



Maximum : 32°C  
Minimum : 17°C  
Humidity : 49%

SUNSET  
Today 07:45 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 05:28 AM



## News Digest

### 2 Persons Slip Into Well, Die

Kupwara: Two persons have died after they slipped into a well while cleaning it in Chalgund village of Hatmat Pora Hyhama in Kupwara district of north Kashmir on Thursday. Official sources told GNS that the duo, Ghulam Nabi Khan (35) and Ghulam Mohi-udin Ganai (50) went inside the well, located in Ganie Mohalla, to clean it. However they slipped. Subsequently locals besides teams from SDRF and ● P-02

### LG Condemns Bandipora Killings

SRINAGAR: Lt Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu has condemned the killings of BJP leader Sheikh Waseem Bari, his father Bashir Ahmed and brother Umar Bashir, who were killed by the militants on Wednesday evening. In a condolence message, the Lt Governor has said that the barbaric act of killing innocent people is against the humanity and the perpetrators of this cowardly act shall ● P-02

### 2 Killed, 4 Hurt In Kishtwar Accident

Jammu: Two persons were killed and four others injured in an accident in Kishtwar district of Jammu division on Thursday. "One vehicle Cruiser (JK 17-8952) on the way from Thathri (Doda) towards Dundi rolled down near Machipall in which 6 persons were injured and two of them died later," a police official said. The deceased have been identified as Uttam Singh (28) and Sunil Kumar (30), both residents of Nageni Balgram. The ● P-02

### Scuffle Over Land, Youth Killed

Anantnag: A youth was killed during a scuffle over some land dispute in Vailoo area of Kokarnag in South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Thursday morning, officials said. A police official said that members of two families had a confrontation in early morning hours over a piece of land near DPS Vailoo (School) in which a youth was killed. He identified the deceased as ● P-02

### Budgam Man Injured In Bear Attack

Budgam: A 55-year-old man was injured in a bear attack in Shoplian Khag area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district on Thursday morning. An official said the man left from his home for work when he was attacked by a bear and injured him critically. He said that the man was rescued by some passers-by after he was attacked by the bear. Meanwhile, a video has gone viral on social media wherein the man was ● P-02

### Woman Falls From Tree, Dies

Sopore: A 40-year-old woman died after falling from a tree in Chandil Wanigam area of Tangmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Thursday. An official said that the woman fell from a pine tree and sustained injuries. He said the injured woman was rushed to Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Tangmarg where she was declared brought dead. The official identified the deceased as Haneefa Begum, ● P-02

## J&K Proposes Modifications In Central Waqf Act

Proposal Submitted To Ministries Of Home, Minority Affairs

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir government has proposed modifications in the Central Waqf Act before constituting the Waqf Board in the newly carved out Union Territory.

Official documents reveal that UT administration has decided to vigorously pursue the proposal submitted to Centre for J&K -specific amendments in the Central Waqf Act.

Under the Jammu & Kashmir Re-Organisation Act, Centre is empowered to make adaptations and modification in central laws as well as laws of erstwhile state protected by the Parliament. According to documents, advisor (Haj and Auqaf Affairs) Farooq Ahmad Khan during a meeting held on May 28, 2020 desired that the proposal regarding amendments in Wakf Act 1995 with

regard to UT of J&K, which has already been submitted to Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Minority Affairs, need to be followed up. The Central Waqf Act became applicable to J&K UT after two state laws governing management of Wakf properties were abolished by the Parliament.

The Jammu & Kashmir Wakf Act-2001 and The Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Specified Wakfs and Specified Wakaf Properties (Management and Regulation) Act 2004 were the laws governing management of Muslim Shrines and properties in the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Waqf Board and Waqf Council constituted under these laws ceased to exist with abolition of these laws from October 31, 2019 when J&K Re-Organisation Act came into effect—(KNO)

## PAGE 1 Anchor Positives Of Pandemic: Clean Air, Clear Sight, Crystal Water In Kashmir

Swati Joshi

SINCE industries are majorly shut and vehicular movement minimal, the pollution level has greatly reduced in Kashmir during the pandemic, says a scientist of the J&K State Pollution Control Board.

