



Maximum : 32°C  
Minimum : 18°C  
Humidity : 55%

SUNSET  
Today 07:35 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 05:39 AM

# OBSERVER

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## News Digest

### CRPF Man Shoots Self Dead

Srinagar- A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) trooper on Monday committed suicide after shooting himself dead with his service rifle in Rambagh area of Srinagar. CRPF spokesman in Srinagar Pan-kaj Singh said that a CRPF man posted at Group Centre Rambagh identified as Pintoo Mondal of West Bengal, shot himself dead, reported news agency KNO. He said an inquiry has been ordered as to what forced the trooper to take this extreme step. A senior CRPF official said that depression caused by the Covid-19 pandemic is one of the reasons for suicides among the force. ● P-02

### Six Absconders Held In Poonch

Jammu- Police have arrested six absconders, including a woman, who were wanted in separate cases in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said on Monday. The six had been evading arrest for 6-13 years, they said. Several police teams conducted raids at different localities in Poonch district and arrested the absconders who were identified as Mohd Sahakeel, Mohammad Af-tar, Mohammad Riyaz, Khalif, Sha-keela Bi and Mohammad Zabeer, the officials said. Khalif had been on the run since 2007 in a criminal case, they said. The six accused were nabbed by a team of ● P-02

### Teen Feared Dead After Drowning

Srinagar: A teenager is feared dead after slipping into river Jhelum in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Monday. 13-year-old Hanan Ahmed Dar of Ravath Pora, Delina slipped into river Jhelum when he was playing with other friends on the bank, reports said. The police and the locals immediately launched an operation to rescue the minor boy, who is said to be a class 7th student. However, the rescue team could not find the boy till the last reports came in. The boy, reports said is feared to have died of drowning.

### 2 Injured In Bear Attack

Srinagar: Two people, including a woman on Monday were attacked and injured by a bear in Feropora and Ganiwani villages of Tangmarg in Baramulla district. Saja Begum of Feropora was working in her vegetable garden when a bear appeared there and attacked her. In the attack, the woman was seriously injured. She was removed to SKIMS here for treatment. In a similar incident, a man was attacked and injured by a bear when he was busy in his orchards in Ganiwani area. The injured identified as Hilal Ahmad Khan was also shifted to SKIMS for further treatment. (KNO)

### Drug Peddler Held In Beerwah: Police

Srinagar: Police on Monday claimed to have arrested a drug peddler from Beerwah area of central Kashmir's Budgam district. Farooq Ahmad Lone of Hanjilawaypora Beerwah was arrested by police at a checkpoint and 10 kilograms of poppy straw was recovered from his possession, local news agency KNS reported. Meanwhile, police have filed a case F.I.R No 190/20 Under relevant section of law against the accused and started further investigations.

### SC Weighs Option Of Mian Qayoom's Conditional Release

NEW DELHI: The Jammu and Kashmir administration informed the Supreme Court on Monday that it will not extend the current detention of high court bar leader Mian Abdul Qayoom under J-K Public Safety Act beyond August 7. The top court asked J-K administration to apprise it by July 29 as to why Qayoom cannot be released on bail till August 7, the day his current detention period expires with certain conditions. A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Ajay Rastogi and Aniruddha Bose asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the J-K administration, to take instruction by Wednesday on whether Qayoom can be released on bail till August 7. We can release him on bail ● P-02



## Clamour For Statehood Grows As Hints About Its Restoration Mount

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As the first anniversary of August 5 decisions near, clamour for statehood is growing shriller among the mainstream camp in Jammu and Kashmir which was split into two union territories on that day last year.

The sudden surge in demand for statehood, already promised by the Union Home Minister, comes amid reports that the Centre was likely to announce its restoration on August 15.



## Omar Hints At Contesting Polls But After Statehood Is Restored

Press Trust Of India



SRINAGAR- Upset over downgrading of Jammu and Kashmir to the status of a Union Territory following abrogation of Article 370, former chief minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said he will not contest assembly elections till full statehood is restored.

However, Omar, a former union minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, made it clear he would continue to work for his party National Conference (NC) and people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"I have been leader of the as-

sembly of the state. In its time the most empowered assembly. I cannot and will not be a member of what is now one of the most disempowered assemblies in the country. It's as simple as that," Omar, 50, told PTI.

"It is not a threat or blackmail; it's not a display of me sulking. It's just a simple acknowledgement that I won't fight an election to lead the Union Territory assembly which is such a disempowered assembly."

Strongly critical of the dilution of Article 370 of the Constitution, Omar said many reasons had been given to justify abrogation of the provision that granted special status, and claimed that none of those stand any scrutiny.

