir for tourists soon.

Officials said that the tourism activities will resume here soon,

which will be almost after four-months of coronavirus lockdown. Earlier also tourist flow had come to a halt after August 5 last year when New Delhi abrogated statehood of Kashmir and abrogated its special status. Government will issue detailed

guidelines and standard operating procedure (SoP) shortly, said Principal Secretary Planning of J&K Rohit Kansal in a tweet. "The Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu issued the directions in a high-level meeting in Srinagar today," he said.

## Police Says Geelani's Hartal Call 'Fake'

Registers FIR Under UAPA For Circulation Of Letter

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday termed the strike call issued on the letter pad of senior separatist leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani as fake. Quoting his 'family sources' police said letter has been issued from Pakistan.

Police said that strict action will be taken against those circulating the letter through different social media platforms to 'instigate violence and create law and order situation'.

"As per the family sources of SAS Geelani the letter is fake and not issued by him. This is published from Pakistan. Police is

taking action against those who are circulating it through different social media platforms to instigate violence and create L&O problems," tweeted J&K police through its official twitter handle @JmuKmrPolice.

Pertinently, a strike call was issued on the death anniversary of militant commander Burhan Wani on July 08 and on the Marty's Day 13th July on the letter pad of Syed Ali Geelani.

Meanwhile later in the day, police said that an FIR has been registered under number 265/2020 under section 13 ULA(P)

## Before Luring Outsiders Salvage Local Investments: KSSIA to Govt

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Small Scale Industrial Association (KSSIA), the oldest industrial body of the Kashmir Valley, has asked the Jammu and Kashmir Lt. Governor Gireesh Chander Murmu to salvage and consolidate the existing investment in local industry before eying for what it described

as "imperceptible prospective investments" in the sector.

The statement was issued after a meeting of KSSIA held under the chairmanship of President Syed Fazal Illahi to deliberate upon the prospects for investments and development in the state after introduction of the Domicile Law as stated by the Lt. Governor last week.

The members said that the prudence demanded saving the tens of thousands of Crores of investment made by the locals in various manufacturing, processing and service sector enterprises employing more than 40% of the total workforce in J&K. The members regretted that owing to indifferent attitude by the authorities and administration, the

ALTHOUGH NO ONE HAS EVER OBJECTED TO LURE THE nonlocal investors for making investments in J&K, yet such an exercise in the past has always fallen flat and the expectations in future were also bleak",

## Notification Issued For Srinagar Mayor Election

SRINAGAR: Authorities on Tuesday issued a notification for elections to the post of Mayor Srinagar city.

Parvaiz Ahmad Qadri, who is Acting Mayor SMC Tuesday issued a notification asking SMC Commissioner to initiate process for the elections.

"Notification for fresh elections to the post of Mayor as per the Provision and relevant Section of the J&K Municipal Corporation Act, 2000. Therefore Commissioner. SMC may kindly initiate necessary process for fresh elections to the post of Mayor as per the provisions and relevant section of the J&K Municipal Corporation Act, 2000," the notification reads.

As per rules, a new Mayor

## We Don't Want To Kill Militants: GoC 15 Corps

Agencies

SRINAGAR: General officer Commanding of Srinagar-based 15 Corps Lieutenant General BS Raju Tuesday said that the armed forces don't want to kill militants and that an opportunity to surrender is given to every militant.

In a short video uploaded on the official handle of Chinar Corps (15 Corps), Lt General Raju said that any loss of life is sad. "Six-year-old boy who was killed in Bijbehara (Anantnag) and the recent incident at Sopore where a 65-year-old man was killed, were unfortunate. The picture (showing grandchild of the slain man on the chest of his dead grandfather) elicited emotions, the army officer said.



He said that the army has had a string of successful anti-militancy operations in Kashmir. "The only way for a militant to get back is to strike and to engage us in populated areas. That's what happened in Bijbehara and Sopore as both towns are busy places. In both the incidents, we had CRPF casualties and multiple injuries to

## HC Nod For Quick FIR Against Medical Negligence

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Tuesday directed the administration to register FIR at first instance against those who are involved in medical negligence.

A public interest litigation (PIL) was filed after a number of alleged medical negligence incidents were reported across Kashmir valley wherein pregnant ladies and newborn babies have died.

In an official communiqué, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar, has directed health authorities of all the districts to keep separate maternity hospitals for pregnant women and children equipped with all facilities and separate trained staff.

The high court ruling says strict magisterial enquiry must be held

every time if any incident of medical negligence happens resulting in the death of a child or a pregnant woman.

"There must be an FIR at first instance against those who are alleged to have caused medical negligence which caused death of any pregnant woman and their unborn children so that it shall be a deterrence for others and incidents of medical negligence may be minimized," the HC ruling states.

The High Court further stated that there should be compensation to victims of medical negligence and the same be deducted from the salary of those employees guilty of medical negligence.

The ruling says there should be departmental/disciplinary action against the erring