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23rd year OF PUBLICATION KASHMIR OBSERVER

21 Rabi-us-Sani | 1442 Hijri | Vol:23 | Issue: 272 | Pages:08 | Price: ₹3



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P6 LIFE & TIMES

MIDWIVES COULD SAVE MILLIONS OF LIVES PER YEAR BY 2035: LANCET STUDY

Increasing the number of midwives and their level of care could save up to 4.3 million lives per year over the next 15 years, particularly in low and ...

P5 PANORAMA

PANDEMIC, MENTAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL MEDIA OVERUSE



P7 NEWS

ERDOGAN HOPES FRANCE 'WILL GET RID OF MACRON SOON'

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Friday he hoped France would get rid ...



Wisdom Quote!

"Sometimes one likes foolish people for their folly, better than wise people for their wisdom." — Elizabeth Gaskell

news DIGEST

CRPF Man Shoots Self, Critical

SRINAGAR: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) trooper on Saturday evening shot himself with his service rifle in Srinagar. Official sources said that a CRPF man identified as Constable Yogesh Kumar (33) shot himself and got critically injured, reported news agency GNS.

"He fired himself with his service rifle at the camp in Wazir Bagh area," he was immediately shifted to SMHS Srinagar in critical condition.

An official said that the reason behind taking this extreme step was not known yet and a case has been registered in this regard.

Minor Found Dead In A Tin-Shed

SRINAGAR: A minor boy was found dead under mysterious circumstances in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, reports said Saturday.

12-year-old Showket Ahmed Dar of Paden Saller Srigrufwara along with other local boys left home to play in the field, news agency KNTreported. The boy however, didn't return home after which family members started looking for him.

During the search, his body was found in a tin shed of a neighbour, the report said.

It added that police rushed to the spot to ascertain the facts.

Employee Suspended For Joining Poll Rallies

KUPWARA: Authorities on Saturday placed under suspension a microbiologist in PHE division Sogam Kupwara for participating in election related rallies and political meetings in violation of the model code of conduct.

As per an order by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, the suspending of Microbiologist PHE Sub Division Sogam, Reyaz Ahmad Tantray, followed a complaint filed with Governor's Grievance Cell J&K regarding the official's participation in Election related rallies and political meetings, reported news agency GNS.

"The participation of the government employee in election rallies is a clear violation of Model Code of Conduct which deserves punitive action as warranted under law," reads the order. While placing him under suspension, the ADC also attached Tantray with the Accounts Officer of the deputy commissioner's office with immediate effect.

"The accounts Officer shall conduct the enquiry into the matter and furnish a detailed report within 15 days," the order added.

Hideout Busted In Baramulla: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have busted a militant hideout in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

The hideout between Shripora and Naribal was busted by Baramulla police along with CRPF 53,176 BN after launching a CASO, a police statement said. It said that 2 UBGL grenades, a Chinese grenade, medicines, a blanket and some "incriminating documents" were recovered from the hideout.

NC Shifts Goal Post, Demand J&K's 1953 Position

OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

SRINAGAR: The National Conference on Saturday demanded restoration of pre-August 9, 1953 position of Jammu and Kashmir, saying the ruling BJP government has to accept the 'reality' and 'return' what was snatched away from the people of the erstwhile state through a unilateral decision last year

"BJP has to accept reality and restore Articles 370 sooner or later. We also demand the August 9, 1953 position of Jammu and Kashmir to be restored in its original form. Sheikh Sahab had warned beforehand the challenges Article 370 could face and asked people to stand united to save internal autonomy of the state," NC General Secretary, Ali Muhammad Sagar said Saturday.

Sagar was speaking to reporters at the mausoleum of NC founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah on his 115th birth anniversary.

The NC leader said that the efforts of party president, Dr Farooq Abdullah of bringing all regional political parties on a single platform were being appreciated everywhere.

He also said the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) was formed to bring all regional political parties on a single platform to fight for the restoration of the special constitutional position of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said the political party's needs to stay united at this juncture and fight for the restoration of Article 370 than to fight with each other.

Terming the NC founder as a visionary leader, he said Sheikh had warned the people that special constitutional position of Jammu and Kashmir would face challenges and that they need to stand united to save internal autonomy of the state. >> More On P2

Time Over For NC, PDP's Dynasty Rule: BJP

SRINAGAR: Accusing National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), two major regional mainstream parties of looting Jammu and Kashmir's resources, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national general secretary Tarun Chug Saturday said that time was over for the dynasty rule in the erstwhile state.

Addressing a press conference at a hotel here on Saturday, Chug said that it was for the first time that District Development Council (DDC) polls are being held in J&K and he was glad to see that people are coming out in large numbers to vote for the candidates who come from villages and ground zero.

"This is an indication that time for dynasty politics is over now in J&K. Dynasty leaders, who till yesterday, fought against each other and were arch rivals, are today against BJP," he said. >> More On P2



DYNASTY LEADERS, who till yesterday, fought against each other and were arch rivals, are today against BJP

'IIT-2020: The Future Is Now'

J&K Has Conducive Business Environment: LG

'Kashmir's Young Population Armed With New Innovative Ideas Is Ready To Realize The Entrepreneurial Dreams'

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Saturday said that J&K was gearing up for a post-pandemic world with new policies and technological tools in place. He said policies are inclusive, people-centric and focus on domestic investment & consumption.

