



Maximum : 22°C
Minum : 09°C
Humidity : 42%

SUNSET
Today 05:47 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:43 AM

OBSERVER

23rd year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR

05 Rabi-ul-Awwal | 1442 Hijri | Vol: 23 | Issue: 235 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

www.kashmirobserver.net • twitter.com / kashmirobserver • facebook.com/kashmirobserver • Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016

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News Digest

HC Quashes 3 PSA Detention Orders

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has quashed detention orders under Public Safety Act against three detainees and ordered authorities to release them forthwith if not required in any other case.

Prof. Mushtaq To Act As VC SKUAST-K

Srinagar: The Lieutenant Governor's administration on Thursday directed Director Extension Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Kashmir Prof. Mushtaq Ahmad to perform the routine duties of vice-chancellor SKUAST-K as the incumbent VC completed his tenure on Thursday.

3 Gamblers Arrested In Srinagar: Police

Srinagar: Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested three gamblers in a raid in Shalimar area of this capital city. Acting in specific information, a police team raided friends' colony Shalimar and arrested three gamblers, a police spokesman said.

6.73 Lakh J&K Residents Evacuated: Govt

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has evacuated about 6.73 lakh residents of the Union territory till date, who were stranded in other parts of the country due to successive COVID-19 lockdowns, amid strict observance of all necessary guidelines, an official spokesman said.

Two Health Dept Employees Suspended

Srinagar: The government of Jammu & Kashmir on Thursday suspended two employees of Health & Medical Education department and attached them with the General Administration Department. A senior assistant of the secretariat, then posted in gazette section of H&ME department and a basic health worker, directorate of health services, Jammu, the then Class-IV employee, have been suspended till pending enquiry in a case FIR No. 12/2020 P/S ACB.

Searches On To Retrieve Sopore Minor's Body

Sopore: For the second consecutive day, the authorities continued search operation to retrieve the body of a 12-year-old boy, who allegedly committed suicide by jumping into river Jhelum in Sopore area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. A 12-year-old boy, who was a class 8th student and identified as Shahid-Nazir Changan, son of Nazir Ahmad Changan of Ahadab crossing, jumped into the river from bypass bridge on Wednesday, new agency KNO reported. The report said joint team of Sopore Police.

J&K Govt Amends Service Regulation Rules Employees Can Now Be Retired After 22 Years Of Service

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir's civil service regulation rules were amended on Thursday to allow the administration to retire government employees at any time after completing 22 years of service or attaining the age of 48 years, an official said.

The employees can be retired after being given three month notice or three months of pay and allowance in lieu of the notice, the official said.

On the orders of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the administration has introduced certain substitutes in 226(2) Article of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service Regulations, the official said. He said a notification was issued by Finance Department in this regard.

The notification states that in exercise of powers conferred under provision to Article 309 of Indian Constitution, Lieutenant Governor has directed that Article 226(2) of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Service Regulations may be



KNO FILE PHOTO ANUR BHAR

substituted as "226 (2): (a) Notwithstanding anything contained in these Regulations, government may, if it is of the opinion that in the public interest to do so, require any government employee other than one working on a post which is included in Schedule II of these rules, to retire at any time after he/she has completed 22 years of qualifying service or on attained 48 years of age.

The notification, however, said the employee can be retired provided the appropriate author-

ity gives a notice at least three months before the date on which he/she is required to leave or three months of pay and allowance in lieu of such a notice, the spokesperson said.

The employee shall be granted pensionary benefits admissible under these rules on the basis of qualifying service put in by him/her on the date of the retirement, the spokesperson added.

According to the official, the notification states, "A government servant who is retired

A GOVERNMENT SERVANT WHO IS RETIRED IMMEDIATELY after allowing him pay and allowances in lieu notice will be entitled to pension from the date of such retirement and the pension shall not be deferred till after the expiry of the three months for which he is paid pay and allowances."

IT Raids Malls, Businessmen In Srinagar

SRINAGAR: The sleuths of Income Tax (I-T) department on Thursday conducted raids at several places, including two prominent shopping malls here in this capital city.

Sources said that Income Tax department sleuths accompanied by police and CRPF raided MS Mall on Residency road and City Walk Mall on MA road Srinagar and were conducting searches, news reports said.

Raids were also simultaneously carried out on the premises of some local businessmen in Nowhatta, Nishat, Rajbagh and some other places in Srinagar.

Sources said some

14 More Deaths Take Covid-19 Toll In J&K To 1418

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Thursday fourteen more coronavirus deaths, including two young women, taking the number of fatalities since the outbreak of pandemic in the Union Territory to 1418.

While Kashmir valley saw nine more deaths related to Covid-19, five others were reported from Jammu division, officials said. Among the victims from the Valley, they said included a 55-year-old woman from Lal Bazar, who died at SKIMS Soura, nine days after she was admitted there. Besides her, another death of a 75-year-old from man was reported from Nawabgah locality of Lal Bazar. The septuagenarian died at SKIMS, 20 days after he was admitted to the tertiary care hospital.

