



Maximum : 30°C  
Minimum : 16°C  
Humidity : 48%

SUNSET Today 06:40 PM  
SUNRISE Tomorrow 06:13 AM

# OBSERVER

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## News Digest

### Mirwaiz Umar Farooq Bereaved

Srinagar: Grandmother of incarcerated Hurriyat Conference Chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and wife of Molvi Ghulam Rasool Shah passed away here on Saturday after prolonged illness. The deceased was aunt and mother-in-law of late Molvi Muhammad Farooq and mother of mother of Molvi Manzoor Ahmad, Molvi Shafat Ahmad. She passed away on Saturday evening at Mirwaiz Manzil Nigeen, a Hurriyat spokesperson said. He said that due to coronavirus pandemic and continuous house detention of Mirwaiz, no mourning ceremony or congregational prayers. P-02

### 3 Killed After Van Falls Into Gorge

Jammu: Three persons, including a 26-year-old woman and her newborn, were killed and five others injured on Saturday when a van carrying them skidded off the road and fell into a gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district, police said. The accident took place near Dhanas village and it is suspected that the driver lost control over the vehicle at a blind curve, said a police official. The vehicle was coming from Chenani, said the official. The injured were rescued and hospitalised, the official said, adding that the condition of two of them has been stated as serious. P-02

### Man Dies Of Electric Shock In Budgam

Srinagar: A middle-aged man died of electrocution on Saturday in central Kashmir's Budgam district. 55-year-old Abdul Rashid Dar suffered an electric shock after he came into contact with a live electric wire in Dangerpora area of the district, officials said. Due to the severe electric shock, Dar died on the spot. Meanwhile, police have registered a case and started further investigations in this regard. (KDC)

### 3 Injured After Oil Barrel Bursts

Srinagar: Three labourers suffered burn injuries after a hot oil barrel burst at a unit in KunzerTangmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Saturday. According to preliminary information, two among the three injured labourers suffered higher degrees of burns and they have been shifted for advance medical treatment to SMHS hospital here. The other injured has been admitted locally, they said. Police have reached the spot and further details are awaited, official sources told GNS. The incident occurred inside a P-02

### LAWDA Demolishes Illegal Constructions

Srinagar: The Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) on Saturday demolished several illegal structures during a drive in parts of this capital city. The Enforcement Wing of LAWDA today conducted its ongoing drive and demolished illegal constructions in Lashkari Mohalla, Ishberand Nishat areas, an official spokesperson said. During the drive, he said one shuttering for plinth was removed and two second storeys that were raised by some violators taking the undue advantage of the prevailing situation in the valley were demolished. "Also FIR's were P-02

## LADAKH FACE-OFF

# India, China Troops Within Shooting Range

China has mobilised thousands of soldiers, tanks and howitzers within rifle range of Indian Army deployment in the southern part of Pangong Tso

### Agencies

NEW DELHI: China has mobilised thousands of soldiers, tanks and howitzers within rifle range of Indian Army deployment at Spanggur Gap in the southern part of Pangong Tso in eastern Ladakh, sources said, even as Indian troops are on high alert.

The Chinese People's Liberation Army made provocative military deployments at Spanggur Gap, which is between Gurung Hill and Magar Hill, from August 30 after Indian soldiers seized tactical heights on the ridge line on the southern bank of Pangong Tso near Chushul at the Line of Actual Control P-02



### No Headway In Brigade Commander Talks

To prevent the situation at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh from further escalating, the armies of India and China held an interaction on Saturday where they discussed withdrawing P-02

### PLA Releases 5 Indian Army Porters

Five youth who were allegedly abducted by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China near the McMahon line in Arunachal Pradesh's Upper Subansiri were released on Saturday in Anjaw P-02

### Shelling Continues To Rattle LOC

JAMMU: India and Pakistan troops traded gunfire for the fourth consecutive day Saturday along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistani troops on Saturday evening violated ceasefire by resorting to unprovoked firing and intense shelling along the LoC in Poonch district, a defence spokesman said.

The Indian Army retaliated befittingly and the cross-border firing between the two sides in Mankote and Gulpur sectors was going on when last reports were received, the spokesman said. P-02

### Soldier's Brother Goes Missing In Anantnag

SRINAGAR: A soldier's brother has gone missing from Dooru area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district since Tuesday.

21-year-old Yasir Ahmad Wani left his home on Tuesday around 10 AM and since then his whereabouts are unknown, family said Saturday. Before leaving, Wani left his cellphone at his home.

"My brother left home for some work but didn't return since then," Wani's brother Saqib Ahmad said. P-02

## 4-Year-Old Among 8 More Die Of Covid-19, J&K Toll Reaches 866

### Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least eight more, including a four-year-old child from Jammu division died of coronavirus on Saturday, taking the total number of fatalities due to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic in Union Territory to 866.