With the result, the sight of Pir Panjal range which was already visible from Srinagar became more vivid and worth watching amidst the lockdown.

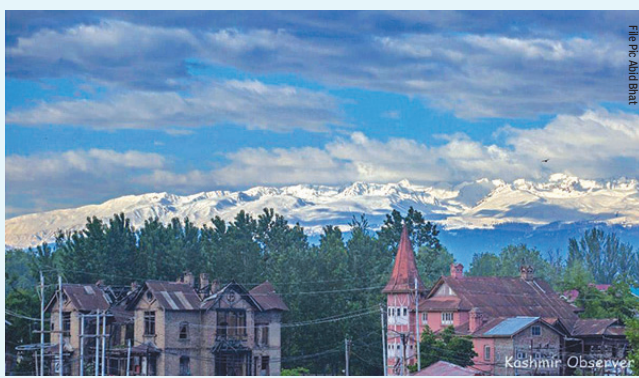
"Kashmir Valley has seen changes in the environment during the pandemic," said the scientist. "While the usage of water

was the same but the load on the Effluent Treatment Plants (ETP), especially at Lassipora was less during the lockdown."

Suhail Bashir, an environmentalist from Srinagar, said due to the pandemic the concentration of carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide (NOx) and Sulphur oxide (SOx) was reduced in the air.

As most people stayed home, the number of oil barrels used in Kashmir reduced by 1-2 barrel as compared to 100 barrels used before the lockdown, he said.

The pollutants from the air get accumulated on the surface of plants which reduced the process



of photosynthesis, the environmentalist said. "But with a reduction in the amount of pollutants,

the plants are thriving without any interruption."

Apart from air, the dumping of

solid and liquid waste has also decreased in the valley.

"Liquid and solid waste from factories have stopped which has led to a positive impact on the environment," said Touseef Ahmed, Chairman of Kashmir Concern, an environmental conservation organization.

There're more than a dozen rivers, lakes, and wetlands that are used for dumping Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) in Kashmir, he said.

"Most of the wetlands, lakes and deep drains had become choked and resulted in constant waterlogging during rain and snowfall."

Civic authorities who are sup-

posed to implement MSW Rules 2016 are themselves involved in dumping municipal waste in wetlands and water bodies, he said.

Ahmed who has been working on waste disposal for a long time, said that over the last six years, his research has led him to file several petitions in National Green Tribunal (NGT) and other quasi-judicial forums. The NGT's intervention has shown some positive results as a committee headed by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir has been constituted to look into the destruction of water bodies especially due to the dumping of MSW. Ahmed told Kashmir Observer. ►PAGE 02

### BJP LEADER'S KILLING

## Attack Was Pre-Planned, Lashkar Involved: IGP

10 PSOs Of Slain BJP Leader Dismissed, Arrested

Observer News Service

BANDIPORE: Two Lashkar-e-Taiba militants carried out a "pre-planned" attack on the ex BJP district president in Bandipora and that all the 10 personal security officers (PSOs) deployed for slain leader's protection have been dismissed from service and arrested as well, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir range, Vijay Kumar said Thursday.

IGP Kashmir, who visited Bandipora along with the DIG North Kashmir and district SSP, examined the CCTV footage at the police station which is just opposite to the slain BJP leader's house where he was shot dead along with his brother and father.

Wasim Bari, his father Bashir Ahmed and brother Umar Bari were killed in the attack that took place Wednesday evening at Muslimabad Bandipora.

"We have checked the CCTV footage in presence of army and CRPF officers. Two militants from Lashkar-e-Taiba have carried the attack. One is local who has been identified as Abid and another is a



BJP STATE PRESIDENT Ravinder Raina speaking at a condolence meeting at the slain party leader's residence in Bandipora

### Bari Stood For India Like Tiger In Kashmir: Raina

We Will Definitely Take Revenge: Koul

BJP's J&K unit president Ravinder Raina on Thursday termed the killing of Wasim Bari, BJP local leader as "huge loss" for the party and said that he was a "tiger" who stood for India in Kashmir. ● P-02

foreigner. Local militant Abid fired at the trio from a close range with a pistol while the other one was guarding him," the IGP said.