Besides them, officials said a 29-year-old woman from Watalar area of Ganderbal also died at SKIMS Soura, a day after admitted at the tertiary care hospital. The other fatalities, they said included a 70-year-old man from Gurez, a 95-year-old from Natipora, a

75-year-old man from Alamgari Bazar, a 70-year-old from Baghe-Mehrab, and a 65-year-old man from Dhobi Mohalla Srinagar.

Also, officials said, a 22-year-old from Ganderbal died a day after she was admitted to SKIMS Soura.

In Jammu division, they said three deaths were reported from Jammu district, and one each from Doda and Poonch.

Among others, the victims, officials said included a 77-year-old from New Plot Jammu and a 58-year-old man from R S

Pura besides a 74-year-old man from Mendhar Poonch, who died at SKIMS Soura, 12 days after he was admitted there.

With these deaths, the fatality count has reached 949 in Valley and 469 in Jammu region.

Srinagar district with 342 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (243), Baramulla (137), Budgam (91), Pulwama (79), Kupwara (71), Anantnag (71), Kulgam (46), Bandipora (43), Rajouri (45), Doda (43), Shopian (35), Ganderbal (33), Kathua (30), Udhampur (27), Samba (25), Poonch (23), Kishtwar (14), Ramban (12), and Reasi (7). (With GNS inputs)

Leh Council Polls Record 65.07 Pc Voting

LEH: Leh recorded a 65.07 per cent voter turnout in the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) elections, which concluded peacefully here on Thursday, an official said.

The voting for the sixth LAHDC Leh election was held across the district. As reported, a total of 65.07 percentage of voters exercised their franchise to decide the fate of 94 candidates who are

Cases Cross 90K Mark, 584 More Positive

Coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir crossed 90000-mark on Thursday, as 584 more people, including twenty three travelers tested positive for virus, taking the total number of infected people across the Union Territory to 90166. While Kashmir valley detected 392 fresh cases of Covid-19, the remaining 192 were confirmed by the officials from the Jammu division. Giving district-wise details, officials said, Srinagar reported 127, Budgam 19, Baramulla 104, Pulwama 30, Kupwara 40,

Leh A Part Of China? India's Scathing Letter To Twitter CEO

NEW DELHI: India has warned Twitter over its location setting that showed Leh in China, saying any disrespect of the country's sovereignty and integrity is totally unacceptable.

In a strongly-worded letter, Ajay Sawhney, Secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), asked Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey to respect the country's sensitivities, sources in the ministry said.

Twitter came under heavy criticism and faced backlash from social media

LG In KU, Calls For Reviving Role Of Sufis, Reshis In Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and Chancellor, University of Kashmir Thursday stressed upon the need to revive the iconic role of Sufis and Reshis in the cultural transformation of Kashmir at an important juncture of history.

Lieutenant Governor who presided over the inaugural session of National Seminar on "Reshi- Sufi Traditions of Kashmir" at the University of Kashmir, observed that this is the most appropriate time for propagating and adhering to the legacy of Reshis and Sufis in



the prevailing chaotic global and regional scenario.

The National Seminar was organized by Markaz-i Noor, Centre for Shaikh-ul Aalam Studies, University of Kashmir, at Gandhi Bhawan, Kashmir University, Srinagar.

The Lt Governor repeated the

words of prominent saint Lal Ded in which she asked the people to seek God within and not create a religious divide among the masses. He also highlighted the unique nature of Kashmiri spiritual thought which seeks to combine elements of Shaivism with Sufism.

Editors Guild Of India Condemns Sealing Of KT Office

NEW DELHI: The Editors Guild of India on Thursday criticised the Jammu and Kashmir administration's decision to abruptly seal the offices of regional daily the Kashmir Times. The Editors Guild said the action was reprehensible, and that it would have "disturbing implications" for the media of the two Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

In a strongly worded statement the Editors Guild also said that local media organisations in J&K were already going through tough times because of constant communication shutdowns, lack of advertising revenue and government imposed lockdowns and said that

PCI Dismayed

The Press Club of India on Thursday said that it is dismayed to note that the UT administration of Jammu and Kashmir has continued with what it called "calculated and sustained attacks on the media in the UT."

"The latest instance of wielding the rod against independent sections of the media has come in the shape of the administration sealing the office of the prestigious daily Kashmir Times' Srinagar Bureau, in the Press Enclave in J&K's summer capital," PCI said in a statement.

Art-370 Revocation Unacceptable, Will Fight Against It: PDP

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Thursday said "illegal and unconstitutional" disempowerment was perpetrated on the people of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5 last year when the Centre abrogated Article 370, asserting that the changes were unacceptable and would be fought against in unison.