Omar, who is the vice president of the NC, was critical of what had been done to Jammu and Kashmir on August 5 last year, and said his party would oppose it in the Supreme Court.

"We believe in democracy and peaceful opposition."

The abrogation of ► PAGE 02

### I HAVE BEEN LEADER OF THE ASSEMBLY

of the state. In its time the most empowered assembly. I cannot and will not be a member of what is now one of the most disempowered assemblies in the country. It's as simple as that," Omar, 50,

### KP Group Seeks Statehood, Special Status For J&K

Nearly a year after government of India revoked Article-370 and Article-35A and split Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories, a migrant Kashmiri Pandit organization on Monday demanded restoration of statehood and special status for the erstwhile state.

The organization called 'Reconciliation, Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants' in a statement issued today demanded the immediate restoration of statehood and special status ● P-02

### Karra Says 'Rat Race' Has Begun To Claim 4G Restoration, J&K Statehood

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: As speculations about restoration of statehood and resumption of high-speed internet are making rounds in Jammu and Kashmir, senior Congress leader and former Member Parliament Tariq Hameed Karra on Monday lashed out at certain mainstream politicians for indulging into a "rat race for taking the credit for it."

The PDP founding member took to Twitter to hit out at some political leaders from Jammu and Kashmir, who he said want to take credit for the two likely announce-



ments about the restoration of statehood and 4G in the erstwhile state.

"A highly connected friend of mine told me that the sudden outbursts and parroting by some political leaders from J&K for restoration of Statehood is a precursor to the already taken decision by chosen ► PAGE 02

## Covid-19 Claims 9 More Lives, J&K Toll 321

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least nine people, including a woman died of coronavirus in Kashmir Valley on Monday, raising the number of total fatalities across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to 321.

Among the victims, five were from Srinagar, two Pulwama, one each from Budgam and Kulgam districts of the Valley, officials said. The Srinagar cases included three men, aged 60 years each, from Buchpora, Hawal and Bemina respectively, a 48-year-old woman from Nowshera, and a 69-year-old man from Safakadal who was admitted at the SMHS hospital on July 24. A 58-year-old man from Kulgam, a 65-year-old from Budgam, and two men aged 85 from Pulwama were four more victims of the deadly disease.

Most of the victims, officials said, were suffering from community acquired pneumonia besides underlying ailments.

Regarding octogenarian, they said, he was a resident of Sambhoora and was admitted to SMHS hospital on July 23.

Regarding Kulgam case, they

### 470 New Cases

At least 79 travellers were among 470 new Covid-19 cases reported in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, taking the total number of cases in the Union Territory to 18390. While 309 of the new cases were reported from the Valley, the remaining 161 came positive from Jammu division, officials said. Srinagar district in central ● P-02

said, the patient was "known case of HTN T2DM WITH B/L CAP" while Buchpora one was suffering from "HTN T2DM" and "a case of hypothyroid with B/L CAP."

So far 298 deaths have been reported in Kashmir and 23 in Jammu division. Srinagar district with 88 deaths has the highest fatalities followed by Baramulla (63), Kulgam (26), Budgam (23), Anantnag (21), Shopian (20), Pulwama (19), Kupwara (17), Jammu (15), Bandipora (9), Ganderbal (6), two each in Rajouri and Doda and one each in Poonch, Udhampur, and Kathua.

## Home Quarantine For Asymptomatic Patients With No Co-Morbidities

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday announced that the asymptomatic Covid-19 patients with no co-morbidity and asymptomatic contacts will remain under home quarantine to ease pressure on major healthcare institutions in the Union Territory.

"Keeping in view better management of COVID-19 patients, the protocol with regard to management of COVID-19 patients will be revised and all asymptomatic patients with no co-morbidity and not vulnerable otherwise will be allowed to remain under home quarantine, if they have a separate room facility at home and have down-

loaded the AAROGYA Setu application on their phones," Chief Secretary, B. V. R. Subrahmanyam said during a meeting here.

According to an official spokesperson, Subrahmanyam said that all such patients will be provided with a pulse oximeter to monitor their oxygen saturation levels and in event of drop in oxygen saturation below 90% they shall immediately report to hospitals.

A poster shall also be put up outside their home displaying therein the quarantine 'status'. Reach out teams constituted by the Health Department shall monitor the health status of these patients," the Chief Secretary said. Subrahmanyam, ► PAGE 02

## Forces Don't Need NoC for Land Acquisition In J&K Now, 49 Year Old Directive Withdrawn



SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir government has withdrawn a 49-year-old directive under which acquisition/requisition of land by Army and paramilitary forces required no objection certificate (NoC) from its Home department.

