



Maximum : 6.1° SUNSET Today 05:45 PM
Minimum : -8.4° SUNRISE
Humidity : 90% Tomorrow 07:37 AM

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Widom Quote!

The secret of life, though, is to fall seven times and to get up eight times — Paulo Coelho

NEWS DIGEST

Pak Says Soldier Killed In Indian Firing

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani army said Thursday that a soldier was killed in the Indian firing along the Line of Control (LoC) in Pakistan controlled Kashmir (Pck).

An army statement said that the Indian troops initiated "unprovoked ceasefire violation" along the LoC in Dewa sector.

The Pakistani army troops responded promptly and inflicted heavy losses to the Indian side "in terms of men and material," the statement from the army's media wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations said. In an intense exchange of fire, a soldier was killed "while responding to Indian unprovoked" • More On P6

CRPF Officer Injured In Road Accident

QAZIGUND: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officer was critically injured in a collision here in South Kashmir.

The incident occurred late Wednesday night at Lower Munda area of Qazigund.

Police sources said that there was a collision between a private truck (JK06A-4580) and CRPF Gypsy (HR55C-3665) resulting critical injuries to one CRPF Inspector namely Joshi Sharma of 163 Battalion.

The officer was evacuated to Emergency Hospital Qazigund for treatment from where he has been referred to SKIMS Srinagar for advanced treatment. The condition of the CRPF • More On P6

Police 'Detains' Sarjan Barkati

SRINAGAR: Religious preacher Sarjan Barkati was detained by police on Thursday almost two months after he was released after four year detention.

Barkati was rounded up by police from his residence in Reban area of Shopain on Thursday evening, news agency GNS reported while quoting an unnamed official. However, the officer did not reveal the reasons behind the police action.

Official sources said that Barkati was supposed to lead prayers at Budgam tomorrow and he might be detained temporarily. Barkati was released on October 28 last, four years after • More On P6

Detained PDP Leader Hospitalised

SRINAGAR: Senior Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader and former minister, Naeem Akhtar was on Thursday shifted to hospital here for treatment after he developed health issues.

Naeem, who is under detention from the last nearly 20 days, was kept at MLA hostel here where he developed health issues today.

PDP spokesman, Najam-U-Saqib said that the detained leader was shifted to Khyber hospital after he developed some health issues today.

"Naeem Sahab has been shifted to hospital and is under medical observation," he said.

2 Held In SMHS With 5 Cell Phones

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested two thieves and recovered stolen property from their possession.

A police spokesman in a statement issued here said that January 12, Police Station Karan Nagar received a written complaint from Muhammad Ashraf of Lajoura Pulwama, stating therein that some unknown person(s) have stolen his mobile phone at SMHS Hospital Srinagar.

Accordingly, police said that a case under FIR number 01/2021 under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Karan Nagar and investigation was initiated.

"During the course" • More On P6



■ Icicles formed inside Srinagar's Botanical garden on Thursday as the mercury dropped to a low of minus 8.4 Degree Celsius. KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Intense Cold Wave In Kashmir, Dal Freezes

Srinagar Records Coldest Night In 30Yrs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR: Kashmir valley is in the grip of an intense cold wave and most of the water bodies, including Srinagar's iconic Dal Lake, have frozen. According to the Met office Srinagar on Thursday recorded the coldest night in 30 years.

"Srinagar recorded a low of minus 8.4 degrees Celsius, which was the coldest temperature recorded in the city in 30 years", an official of the MET department said.

He said while Srinagar had recorded minus 8.3 degrees Celsius in 1995, the temperature has fallen to minus 11.3 degrees Celsius in 1991.

The lowest temperature ever recorded in Srinagar was minus 14.4 degrees Celsius in 1893.

The rest of the valley was also reeling under intense cold.

Pahalgam tourist resort • More On P6

QRTs Deployed Around Frozen Dal Lake

Authorities here on Thursday deployed SDRF personnel in the Dal Lake, which has frozen due to record low minimum temperature in Kashmir, to prevent people from walking on the frozen surface of the water body. "Due to freezing temperatures, • More On P6

'It's Dangerous': Admin Sounds Caution

The authorities in Srinagar on Thursday advised people not to walk on the frozen surface of water bodies, especially the Dal Lake, underlining that it could be dangerous. Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary said that SDRF • More On P6

Traffic On Banihal Highway To Resume In 2-3 Days: Govt

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The administration of the mountainous Ramban district said on Thursday that the traffic on the vital Srinagar-Jammu highway will start within 2-3 days through the Bailey bridge being erected by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) on "war footing basis".

District Development Commissioner (DDC), Ramban, Nazim Zai Khan on Thursday inspected the progress on the construction of

Bailey Bridge besides repairing work of damaged concrete bridge, here at Kela Morh and said that traffic would start on the highway within 2-3 days through Bailey bridge on which the work is in progress on war footing, an official spokesperson said.

The damage to the bridge at Kela Morh has blocked the national highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with rest of the country. After that administration has started immediate restoration operation. • More On P6



DC Ramban, Nazim Zai Khan inspecting progress on the construction of Bailey Bridge at Kela Morh, Ramban on Thursday. Photo: Info dept

THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY OF INDIA is already working day and night to repair the damaged bridge which will take a few days because of huge volume of work ."

Leh Reports Case Of New Covid Strain

AGENCIES

LEH: Ladakh Thursday reported the first positive case for the new Covid-19 strain who had travelled and stayed in Germany in December last.

