

Widom

Quote!

"No people who are ignorant can be truly free."

— Thomas Jefferson

NEWS DIGEST

LG Gets Briefing On Border Situation

JAMMU: BSF Inspector General N.S. Jamwal on Thursday called on Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and briefed him about the security situation along the International Border, officials said.

The officer also apprised the Lt Governor about the threats prevailing on the border with Pakistan, the counter measures being taken by the Border Security Force (BSF) to meet the challenges and the border protection grid, they said.

● More On P6

Police Driver Injured In Stone Pelting

JAMMU: A policeman was injured after a joint team of special operations group (SOG) of police and Crime Branch officials were allegedly attacked in Mendhar area of Poonch district, officials said Thursday.

They said a team of Crime Branch along with a party of SOG Mendhar reached the residence of Sayed Khan at Dhaki Mendhar around 0610 hours, where Khan and his family members quarrelled and attacked with stones the vehicle of crime Branch, resulting in injuries to driver ASI Janteer Singh.

● More On P6

SUV Mows Down Two Girls In Kishtwar

SRINAGAR: Two girls returning from tuitions were crushed to death on Thursday by a speedy SUV in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir.

10-year-old Aina Banoo and 20-year-old Nasreena Banoo, both residents of Mulchiter village in Kishtwar district were returning home after attending tuition classes when a Scorpio (DL 3CAY-5020) ran over them near Sangambati on Kishtwar-Chatroo road, an official said.

● More On P6

Electric Shock Kills PDP Worker

SRINAGAR: A Power Development Department (PDD) daily-wager on Thursday died of electrocution in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Wali Mohammad of Banghal Thannamdi, suffered an electric shock when he was repairing an electricity line in Banghi village, officials said. The daily wage, the officials said, died on the spot due to the massive impact of electric shock.

● More On P6

Army Defuses Mortar Shell In Uri

SRINAGAR: Army on Thursday detonated an unexploded mortar shell in Kamalkote area of Uri in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

"This shell was found unexploded in Jabda Kamalkote and was defused by Army's Bomb disposal Squad (BDS) today," a senior police officer said.

A police team was also on spot, he added. Pertinently, Kamalkote and Hajipour sectors of Uri witnessed massive cross-LoC shelling between the Indian and Pakistani troops in November last year. (GNS)

2 Soldiers Injured In Poonch Mine Blast

SRINAGAR: Two soldiers were injured on Thursday when they accidentally stepped on an anti-personnel mine along the Line of Control (LoC) in Mankote area of Poonch district.

Around 3:00pm Thursday, two soldiers of 10 Jak rifles—Luvpreet Singh and Rifleman Vikramjeet were injured when they accidentally stepped upon an anti-personnel mine while patrolling near the Line of Control in Mankote area in Mendhar sector of Poonch district, officials said. Both the injured soldiers were airlifted to army hospital in

● More On P6

LG Announces Rs 28,400 Cr Industrial Scheme For J&K

Says Scheme To Provide Employment To 4.5 Lakh People

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday announced a new industrial developmental scheme (IDS) with a total outlay of Rs 28,400 crore to encourage new investment and to take industrial development to the block level.

"In a major decision of far-reaching consequence, Government of India has approved a new Industrial Developmental Scheme for Jammu and Kashmir," Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha announced at a press conference here.

"The scheme will go a long way in ushering an era of socio-economic development of the region and for catering to the aspirations of people," he said.

Sinha said that this scheme is from the period of date of notification up to the year 2037 with a total outlay of Rs 28,400 crore.

He said that it is for the first time any industrial incentive scheme is taking development to the block level and added that it will promote far-flung areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The scheme will encourage new investment, substantial expansion and also nurture the existing industries in the Union territory. It will also provide employment to 4.5 lakh people besides leading to equitable, balanced and sustainable socio-economic development of the region," the LG said.

He said that manufacturing and service sector units in the union territory will benefit and noted that the scheme visualises a larger role of Jammu and Kashmir in the Indian economy.

● More On P6



LAWAYPORA 'ENCOUNTER'

Will Give Answer At Appropriate Time: LG

Says 'Good News' On High Speed Internet Restoration Soon

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said he will give an "appropriate answer" after looking into the facts in connection with December's Lawaypora 'encounter' in Srinagar in which three alleged militants were killed by government forces.

He said that he is looking into the facts that have come to him. "All facts are coming to us. I am personally looking into the issue. At appropriate time, we will give you an appropriate answer," Sinha said in response to a question at a press conference.

A journalist had asked him whether the government will order a probe into the Lawaypora 'encounter' and return the bodies to the families in a bid to do justice. The families are demanding the return of bodies and probe into the encounter.

Government forces had claimed to have killed three local militants in the encounter. Their families, however, said the youths killed in the encounter were civilians.

● More On P6

Govt Bans Poultry Import Into J&K

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE



SRINAGAR: Amid the looming threat of bird flu as reported in the neighbouring states, the Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday imposed a ban on import of poultry items into the Union Territory.

In an order issued on Thursday, Navin K Choudhary, Principal Secretary to the government announced a complete ban on import of poultry and unprocessed poultry meat for any purpose into J&K with immediate effect, till January 14.

"In the wake of spread of bird flu in neighbouring states of J&K as a measure of abundant precaution and in view of declaration of whole J&K as "Controlled Area" for bird flu disease. Government of UT J&K imposes complete ban on import of live birds including poultry and unprocessed poultry meat for any purpose into the union territory of J&K with immediate effect," the order reads.