The announcement was made after a meeting of senior leaders of the party chaired by PDP president

Mehbooba Mufti - the first such meeting after her release from over 14 months long detention.

The party president chaired the meeting of the party's top leadership here to discuss and deliberate upon the prevailing situation in Jammu & Kashmir," a PDP spokesperson said.

"The leadership unanimously endorsed the stance taken by the party president on the issue of August 5 events as well as her commitment to a united response to these events, the spokesperson said.

Bandipora Suicide Turns Out To Be Murder Wife, Paramour Drugged; Strangled Sarpanch To Death

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday claimed to have solved the mystery shrouding the suicide of a Sarpanch in north Kashmir's Bandipora district by arresting his wife and her paramour, who had carried out the murder in a filmy style.

On October 12, police received information that the Sarpanch Javid Ahmad Dar has committed suicide by hanging himself at his home in Zurmanz village of the district, a police spokesperson

said. Accordingly, he said proceedings under section 174 CRPC were initiated.

The police, he said constituted a Special Investigating Team (SIT) and during the course of investigation and from spot visit, it surfaced that the case looks more of a murder than suicide.

"In this connection, many suspects were brought for questioning. Proceedings in the case revealed that wife of the deceased along with another person identified as Shahzad Ahmad Dar, who

were in extra marital affair with each other, administered some sedative drugs to deceased and strangled him to death," the police spokesperson said.

Both the persons, he said admitted their involvement in the commission of crime and have been arrested.

"Consequently, a case FIR No. 116/2020 under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Bandipora and further investigation into the matter has been initiated," the police spokesperson added.

3,800 Ceasefire Violations By Pak This Year: MEA

NEW DELHI: Pakistani troops have resorted to more than 3,800 incidents of unprovoked ceasefire violations along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir this year and even supported smuggling of arms and narcotic substances, including through drones and quadcopters, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday.

MEA Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said Pakistani forces have continued to engage in unprovoked ceasefire violations, often from civilian areas, to support infiltration of militants across the LoC.

"This is a clear violation of the 2003 ceasefire understanding

2 Militant Recruits Surrender After Family's Emotional Pleas

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Two newly recruited militants surrendered before the state forces during a cordon and search operation in Tujjar area of north Kashmir's Sopore on Thursday, officials said.

"On a specific input regarding presence of militants in Shalpora Tujjar Sharief area of Sopore, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by Police, 22RR and 179Bn CRPF in the area," a police spokesperson said.

During the search operation, he said, as the presence of militants got ascertained they were given opportunity to surrender.

"Family members of the trapped (militants) were called to the en-

counter site to motivate and persuade them to surrender," he said, adding, "Due to the great efforts of police, security forces and repeated surrender appeals by their family members, eventually they surrendered before the joint forces"

News agency GNS identified the duo as Abid Mushtaq Dar son of Mushtaq Ahmad Dar and Mehrajuddin Dar son of Farooq Ahmad Dar, both residents of Wadoora Payeen Bomai Sopore.

Meanwhile, IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar congratulated their families. "He further appealed militants to surrender and start living a normal life. Our full support will be available to such militants who lay down their arms and surrender," the spokesman quoted

Himalayas Poised For A Series Of Big Earthquakes, Says Study

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The entire Himalayan arc is poised to produce a sequence of great earthquakes, and the next big quake -- of the magnitude of 8 or above -- may occur during our lifetimes, according to a study reviewing geological, historical, and geophysical data.

The human toll of such an event in the densely populated countries across the arc is likely to be unprecedented, the researchers said.

The study notes that the sequence of future Himalayan earthquakes could be similar to the great earthquakes that occurred in the twentieth century along the

Aleutian subduction zone, which extends from the Gulf of Alaska to Kamchatka in Russian Far East.

The review, which appeared in the journal Seismological Research Letters in August, used basic geological principles --stratigraphic analysis, structural analysis, soils analysis, and radiocarbon analysis -- to estimate the size and timing of prehistoric earthquakes and evaluate future risk.

"The entire Himalayan arc extending from the eastern boundary of Arunachal Pradesh (India) in the east to Pakistan (in the west) has in the past been the source of great earthquakes," study author Steven G. Wesnousky told PTI.



File Photo

"These earthquakes will occur again and scientifically, it would not be a surprise if the next great earthquake occurred in our lifetimes.

But the resolution of our studies is at best on the order of 100 years, longer than a human lifetime," said Wesnousky, a professor of geology

and seismology and director of the Center for Neotectonic Studies at the University of Nevada at Reno, US.

Seismologist Supriyo Mitra noted that the research matches previous studies.

"The research is a comprehensive review of paleoseismological studies of past Himalayan earthquakes and a forecast of the future events based on the findings," said Mitra, a professor in the department of Earth sciences at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata.

"The Himalayan faults, as shown in the paper, are poised to produce an 8-plus magnitude earthquake. So yes, we are staring at