

Maximum : 14° Minnum : 2° Humidity : 68% SUNSET Today 05:21 PM SUNRISE Tomorrow 07:21 AM

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..... P6/ Life & Times

CANCER SURVIVORS AT HIGHER RISK OF DYING FROM FLU: STUDY

Survivors from a wide range of cancers are more likely than people in the general population to be hospitalised ...

PSJ PANORAMA



DUNGEONS OF DOWRY

India is one of the most religiously and ethnically diverse nations in the world, with some of the most deeply religious societies and cultures.

P8/OUTPOST

LANGUAGE JUGGLERY: CSE HITS BACK AS DABUR, PATANJALI CLAIM HONEY PRODUCTS PURE

The CSE was responding to statements by Dabur and Patanjali claiming that the honey sold by...



Wisdom Quote!

"We can know only that we know nothing. And that is the highest degree of human wisdom."

—Leo Tolstoy

news DIGEST

Soldier Shoots Self Dead

SRINAGAR: An Army soldier committed suicide by shooting himself dead in south-Kashmir's Shopain district on intervening Thursday night, officials said.

Meanwhile a police official while confirming the incident said that a case has been registered in this regard and further investigations taken up.

Hand Grenade Found In Rajouri

JAMMU: A live hand grenade was found in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Thursday, officials said.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Rajouri, Chandan Kohli said that based on a specific tip off, a team headed by Station House Officer (SHO), Rajouri, Sameer Jillani found the grenade kept alongside a road between Gujjar Mandi and Kheora stretch.

In view of the District Development Council Polls, security is high in Rajouri and prompt action by the police team averted a possible terror action, the officer said.

Kishtwar: 3 Employees Suspended

JAMMU: Three government employees were on Thursday suspended for dereliction of election duty in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, officials said here.

The employees suspended by Panchayat Election Officer Ashok Kumar Sharma will remain attached in the office of the additional district commissioner of Kishtwar during the suspension period, they said.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Pawan Parihar has been appointed inquiry officer to conduct a detailed probe into the matter, the officials said.

Till date, five employees have been suspended and 21 attached for dereliction of election duty and violations of the Model Code of Conduct in Kishtwar, they added.

2 Injured In Tractor-Tripper Collision

SRINAGAR: A tractor driver and his associate were injured on Thursday in a road accident in Chogal area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

Shakir Ahmad Dar and Ishfaq Ahmad Dar, both resident of Waskura were injured after their Tractor (JK09 5902) collided with a Tripper at Watayen area of the district on Thursday evening. The two injured men were shifted to public health centre Chogal for treatment. Their condition is said to be stable.

Meanwhile, a local news agency KNS quoted a police officer as saying that investigations in this regard have been taken up.

305 Candidates in Fray for 3rd Phase Today



Each DDC To Have 5 Standing Committees

Panels Will Deal With Finance, Development, Public Works

SRINAGAR: Every district development council in Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory will have five standing committees to look after different subjects ranging from financial matters to development.

DDC POLLS

JAMMU: A total of 7.37 lakh voters will decide the fate of 305 candidates contesting in the third phase of the District Development Council (DDC) elections in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday.

State Election Commissioner (SEC) K K Sharma on Thursday said adequate security arrangements have been made in all constituencies going to polls.

Urging people to follow all COVID-19 guidelines while exercising their franchise, he said

sanitisers, thermal scanners and face masks have been arranged at polling stations.

The DDC elections and panchayat bypolls are being held in eight phases from November 28 to December 19. The counting of votes will be done on December 22.

Giving details about the DDC elections, Sharma said there are a total 280 constituencies in the UT, out of which voting will be conducted in 33 constituencies, including 16 from Kashmir division and 17 from Jammu division, from 7 am to 2 pm.

A total 305 candidates, including 166 from Kashmir division and 139 from Jammu division, are contesting

for the DDC polls. Out of these 305 candidates, 252 are male, while 53 are female. Sharma said 7,37,648 people are eligible to cast their votes in the third phase of DDC polls.

Talking about by-elections for sarpanchs, he said out of 126 constituencies, polling will take place in 66 constituencies and a total of 184 candidates are in the fray.

Forty sarpanch constituencies have been filled unopposed.

Similarly, in panch by-elections, there are 1,738 constituencies, and out of them 798 have been elected unopposed, he said, adding that voting will take place in 327 constituencies and 749 candidates are in the fray.

J&K Reports 10 More Corona Deaths

OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

SRINAGAR: At least ten more people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, taking the number of fatalities since the outbreak of pandemic in the Union Territory to 1718.

In Kashmir Valley, five more people, including four from the capital city of Srinagar, lost their battle with the deadly infection on Thursday, while five other died of Covid-19 in Jammu division, officials said.