It further adds that the decision on the import ban will be reviewed based on the evolving situation.

The order on banning poultry imports comes a day after government said on Wednesday that no cases of bird flu or avian influenza has been detected in the union territory and urged people not to panic or stop using poultry products, even as it issued an advisory to poultry owners and dealers for the prevention of the spread of the disease.

● More On P6

Chill Returns To Kashmir After Heavy Snow Spell

OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

SRINAGAR: After three days of snowfall, dry weather conditions returned to Kashmir on Thursday with mercury dropping in most places last night with Gulmarg recording a low of minus 8.5 degree Celsius.

The Kashmir Valley also remained cut-off from the rest of the country although

● More On P6



Highway Remains Closed For Fifth Day

SRINAGAR: The Srinagar-Jammu National Highway was shut for traffic for the fifth consecutive day on Thursday in the wake of heavy snowfall over the past four days. The 260 kilometre-long highway, the only all-weather road connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country, was blocked by the accumulation of snow and landslides on Sunday.

● More On P6

Air Traffic Restored After 4 Days

Srinagar: Air traffic between Kashmir and the rest of the country was restored on Thursday after four days, but lack of snow clearance reroute Srinagar airport led to massive traffic jams, forcing many passengers to walk several kilometres, officials said.

"As many as 26 flights arrived at Srinagar international airport on Thursday while 24

● More On P6

KU Postpones Exams Scheduled On January 8- 9

Srinagar- Kashmir University's Controller of Examinations Prof Irshad A Nawchoo said on Thursday that undergraduate 2nd year examination scheduled on 8th January 2021 (Friday) and UG 6th Semester examination scheduled on 9th January 2021 (Saturday) are postponed in

● More On P6

Caved-In Roofs Expose Chinks In Kashmir's Architectural Armour

GOWHER HAMID

As 'blizzard' thawed and snow-laden roof-tops caved in to shock of Kashmir, octogenarian carpenter Abdul Khaliq Zaz stood vindicated.

"Wousta' (Master) Khaliq had been predicting this 'pack of cards' moment for Kashmir's new-age architecture for many years now.

"Our idea of living has drastically changed," said the old-timer sitting in his downtown home Srinagar. "Unlike our forefathers, our idea of construction has now become very cosmetic. But in an unpredictable place like Kashmir, such concept doesn't work. It just took a few days of snowfall to bust the make-believe façade of our homes."

On January 6, roofs of many houses



caved-in, sending shockwaves across the valley. Viral visuals of snowbound and buried houses panicked many people, who drove out, with spades and shovels, on a desperate snow-clearance drive.

"Last year, the untimely snowfall damaged our trees," Khaliq continued. "And this year, this heavy snowfall exposed the delicate reality of our houses. These uncertain weather patterns were always there. That's how winter used to be in Kashmir. But akin to unexpected floods which caught government of the day pants down in 2014, this year's vintage snowfall exposed our misplaced priorities. It's clear that Kashmiris are investing more in show than in safety. And in a place like Kashmir, this can prove very dangerous."

● More On P6

J&K Civil Services Cadre Merged With AGMUT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir cadre of IPS, IAS and Indian Forest Service (IfoS) was merged with the AGMUT cadre on Thursday and its officers will now be posted by the central government.

According to a notification signed by President Ram Nath Kovind and issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice, the members of IAS, IPS and Indian Forest Service for the existing cadre of Jammu and Kashmir will now become part of AGMUT (Arunachal, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territories) cadre.

Now, the officers of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir cadre can be posted to Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and any union territory. Necessary modifications may be made in the corresponding cadre allocation rules by the central government.

The notification said the officers borne or allocated to AGMUT cadre shall function in accordance with the rules framed by the central government.

The move comes over a year after the Centre abrogated Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcated the state into union territories in August 2019.

Centre Asks States, UTs To Get Ready For Vaccine Supply

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The Union health ministry has informed states and union territories that they are likely to receive the first supply of COVID-19 vaccine shortly and asked them to remain prepared to accept these consignments.

In a communique, the ministry said vaccine will be supplied to the identified consignee points of 19 states and union territories -- Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal -- by the supplier.

The vaccine for remaining 18 states and union territories -- Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Daman and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, ● More On P6

J&K Reports 3 More Deaths, 127 New Cases

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Thursday three more fatalities due to coronavirus, even as 127 fresh cases of Covid-19 were detected across the Union Territory in the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, two of the three victims were residents of Kashmir and one from Jammu division.

● More On P6

NARCO-MILITANCY CASE

NIA Conducts Raids In J&K, Punjab

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday conducted searches at six places in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab in connection with its probe into a narco-militancy case.

The case was registered after the busting of a narco-militant module and seizure of 61-kg heroin and a cache of arms and ammunition along the International Border (IB) here last year.

The raids were conducted at five locations in Jammu district and one in Tarn Taran in Punjab, leading to the seizure of digital devices and other incriminating documents having financial details and bank account numbers for further scrutiny and analysis, a spokesperson of the NIA said.

He said the searches were conducted at the residences of six accused -- the module's kingpin Gurbart Singh

● More On P6

'Plight Of Minorities In India Getting Worse'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

S R I N A G A R : PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday said while New Delhi was "preaching" other countries to treat minorities in a dignified way, the plight of minorities in India was getting worse.

Mufti was referring to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's statement during his visit to Sri Lanka. It is in Sri Lanka's own interest that the expectations of the Tamil people, for equality, justice, peace and dignity, within a united Sri Lanka are

● More On P6