"The trio sustained head injuries and succumbed on way to the hospital. We will track both the militants soon and eliminate them," Kumar declared. He said the attack ►PAGE 02

## Govt Extends Expenditure Bar For Second Quarter

SRINAGAR: The government in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has extended the guidelines regarding the expenditure for the second quarter in view of Covid-19.

In an order government has stated that the guidelines vis-a-vis expenditure restrictions imposed in the month of April this year shall remain in force during the second quarter, Q2 (July-September, 2020) of the current financial year 2020-21 as well.

"The Departments are required to restrict the overall expenditure within 40% of Budget Estimates 2020-21 up to ending September, 2020 certain excep-

tions," the order stated.

The order stated that the expenditure on all non-salary heads of revenue budget shall be restricted up to 20% of the Budget Estimates, 2020-21 for Q2 (July to September, 2020) with overall expenditure upto 40% of BE 2020-21 by ending September, 2020.

"The expenditure under Capex Budget in respect of 'on-going' works and 'non-construction' activities shall be restricted up to 40 % of BE 2020-21 by ending September, 2020 except in case of PW (R&B), Rural Development, Power Development and Jal Shakti Departments. ►PAGE 02

### LG Visits Kulgam; Reviews Situation

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu today visited District Kulgam and interacted with about 15 delegations. They included representatives of Pan-chayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies, traders' federation, Awqaf committees, transporters, fruit and vegetable growers association, senior citizens and ST community members to take first hand appraisal of the developmental needs of the area, besides taking stock of the various projects and works under execution.

The Lt Governor also inaugurated projects and laid foundations stones of various works of public importance. During the interaction, the members of the delegations ● P-02

## JK Bank Hqrs Closed After 26 Employees Test Positive

SRINAGAR: Corporate Headquarters of the Jammu and Kashmir Bank will remain partially shut for a day on Thursday in the wake of panic that gripped the entire headquarters after 26 employees were tested positive for the

Officials said that the reports of 26 employees who work in banks headquarters at TRC Srinagar, came positive on Wednesday (July 08), after which panic gripped the entire staff. "As a precautionary measure and to sanitise the offices, and floors of the headquarters, the headquar-

ters will remain closed for a day tomorrow (July 10)," bank officers said.

However the offices vice-presidents and management will remain open. On Thursday, the J&K Bank management closed ground floor-general department, ground floor-enquiry department, 1st floor-vigilance department, 1st floor-S&C Department, 1st floor-IS Audit, 2nd floor-Estate and Engineering, 3rd floor-all departments, and ATM help desk section.

Sources in the bank said that all the 26 employees, ►PAGE 02

## Soldier, Woman Injured In Pampore Attack

PULWAMA: A soldier and a woman were injured after militants fired at an army ambulance at Ladhoo area of Pampore in South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Thursday.

"Militants fired upon an Army vehicle at Ladhoo, Pampore in which one Army personnel and lady received minor injury. She has been discharged from hospital after treatment," Kashmir zone police wrote on its official Twitter handle.

"An ambulance with QRT moving from Khrew was fired upon by militants from near a Mosque at Laddoo Mor, Lethpora, Awantipora at 6 PM. One soldier injured, evacuated to 92 BH, stable. One ● P-02

## Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Inaugurates Six Bridges In J&K

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday inaugurated six bridges in border areas of Jammu and Kashmir, and asserted that development of remote areas in the region will continue to be a key priority for the NDA government.

The defence minister dedicated the bridges through video conferencing in presence of Chief of the Army Staff Gen MM Naravane, Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar, Director General of Border Roads Organisation Lt Gen Harpal Singh among others.

Four bridges were constructed on the Akhnoor-Pallanwala road in Akhnoor, while two bridges were built on the TarnahNallah in Kathua district, the Defence Ministry said in a statement.



The total cost of construction of the bridges was Rs 43 crore.

The inauguration of the bridges, built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) comes at a time when India and China are engaged in a border row in eastern Ladakh.

Officials said the dedication of the bridges to the people of Jammu and Kashmir carries a bigger message that India will continue to develop key infrastructure in border areas notwithstanding hostilities by any adversary. Our government is ►PAGE 02



A KASHMIRI nomad collects firewood with a panoramic background of Sindh Valley- KO photo Abid Bhat