Officials said that six of the victims were from Jammu division, including a minor and three others from Jammu district besides one each from Rajouri and Samba while those

### J&K Sees Highest Single Day Spike Of 1698 Cases

Jammu and Kashmir recorded the highest single-day jump of 1698 coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours, taking its count to 52410, official said on Saturday. With 135 travelers P-02

WITH THESE DEATHS, OFFICIALS said, 866 people have succumbed to the virus in Jammu and Kashmir so far. Among them, they said, 723 were from the Valley while 143 others were from Jammu division.

### Covid-19 Could Get Worse In Winter: DAK

With the novel coronavirus raging in Kashmir valley and showing no signs of slowing down, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Saturday warned that Covid-19 could get worse in winter. "We could have further surge in Covid-19 cases this winter," said DAK President and influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan. Quoting a study from P-02

## Soldier Flying 2 'Minor' Girls To Delhi Held At Srinagar Airport

### Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: An Army soldier posted in Bandipora district was on Saturday arrested along with two minor girls at the airport here, officials said.

The trio was on way to Delhi, they added.

A soldier of the Rashtriya Rifles of the Army on way to New Delhi along with two girls who are reportedly minor was arrested at the Srinagar airport here, officials said.

The three are being questioned about the motive behind the trip to Delhi, they said.

The soldier and the two girls have been handed over to police and investigation has been taken up, the officials added.

Both the girls (names withheld) hail from Ajas area of Bandipora.



Sources said these girls and the army soldier are being questioned while the parents have been called as well to the police station.

The army soldier in question has been identified as Lance Naik Ashok Kumar Paul son of Rajander Paul, a resident of Uttar Pradesh. He is deputed at Ajas Bandipora with 13 Rashtriya Rifles.

An official said motive behind their outside trip is being ascertained. There was no response to calls and messages to the Srinagar-based defence spokesman over the incident.

## HC Dismisses Petition Seeking Village Courts In J&K

### Agencies

SRINAGAR: The J&K High Court has dismissed a Public Interest Litigation, seeking establishing of village courts at grass root level in Jammu and Kashmir.

A bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Puneet Gupta passed the order after submissions before it that as per Schedule-V of the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act 2019, the Jammu and Kashmir Dehi Adalats Act 2013 stands repealed.

"In view thereof, this petition does not survive for consideration," the court said while dismissing it.

Earlier in 2018, the Court had termed very unfair and unreasonable on part of the Government not to establish village courts at



grass root level despite passing of legislation in 2013.

The purpose of establishing Dehi Adalats was to "provide access to Justice to the citizens at their doorsteps and also for ensuring that Justice cannot be denied to any citizen by reason of Social, Economic or other disabilities as enshrined in the Preamble and under Article 39(A) and 14 of the Constitution." P-02

## 3 Youth Arrested For 'Glorifying' Militancy

### Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday arrested three persons for their alleged role in pasting posters and displaying banners of militants in Pampore town of south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Nadeem Ahmad Dar and Irshad Ahmad Sofi, both residents of Pampore and Shafir Ahmad Dar Sopore were arrested by a joint team of police and army's 50 RR on Saturday for glorifying militancy by pasting posters and displaying banners of militants in Pampore town on September 6, a police spokesperson said.

Police, he claimed recovered incriminating material including, 2 Computer systems with accessories and 1 printer from a printing

### Militant Associate Held In Tral: Police

Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested a militant associate from Tral area of south Kashmir's Awantipora. Adil Ahmad Hajam of Ratsuna Tral was arrested by police for his involvement in providing shelter, logistics, transportation and other support to the active militants operating in the area, a police spokesperson said. P-02

### Arms Cache Recovered In Poonch, 2 Held

The government forces on Saturday arrested two alleged underground workers (OGWs) of militants and recovered a cache of arms and ammunition along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district. The recoveries made during the operation included three Chinese pistols with six magazines and 70 rounds. P-02

press namely Rampage Advertising Agency Rengreth here. "Case FIR No.75/2020 under rel-

## CBI Raids Ex-Kot Bhalwal Jailer In Antique Coins Grabbing Case

### Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Crime Branch of the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday searched the house of a former jail superintendent here in connection with a case related to the alleged misappropriation of antique coins that were recovered in Kot Bhalwal jail premises eight years ago, a spokesman of the investigation agency said.

The residential house of the then superintendent, Kot Bhalwal jail, Rajni Sehgal, in Jammu city was searched by a team of the crime branch after a search warrant was obtained from a local court, he said.