13 Security Men Among 582 New Cases

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Thursday 582 fresh cases of novel coronavirus, including thirteen security personnel thus taking the total number of people infected by virus in the Union Territory to 111712.

PMO Reviews Projects Implementation In J&K

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr. P. K. Mishra on Thursday reviewed the sector-wise implementation of projects under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) in Jammu and Kashmir.

Chief Secretary, J&K, B V R Subrahmanyam along with Secretaries of various departments participated in the meeting that was chaired by Mishra, an official spokesperson said.

He said extensive deliberations were held to review the progress of 54 key developmental projects being executed by the Central ministries and the UT Government across various sectors including road, power, renewable energy, healthcare, education, tourism, horticulture, sports, Jal Shakti, irrigation & flood control, housing & urban development, and disaster management, relief, rehabilitation & reconstruction.

"It was informed that majority of the projects are now advancing as per

Sonmarg Illegal Constructions HC Seeks Compliance Report Quarterly, Issues 4 Dates



SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has directed authorities to file compliance reports on quarterly basis in a calendar year regarding its various directions related to safeguarding Sonamarg from illegal constructions and preserving its fragile ecology.

"Status reports in terms of our orders shall be filed before this Court on quarterly basis in a calendar year and the first such report shall be positively filed on 15th of January, 2021, 2nd on 15th of May, 2021, 3rd on 15th of September, 2021 and the 04th one on or before 30th of December, 2021," said a division bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Puneet Gupta.

"The Sonamarg area, it is evident, has suffered serious environmental degradation because of apathy on

the part of stakeholders," the court had observed in one of the previous hearing.

Previously, the court said large scale unauthorised constructions are carried out in Sonamarg and is "absolutely imperative" to check this illegal activity.

"We find that in case, after case applications are being made for building permissions. On several occasions, the request is couched as a permission for renovation / repairs. On many occasions, we find the use of damage on account of snow or fire is put forth," the court had said in the previous order in last week of October.

"Under the shield of the permission so obtained, large scale unauthorised constructions, expansions and encroachments

Despite BJP Hurdles, PAGD Receiving Support: Omar



SRINAGAR: Former Chief Minister and National Conference Party Vice President Omar Abdullah on Thursday said that the Peoples Alliance For Gupkar Alliance (PAGD) spearheading the campaign for special status restoration, was receiving unprecedented support from the people despite hordes, false and intimidating measures by the BJP.

Chairing a meet of central zone functionaries at party headquarters Nawa e Subah, here, the NC leader as per a party

Parties Like NC, PDP Exploiting People: Bukhari

SRINAGAR: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Thursday said that the Ganderal district portrays a typical example of the victims of VVIP constituency syndrome in Jammu and Kashmir.

KPDCL Begins Trial Of Smart Meters In Sgr

SRINAGAR: Amid complaints of inadequate electricity, the Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (KPDCL) in a first has started installing the smart meters on trial basis in Srinagar area, which according to the authorities will help the consumers to get aware of their regular consumption.

Chief Engineer KPDCL, Aijaz Ahmad Dar said that around 200 smart meters have been installed on trial basis in Cooperative Colony in Humbhama area of Srinagar outskirts since yesterday.

Artistic Lament Over DD Kashir At Zero Bridge

ASIF KHAN, ARBEENA SHAH

As a witness to the rise and fall of different artistic dynasties, an old dusky treetop the iconic Zero Bridge in Srinagar sends down its leaves, swirling onto the wet deck of the bridge to carpet its dull lurid floor. The pitiless frosty air born out of the bosom of Jhelum sways everyone clicking selfies and those sitting on the dilapidated benches made of oak tree.

Among many others, Zameer Ashai,

dressed in discreetly dark and baggy jacket, drab pants running straight into his long suburban black boots, amiably looks at the river Jhelum with his sullen eyes reminiscing his lost legacy



holding a chilled cup of tea. He doesn't empty the cup peculiarly as it remains his lone companion through his stay at the bridge during these days.

"I hardly see any of my colleagues here," says Ashai, a renowned Kashmiri TV artist, in a sober voice. "Currently, they're busy searching work to make ends meet."

The quintessential Zero Bridge has



Back in 2000s, when the channel was launched, Kashmiri people would keep their eyes glued to their TV sets, especially on the eve of Eid and New Year.

always been a parallel universe in a sense that over the time it has proven to be an aisle of creativity. The bridge brought together outrageously rich names of bedraggled DD Kashir who in early 2000 would enthral people with their characters whose voices would reverberate in every Kashmiri home. Reminiscing the evenings wherein Zero Bridge would turn into a warm bed of swaying tales and juvenile laughter as his comrades would confabulate and traverse through diverse issues pertaining to their lives satirically.