The move comes days after Jammu and Kashmir administration decided to notify certain locations inside the Union Territory as "strategic areas" to facilitate construction by the armed forces. Acquisition of land by Army,

CRPF, BSF and other similar agencies required NoC from Home department as per a previous state government circular issued in 1971.

But due to repeal of Jammu & Kashmir Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Act -1968 on October 31, 2019, the Revenue department withdrew the circular which mandated the Home department's clearance, for requisition/acquisition of land by forces.

"In view of the extension of The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act-2013 to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the circular No. Rev/LB/71/13-A dated 27.08.1971 which prescribed obtaining of No Objection Certificate from the Home department ► PAGE 02



LOST CHILDHOOD: A young boy looks at KO lensman at the fence of his open air school in Dodhpathri- Pix Abid Bhat

## Submit Button Fails Students In Online Exams

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Scores of post-graduate students of distance education on Monday failed to submit their online examination papers after the website developed a technical snag.

The PG students of Urdu Department pursuing their degrees through distance mode complained that the submit button to file their papers did not work while they were appearing in online examinations. The disappointed students contacted examiners at Kashmir University who advised them to send an application to get the issue addressed.

"Today we were frustrated and disappointed after we failed to submit our papers. The submit button developed some problems and didn't work," the students said.

The students were appearing in the third paper of the course titled 'Urdu Nazam'. The online examinations, they said began on July 21.

"The examiners sent links to us through University Groups and we appeared in 60 minute multiple choice papers. Much to the frustration and shock of students, the submission button didn't function and we failed to submit the paper," the students added. The students claimed that the Coordinator Exams Dr Irfan Aalam told them to forget about today's paper and prepare for the next one. When contacted Dr Altaf said that these students need to submit an application or send a mail on examination@dddeku.edu.in so that their grievance could be addressed.

"There may be some technological issues and the problems arising out of those can be addressed," he said. (KNT)

## No Let Down In Cross-LoC Shelling

JAMMU: The exchange of fire between India and Pakistan troops along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district continued for the eventh consecutive day on Monday.

Pakistani troops violated ceasefire by resorting to small arms firing and mortar shelling on forward areas along the LoC in Monday, officials said.

This is the seventh day in a row that Pakistan has violated ceasefire, they said. "Around 1030 hours today, the Pakistan army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling with mortars along LoC in Mankot sector of Poonch district," a defence spokesperson said.

The Indian Army gave a befitting response, he said. Pakistani troops have been targeting forward areas along the LoC in Rajouri and Poonch districts since Tuesday.

## Slain Hizb Militant's Father Goes Missing In Pulwama

Family Files Missing Report At Police Station

PULWAMA: Father of a slain Hizbul Mujahideen militant commander has gone missing forcing the family to lodge a missing complaint after failing to trace him for over two weeks.

Abdul Hameed Chopan (47), father of slain Hizb commander Adil Ahmad, left his home on July 16 and didn't return. His wife Gulshana Bano said: "He left home and told us that he is going to irrigate land. But he didn't return. We searched for him everywhere but couldn't find a trace of him. We later lodge a missing report at Police station Tral," news agency KNO quoted her saying. "We are now just three members left in our family—me, my daughter and my son who is pursuing Bachelor's Degree at Govt Degree

College Tral. We have no one to feed us now."

She said that they don't have any info where he is. Chopan's son Adil Ahmed Chopan alias Adil Hizbi, who was killed earlier this year. Gulshan also lost her brother, who was also a militant and was killed in 2017.

A senior police official confirmed that Chopan is missing from "last several days" and said that they are investigating whether he has joined militant ranks or he left home due to any other reason.

Police sources said that they are also investigating whether the reports about a few youth whose pictures have gone viral have joined militant group Al-Badr. "We are finding out whether pictures are real in nature," they said.

## L-G Launches Jammu Ropeway Project

JAMMU: The much-awaited Jammu ropeway project, aimed at boosting tourism in the winter capital of the Union territory, has been launched by Lieutenant Governor G C Murmu on Monday that has brought a smile on the faces of the people of Jammu.

Planned back in 1995, the project faced dozens of delays in its start, execution and date of completion but the people of Jammu feel are now happy that a prestigious project has seen the light of day after 25 years.

L-G Murmu and the first lady Smita Murmu inaugurated the much-delayed project and took the first ride on the ropeway along with top officials. Murmu said the project would go a long way in promoting tourism in Jammu region, giving a fillip to the local economy by creating jobs.

He said the project is of great importance and is going ► P-02