



Maximum : 9°  
Minum : -2°  
Humidity :25%

SUNSET  
Today 05:29 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 07:35 AM



## P8 LIFE & TIMES

### TAKE CARE YOUR HANDS THIS WINTER

Who does not want beautiful, soft and smooth hands? Yet if your hands are rough, scaly, dull-looking, tanned and the skin around the nail is peeling off, then you are not alone. Winter is hard on your hands. Smooth, supple ...

## P6 GLOBAL BRITAIN

THINK

Global Britain is the new strategy, through which the UK aspires to re-emerge as a key player at the global stage



## P12 OBSERVER OUTPOST

### WOMAN GIVES LIFE TO FOUR PEOPLE; HEART SENT THROUGH GREEN CORRIDOR FOR TRANSPLANT

The woman's liver and two kidneys were also used in separate transplant procedures.



## Wisdom Quote!

“Obscurity and a competence—that is the life that is best worth living.”

—Mark Twain

## news DIGEST

### Crime Branch Charges Four ‘Fraudsters’

SRINAGAR: The Crime Branch, Kashmir on Saturday filed a charge sheet against four people for duping youth with the promise of providing bank jobs.

An official of the Crime Branch said that the challan in case (FIR No. 19/2009) under section 419,420,468,471,120-B RPC before the Court of Judge Small Causes Srinagar against four accused persons— Farooq Ahmad Mohand of Tral, Waheeda Shah of HMT, Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat of Amda Kadal and Avtar Krishan Pandita of Shopian, at present Barnai Jammu. ● More On P2

### Cop Killed After Car Falls Into Gorge

SRINAGAR: A policeman was killed on Saturday after the car he was travelling in, met with an accident at Ramban along Jammu-Srinagar highway, officials said.

Mohammad Altaf Mir of Lolab in Kupwara district was killed when the car Grand I10 (JK01AH6950) he was travelling in, rolled down into a gorge at Ratanbas area near Banihal along the thoroughfare, the only road link connecting Kashmir Valley with the outside world, news agency GNS reported. Quoting an unnamed police officer, the report said that Mir was a police Head Constable in IRP's 14 battalion and was returning from home to join duty in Jammu.

### Polytechnic Students Demand Online Exams

SRINAGAR: The backlog students of Government polytechnic colleges on Saturday urged the authorities to conduct their examinations in online mode due to the prevailing situation. While talking to Kashmir Observer, the students said that due to lack of regular classes and ban on high speed internet service since last year, they haven't been able to fully concentrate on their studies. They said that it's ironic that JKSBOTE has decided to go for regular exams in the midst of the pandemic. They urged higher authorities to conduct their examinations in online mode.

### Tipper Mows Down Scooty Rider

SRINAGAR: A young scooty rider on Saturday was crushed to death by a speedy tipper in central Kashmir's Gandebral district

2-year-old Faizan Ahmad Para of Beehama was critically injured when a speedy tipper hit his two-wheeler near Qamaria ground on Saturday afternoon, reports said. The injured youth was instantly removed to a nearby hospital where doctors declared him brought dead.

Meanwhile, a police official said that they have taken cognizance of the accident and started further investigations in this regard.

### ‘Drug Peddler’ Booked Under PSA

SRINAGAR: Police said on Saturday that it has booked an alleged notorious drug peddler under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

Firdous Ahmad Mir at Fira Codeine of Kadlabal Pampore, who was booked under FIR number 98/2020 after a huge quantity of contraband substance was recovered from him in Awantipora, was detained under Public Safety Act after obtaining sanctions from the concerned authorities, a police spokesperson said Saturday. “It is pertinent to mention here that he is the 8th person ● More On P2

# Two Militants Killed In 19-Hour Long Encounter

## OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Two local militants were killed and two soldiers injured during a fierce 19-hour-long gunfight in south Kashmir's Shopian district that ended on Saturday, police said.

A joint team of police, army's 44RR and CRPF laid a siege around Kanigam area of the district on Friday afternoon after receiving specific input about the presence of militants, a police spokesperson said Saturday. During the search operation, he said, the

the whole area was put under strict cordon,” the police spokesperson said.

During the wee hours, he said, the holed-up militants fired indiscriminately when the search team reiterated surrender offer to them.

“In the ensuing encounter, two militants were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the spot,” he said.

He identified them as Owais Farooq of Awantipora and Asif Lone of Shopian, both associated with Al Badr outfit.

As per police records, the police

## Militant, Aide Arrested In Jammu: Police

SRINAGAR: Police in Jammu on Saturday claimed to have arrested a militant of ‘The Resistance Front’ (TRF) and his associate along with arms and ammunition in Narwal area of the city outskirts. ● More On P2

militants were given an opportunity to lay down their arms and surrender.