"We are devising new paths, new policies, and new technological tools to strengthen our business ecosystem for the post-pandemic world" Sinha said in his keynote address at the "IIT-2020: The Future is Now" Global Summit, organized by PanIIT USA.

The Summit aimed to bring together change-makers, innovators, and thinkers and inspire them to re-define humanity's future, an official spokesman said.

During his address, the LG appreciated the PanIIT USA for focusing on important issues like >> More On P2



WE HAVE A CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT, a robust grass-root democratic system and talented young men and women to set up innovative business and services

Guns Roar Again Along LoC, IB

JAMMU: India and Pakistan troops exchanged heavy gunfire, including mortars for the second day running on Saturday along the Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border (IB) in twin districts of Poonch and Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials here said that Pakistani troops violated ceasefire by resorting to firing and mortar shelling on forward posts and villages along the LoC and IB in Poonch and Kathua districts. The firing and shelling from across the border, they said, was unprovoked and drew a strong retaliation by the Indian troops.

At about 11:40 am, Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling with mortars along the LoC in Balakote sector of Poonch, a defence spokesperson said. >> More On P2

PANCHAYAT BY-POLLS

Phase III Panch Elections Witness 61% Turnout

49.25% VOTES POLLED FOR SARPANCH SEATS



File Photo: Abid Bhat

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The third phase of by-elections held on Friday to vacant seats of Panch and Sarpanch in Jammu and Kashmir recorded 61.10% and 49.25% voter turnout respectively, State Election Commissioner (SEC) K K Sharma said Saturday.

In Jammu division, 79.47 per cent while in Kashmir division 59.63 percent voter turnout was recorded for the third phase of by-poll to vacant Panch seats held in 327 constituencies on Friday, Sharma said.

Regarding vacant Sarpanch constituencies, Sharma said, 49.25

per cent polling was registered in 66 constituencies. "Besides, 74.74 per cent polling was registered in Jammu division where as 42.57 per cent voting was recorded in Kashmir division," the SEC said.

In Jammu division, he said, Kishtwar district recorded the highest voter turnout of 89.55 per cent for Panch by-elections followed by Rajouri with 88.29 per cent and Ramban with 86.10 per cent.

"Similarly, Kulgam district topped the voter turnout in Kashmir division with 77.11 per cent followed by Budgam with 74.21 per cent and Bandipora with 64.88 per cent," Sharma added.

J&K Witnesses 12 More Corona Deaths, Toll 1742

OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus claimed lives of twelve more people in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, taking the fatality count since the outbreak of pandemic in the Union Territory to 1742.

In Kashmir, six more people lost the battle with the deadly infection, while six others succumbed to the virus in Jammu division, officials said Saturday. >> More On P2

Among the six victims from the Valley, three were residents of north Kashmir's Bandipora, including an 85-year-old man from Arin, an 80-year-old man from Hajin and a 75-year-old man from Argam. Three more victims included a 75-year-old woman from Nayi Sadak Srinagar, a 61-year-old man from Anantnag and an 80-year-old woman from Charar-e-Sharief Budgam.

501 More Test Positive

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Saturday 501 fresh cases of novel coronavirus, including thirty-one travelers thus taking the total number of infected people across the Union Territory to 112757.

While in Kashmir division 234 more people tested positive for coronavirus, in Jammu division 267 new cases of Covid-19 were detected on Saturday, officials said.

Giving district-wise break-up of the cases, officials said Srinagar reported 92, Baramulla 12, Budgam 40, Pulwama 22, Kupwara 18, Anantnag 12, Bandipora 13, Ganderbal 11, Kulgam 4, Shopian 10, Jammu 147, Rajouri 6, Udhampur 34, Doda 16, Kathua 10, Poonch 2, Samba 10, Kishtwar 18, Ramban 12 and Reasi 12 new cases.

Panel Of Doctors To Meet Emergency Cases

SRINAGAR: The health department on Saturday constituted a committee of senior doctors to streamline the working of emergency rooms for dealing with emergency cases.

According to an order issued by the Director Health Services Kashmir, the committee which

comprises specialist doctors has been tasked with supervising emergency care across Kashmir.

Director Health Services Kashmir, Sameer Mattoo said that the emergency rooms have been set up in each hospital for dealing with emergency cases. >> More On P2

Amid Repair Ban And New Policy, Houseboats Are Sinking In Kashmir

AUQIB JAVEED

When a midnight creaking sound followed by a thud jolted Farooq Nagoo out of his sleep on December 3, 2020, he heard an alarming spurt of water.

His seven-member family, including his three daughters and two sons, woke up and wondered about the nocturnal wobbling in their houseboat on river Jhelum in Srinagar.

"We thought the earthquake hit us," recalled Nagoo, 45-year-old owner of



H.B Prince House.

After tremors, his houseboat tilted towards the left. It panicked his family. Next, Jhelum's murky, cold water flooded his bedroom—a reminiscence of the deluged fall of 2014 when the brimmed river stormed living rooms and created a riot run for life.

"I couldn't understand what to do," the owner said while sitting ashore with



KO: PHOTOS

"Our future is very dark," the houseboat owner said. "I think it would be better if the government allotted me some piece of land now for my family's peace of mind."