The 38-year-old male patient, who was isolated for two weeks on his arrival to Leh has tested positive for the new Covid strain and has been isolated and kept at a separate facility and all necessary precautions have been taken, local news agency KNO reported Thursday.

Quoting an unnamed health official, the report said that the man has a travel • More On P6

Kashmir Reports 3 More Covid-19 Deaths

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Valley on Thursday reported three more coronavirus deaths, even as 79 fresh cases of Covid-19, including 3 travellers were detected across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

Among the victims, officials said were a 55-year-old man from Rainawari here, a 75-year-old man from Chattergam and a 78-year-old man from Chadoora in central Kashmir's Budgam district.

So far 1915 people have succumbed to virus in J&K- 1203 in the Valley and 712 in Jammu region. Srinagar district with 453 deaths tops the • More On P6

WHO Shows J&K, Ladakh Separate From India

India Protests, Demands Immediate Removal of Map

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: The World Health Organisation (WHO) map showing Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh as separate from India has sparked a controversy with the Indian government taking offence at the "inaccurate depiction" Indian has raised the matter with the organisation.

Reports said the issue was raised by Indian envoy to United Nations in Geneva, Indramani Pandey, with WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Pandey has expressed "deep displeasure" at the WHO move and sought its chief's "immediate intervention" for "removal of maps" which have been inaccurately depicting the boundaries of India and replacing them with "accurate maps". This is the third time in a month that India has raised this issue • More On P6

For India, Pakistan To Resolve Kashmir, Says UK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LONDON: The UK government on Wednesday reiterated its unchanged stance that the situation in Kashmir remains an issue for India and Pakistan to find a lasting political resolution to the issue.

Responding to a debate held in the House of Parliament complex on the Political situation in Kashmir, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) minister Nigel Adams stressed that it is not for Britain to play any mediatory role in a bilateral matter, even as he accepted



there were human rights concerns on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC).

The government's policy [on Kashmir] remains stable, it's unchanged. We continue to believe that this is for India and Pakistan to find a lasting political resolution to the situation that takes into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people as laid out in the Simla Agreement, said Adams, in his capacity as Minister for Asia. It's not appropriate for the UK government • More On P6

'False Assertions' on Kashmir in UK Parliament: India

India has expressed its dismay at some of the parliamentarians who participated in a debate on Kashmir in the Houses of Parliament complex in London relying on "false assertions" and unsubstantiated allegations propagated by a "third country" - an apparent reference to Pakistan. The debate, organised by backbench British MPs at Westminster Hall in the House of Commons on Wednesday evening, was entitled "Political situation in Kashmir" - terminology the • More On P6

Rajnath's Veiled Threat To China

'Befitting Reply If Any Superpower Hurts National Pride'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BENGALURU: India does not want a war but its soldiers are capable of giving befitting reply if any 'superpower' hurts the country's pride, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday amid the eight-month-old border standoff with China.

"We don't want war and we are in favour of protecting everyone's security but I want to say this in clear terms that if any superpower wants to hurt our pride then our soldiers are capable of giving them a befitting reply," Singh said.

The Defence minister insisted that India never wanted conflict with any nation and preferred to maintain peace and friendly ties with its neighbours.

"It always wanted peace and friendly ties with its neighbours because it's in our blood



and culture," he said at the fifth Armed Forces Veterans' Day at the Headquarters Training Command of the Indian Air Force in Bengaluru.

Referring to the standoff with China, he said the Indian soldiers displayed exemplary courage and patience and if that can be narrated then every Indian will feel proud.

Singh hailed the Indian soldiers who showed extraordinary courage in • More On P6

Bird Flu Scare

J&K Extends Poultry Import Ban

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Government on Thursday extended by four more days the ban on import of poultry as bird flu spreads in many states of India.

"In continuation of the government order no. 09-ASH of 20121 dated 07-01-2021 and in exercise of the powers conferred under contagious Disease Act, 2009, the ban imposed on import of live birds including poultry and unprocessed poultry meat for any purpose into J-K shall continue to remain operative till 18 January," reads a government order.



"The decision will be reviewed based on the evolving situation," the order by Navin K Choudhary, Principal Secretary to Government, added. The order comes as the administration continues to maintain that there is no cases of bird flu or avian influenza in the J-K so far even as it urged people not to panic or stop using poultry products. • More On P6

Finance Department Issues Formal Orders On Assets Sharing

20% Each of Equity, Loans of SFC, Grameen Bank Notionally Transferred To Ladakh

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: After one and half year into the bifurcation of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state into two Union territories, the Finance Department on Thursday issued formal orders for apportionment of economic affairs and posts between J&K and Ladakh.

"Consequent upon issuance of SO 339 notified on 30th

of October, 2020 by General Administration Department, sanction is hereby accorded to the apportionment of Assets, Rights, Liabilities and Posts of erstwhile State of J&K between the Union Territory of J&K and Union Territory of Ladakh as per the given arrangements," reads an order.

"This consequential order is as per the figures as stood on 31-10-2019 and as per the recommendations of the Advisory committee on appointment of Assess and Liabilities of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir", the order reads.

The Companies, Corporations and entities, which as per

the order, include; Jammu and Kashmir State Financial Corporation and Jammu and Kashmir, Grameen Bank Limited, pertaining to the domain of the Finance Department, 20% of the Equity and 20% of the Loans extended by the erstwhile Government of Jammu and Kashmir are notionally/temporarily transferred to the Union Territory of Ladakh. The immovable assets of these Companies, Corporations and entities, located in the UT of Ladakh shall be transferred to another entity as and when it is setup by the UT of Ladakh as appropriate, the order reads. • More On P6