“However, they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, which was retaliated leading to an encounter. In the initial firing two army personnel got injured and were shifted to hospital for treatment. Due to darkness, the operation was suspended and

spokesperson said that both the militants were part of the group involved in several activities, including attacks on government forces. Lone, he said was also involved in an attack on army's naka party at Trenz Shopian besides pasting threatening posters in Zainapora asking people to stay away from recently concluded DDC elections. ● More On P2

## Shopian ‘Fake’ Encounter

## Police Files Charges Against Army Captain, 2 Others



## OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

SRINAGAR: Two days after army said that it has completed Summary of Evidence against two of its men involved in Shopian fake encounter, the special investigation team (SIT) of police on Saturday filed charge sheet against three persons including an army captain who were involved in the case.

The 300-page charge-sheet was presented before the court of Principal and Sessions Judge Shopian on Saturday against the three people involved in the case, including a senior army officer, news agency KNO quoted Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Wajahat Hussain as saying.

Hussain, who is heading the special probe team, identified the trio as Captain Bupinder of army's 62 RR, Tabish Ahmad, a resident of Shopian and Bilal Ahmad, a resident of Pulwama.

The police charge-sheet against the accused comes two days after the army said that the Summary of Evidence against two of its men involved in the encounter has been completed and a possible court martial could take place after completion of formalities.

General Officer in Command of XV Corps Lt Gen B S Raju said on Thursday the Summary of Evidence has been completed but refused to give away any details of the outcome. ● More On P2

## India, Pak Troops Trade Fire, Again

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: After exchanging fire along the Line of Control (LoC) for three consecutive days, the Indian and Pakistani troops traded heavy gunfire along the International Border (IB) in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Saturday.

Pakistani Rangers violated the ceasefire by resorting to unprovoked firing at forward posts along the IB in Kathua district, they said. Firing from across the IB in the Satpal Border Outpost area of Hiranagar sector started around 9.35 pm on Friday, prompting strong retaliation by the Border Security Force (BSF), they said. ● More On P2

## J&K Reports 249 New Cases, 6 More Coronavirus Deaths

## OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

SRINAGAR: At least six more people died of coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday while 249 more people tested positive for Covid-19, including 2 minors and 11 travellers during the last 24 hours.

In Jammu region, four people lost the battle with the deadly infection while two people died of virus in Kashmir Valley, officials said. Among the victims, officials said, included a 78-year-old man from Fateh Kadal here and a 70-year-old man from Plan area of Bandipora. The four victims from the winter capital included a 78-year-old man from Digiana and a 60-year-old man from Rehari Colony while two others were

# DDC Polls In J&K ‘Moment Of Pride’ For India: PM Modi

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Saturday that free and transparent DDC polls in Jammu and Kashmir coupled with voters' keen participation are a “moment of pride” for India, while hitting back at his rivals for giving him “lessons in democracy”.

In a swipe at Rahul Gandhi, who alleged recently that there is no democracy in India, Modi said that while his government completed three-tier panchayat polls in Jammu and Kashmir in over a year of the region becoming a union territory, the Congress dispensation in Puducherry did not conduct local body elections despite a Supreme Court order.

Launching the Ayushman Bharat scheme via a video-conference to extend health insurance benefits to all residents of Jammu and Kashmir, he said the three-tier panchayat system has fully taken shape in the UT, describing it as a realisation of Mahatma Gandhi's dream of ‘gram swaraj’ (village self-rule).

He then added that he would like to share his pain before the nation on this occasion.

“Some people in Delhi curse Modi day in and day out and hurl abuses. They regularly offer me lessons in democracy. I want to show them the mirror today,” he said, blasting the Congress for not undertaking the local polls in Puducherry.

“The party of those teaching me democracy is in power in Puducherry,” the prime minister said, without naming the Congress, which has been ruling the UT since 2016. ● More On P2

## Anti India Sloganeering In 2010

## Police Presents Charge Sheet Against Malik, Aga Hassan

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir police on Saturday presented chargesheet against two senior separatist leaders for raising ‘anti-India slogans’ during a rally in north Kashmir's Bandipora district in the year 2010.

The charge sheet was presented against JKLF Supremo Muhammad Yasin Malik and Anjuman-e-Sharie Shiyan leader Aga Syed Hassan, who according to police raised anti-India slogans at a public rally in Inderkoot village of Sumbal in north Kashmir's Bandipora district in the year 2010.

According to the police sources, an FIR 278/2010 under section 188, 353 RPC was registered in 2010 against the two separatist leaders for raising anti-India slogans.

“Police presented the charge sheet before the Munsif court Sumbal on Saturday”, reports said. Malik and Aga Syed were booked by the Sumbal police in 2010 for holding pro-independence rallies and gatherings in the Inderkoot area of Sumbal town.