In June 2015, the crime branch

had registered a case against four jail officials including Sehgal for allegedly trying to pocket nearly 400 gold and copper coins belonging to 12th and 13th century AD that were found by convicts lodged in the Central Jail premises during digging of earth for kitchen gardening.

During investigation of the case it has been established that antique coins were recovered by the jail convicts in the month of September 2012 and were handed over to Sehgal on the same day by an official of the jail, the spokesman said.

However, he said Sehgal intentionally did not inform her senior officers about the recovery till December 2012 in order to misappropriate the ancient coins. P-02

## NEET 2020 Exams Today, NTA Issues Dress-Code Guidelines

NEW DELHI: The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) is going to be held on Sunday (September 13, 2020). Over 15 Lakh candidates will be appearing for the exams amidst strict COVID-19 protocols.

The National Testing Agency (NTA) has increased the number of examination centres from 2,546 to 3,843 in order to maintain social distancing. The number of candidates has been reduced from 24 to 12.

The NEET exam will be a pen and paper-based test. The exam was originally scheduled to take place on May 3, but was pushed to July 26, and then to September 13.

Earlier, petitions filed by the students, and P-02

## Teams Set Up To Speed Up 4-Lane Work On Kashmir Highway

JAMMU: Authorities in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir have constituted various teams of officers to remove all bottlenecks hindering the progress of four-laning construction work on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, officials said on Saturday.

The widening work on the 270-km highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with rest of the country, started in 2011 and is likely to be completed by the end of next year after missing several deadlines. P-02

# In FOCUS 'We're Treated As Labourers': Endless Woes Of Kashmir's Private Teachers

### Bisma Bhat

In an early September day in Srinagar, sunbeams from her small kitchen window shone Ruksaan Ali's furrowed face. Her worried and woeful appearance made her look more than her actual age of 40. Apart from a personal tragedy, she's equally grief-stricken over her "thankless" job. This Srinagar-based private school teacher has been religiously preparing video lectures of Urdu subject for 1st and 2nd class students since Covid lockdown crippled the already discord-dented educational calendar of the valley.

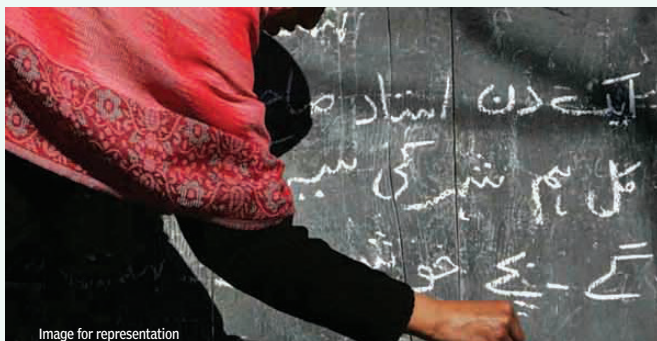
But despite doing what she calls a desperate-for-living job, she stays unpaid for last three months.

"Most of us don't grumble about it anymore now," said the teacher donning the mantle of a matriarch for her strife-torn home. "Despite sustaining the private education sector with our sweat and blood, most of us are being dismissed as expendable at the end of the day, and are literary forced to beg for our hard-earned salaries."

The lady who's a "moody madam" for her gossip-loving locality keeps fighting her own silent battles of life. Apart from being an underpaid,

and equally an unpaid, educator, Ruksaan is the breadwinner for her family. Her husband is bedridden since 2018 when he suffered a paralytic bullet-injury, followed by a major heart attack in 2019. His life-saving drugs cost the private teacher around Rs 15000 every month. "It's too much to bear with my holdup Rs 5000 monthly salary," the teacher, who's graduate and specialized in physical education, voiced her woe.

Despite students paying their full fees every month, many private schools today face charges of forcing teachers to work without salaries.



Schools and other educational institutions in Kashmir have been shut since the August last year when

New Delhi revoked Article 370 and the region subsequently faced the communication clampdown.

In March 2020, when the first case of coronavirus was reported in the valley, educational institutions were once again closed after resuming class work for just few weeks. As education in the valley shifted to 2G-driven online mode, private school teachers were instructed to conduct the online classes from home. But despite working hard, these unsung educators—like Saima Bhat—are today facing salary hassles and sudden job terminations. In August 2020, the 27-year-old private school teacher was sacked along with 29 others from a well-reputed private school of the valley.

A B.Ed degree-holder, Saima had joined the school in January and was teaching lower primary department through online mode. "We were simply told that they don't need us anymore," the distressed teacher said. "Before sacking us, the school authorities told us they'll clear our pending salaries within a month." The ouster came as a rude shock to Saima and her ilk—who worked hard to complete school assignments despite grappling with pestering and pathetically slow internet to conduct regular online classes. "In addition to video P-02