Malik is currently lodged in New Delhi's Tihar Jail. —Agencies

## Omar Takes Pot Shots At J&K Govt, Opposition Parties



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

## Says DDC Members Being Forced To Join BJP's B-Team

SRINAGAR: National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Saturday said the BJP, its allies and the administration in Jammu and Kashmir should accept the verdict of the District Development Council elections and stop indulging in “horse-trading” which will only discredit democracy and the institutions. ● More On P2

# Kashmir Shivers In Frigid ‘Chillai-Kalan’

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR: There was no let-up in cold wave conditions in Kashmir on Saturday as the minimum temperature stayed below the freezing point, even as the meteorological department said the valley is likely to receive light rain and snow over the next few days.

The weather across Kashmir has remained dry and cold since the snowfall on December 12, with the night temperature staying several degrees below the freezing point, MeT department officials said.

The officials said Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 3.7 degrees Celsius, slightly up from the previous night's minus 4.3 degrees Celsius. In the south Kashmir tourist resort of Pahalgam, the

The weather department said there is a possibility of light rain and snowfall in the valley for the next few days starting Saturday.

mercury settled at minus 4.5 degrees Celsius, up from minus 5.9 degrees Celsius the previous night. The famous ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir was the coldest place in the valley at minus 6.5 degrees Celsius, down from minus 5.6 degrees Celsius the previous night, according to the officials.

Qazigund recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4 degrees Celsius, Kupwara minus 3.6 degrees Celsius and Kokernag minus 4.0 degrees Celsius, the officials said. Kashmir is currently under the

package and as many residential quarters will be arranged for them in the Valley over the next two years.

Expressing happiness over the successful conduct of the District Development Council (DDC) elections despite “attempts by inimical elements to trigger violence”, Sinha said the elected members would be administered the oath under the Constitution on December 28.

The Lt Governor was speaking to welcome the Prime Minister at the launch of a scheme extending benefits of Ayushman Bharat to the residents of the Union territory.

Modi rolled out the Social Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine (SEHAT) scheme, under which 15 lakh families would be provided a health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh each per family per year on a floater basis, thus covering the entire population. Earlier, five lakh deprived families were covered under the scheme.

“As per the directions of the Prime Minister, we are achieving new milestones. We are entering a golden phase of development,” Sinha said, adding transparency with accountability is being ensured and new avenues of skill development and entrepreneurship provided to ensure employment to the local youth. ● More On P2

grip of ‘Chillai Kalan’ -- a 40-day period of harshest winter when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies, as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the valley.

The chances of snowfall are the maximum during this period and most areas, especially in the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall, the officials said.

The ‘Chillai-Kalan’, which began on December 21, will end on January 31. However, the cold wave continues even after that in Kashmir with a 20-day ‘Chillai-Khurd’ (small cold) and a 10-day ‘Chillai-Bachha’ (baby cold).

The weather department said there is a possibility of light rain and snowfall in the valley for the next few days starting Saturday.



PEOPLE HAVE LEFT  
History Behind And Voted  
For A Future Of Hope’

## PM Chooses ‘Pheran’ To Launch Scheme

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has often chosen to dress in the traditional attire of a region while attending an event related to it, and it was a Kashmiri ‘pheran’ on Saturday as he launched the Ayushman Bharat scheme to extend health insurance benefits to all residents of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sources close to the prime minister said he had received the pheran as a gift in winters last year from a farm labourer from Jammu and Kashmir. Modi had planned to wear this during his visit to the region, but the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic meant that such a trip could not materialise.

He took the opportunity of the launch of the scheme through video-conference on Saturday to wear the “special gift”, the sources said.

He has also been recently donning Bengali shawls multiple times in his virtual programmes.

## J&K Remained Peaceful During Modi’s 6-Year Rule: Shah

JAMMU: The six-year rule of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from 2014 will be remembered as the most peaceful period in the history of Jammu and Kashmir since 1990, Union Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday.

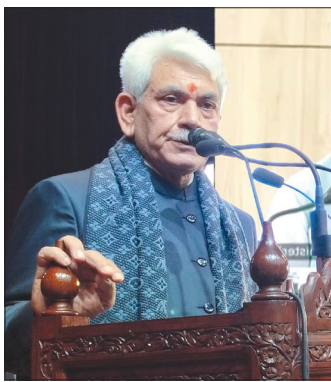
Shah also lauded Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and his administration for conducting peaceful and transparent District Development Council (DDC) polls and assured the people of Jammu and Kashmir that all the promises made by Modi will be fulfilled in a time-bound manner.

“The prime minister has a special attachment and love for the people of J-K. Whenever, we are meeting him, his focus remains on three things -- speedy development of Jammu and Kashmir to ensure benefits reach an ordinary person for his upliftment, strengthening of grassroot democracy and a peaceful security scenario.

“After August 5 last year, there is a visible change (in J&K) in every field, whether related to unfinished projects, implementation of centrally sponsored ● More On P2

# JK Entering Golden Era Of Development: LG

## Says DDC Members To Be Administered Oath On Monday



## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir is entering a golden era of development under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday said his administration would fast track developmental projects and create ample employment opportunities for youths.

He also announced 6,000 government jobs will be given to Kashmiri pandit migrants under a prime minister's