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P3 NEWS CALLIGRAPHY EXHIBITION ORGANISED IN SRINAGAR TO PROMOTE J-K'S RICH HERITAGE

The Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation (JKTDC) under the Union ...

P7 THINK GOOGLE'S GUINEA PIGS

On January 13 the Australian Financial Review reported Google had removed some Australian news content from its search results for some local users.



P11 SPORTS 'REAL KASHMIR FC MATCH A LITMUS TEST FOR GOKULAM KERALA,' SAYS COACH ANNESE

Their confidence soaring high after the resounding 4-1 victory over NEROCA in their last match...



Quote! It takes too much energy to be against something unless it's really important. - Madeleine L'Engle

NEWS DIGEST

BDS Diffuses IED in Baramulla

SRINAGAR: Bomb Disposal Squad on Friday diffused an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, reports said.

3 Held With Heroin Like Substance

SRINAGAR: Police on Friday arrested 3 alleged drug peddlers in saffron town of Pampore in South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

NC Slams Govt Over Power Outages

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference on Friday said the erratic power supply is tormenting the people of Kashmir, saying the promise of ruling BJP that electricity supply for winters would be "far better than the previous year's" has fallen flat.

Ladakh Records 17 New COVID Cases

LEH: Ladakh reported 17 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the tally to 9,704, officials said on Friday. All the new cases were detected in Leh on Sunday, they said.

3 Hizb Militants Killed In Tral Encounter: Police

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In the first major encounter between militants and armed forces in the year 2021, three Hizbul Mujahideen members were killed in Tral town of south Kashmir's Pulwama district, police said on Friday.

Addressing a news conference here on Friday, Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said that on Thursday night Awantipora police received information about the presence of militants in Mandoora village of Tral following which the village



File Photo: Abid Bhat

was put under cordon by the joint team of police, army and the CRPF. "The search operation was started on Friday afternoon and it was confirmed that three militants were hiding in a house. >>> More On P10

Another Encounter Rages, 2-3 Militants Trapped

At least two to three militants are trapped in an ongoing encounter that broke out in Kakapora area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Friday, reports said. Hours after an encounter left three militants dead in Tral, a second gunfight broke out in Lelhar village of the district on Friday evening, various news agencies reported.

HC Quashes PSA Orders Of Two Pulwama Youth

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has quashed detention orders under Public Safety Act against two persons and ordered their released forthwith "if not otherwise required in any other case."



detention order, the Court need not go into other aspects of the case," a bench of Justice Puneet Gupta said while quashing PSA detention orders passed by Deputy Commissioner Pulwama against two local residents, Aijaz Ahmad Sheikh and Waqar Younis Sheikh respectively. The PSA orders were passed against the duo on the same date—20 June last year. "The power of preventive detention is >>> More On P10

Woman Dies Of Covid-19

SRINAGAR: An octogenarian woman from south Kashmir died of coronavirus on Friday, even as the Union Territory reported more recoveries than fresh cases of Covid-19 during the last 24 hours.

An 83-year-old woman of Janglat Mandi in Anantnag succumbed to Covid-19 on Friday, raising the fatality count to 1933 in J&K—1213 in Valley and 720 in Jammu division, officials said.

Srinagar district with 454 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (370), Baramulla (174), Budgam (117), Kupwara (95), Pulwama (88), Anantnag (85), Doda (64), >>> More On P10



Tuition Centre Sealed Over Viral 'Punishment' Picture

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The district authorities in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Friday sealed a coaching centre after a photo purportedly showing students punished for non-payment of fee took social media by storm evoking sharp condemnation from netizens.

'A1 Tutition', a coaching centre in Pahloo village of Devsar was sealed by the authorities on Friday for allegedly serving corporal punishment to the students over non-payment of fee, reports said. The coaching centre allegedly forced the students to take off their shoes and made them stand bare feet on the frozen snow. The picture of the bare foot students went viral on popular >>> More On P10

INVESTIGATION IS GOING ON. We are checking the reason behind the incident, as why students were asked to stand barefoot on frozen snow."

'It Could Be Disaster Of Unmitigated Proportion' UN Chief Warns Over India, Pakistan Military Confrontation

Says 'Absolutely Essential' For Two Countries To Seriously Discuss Their Problems

Press Trust Of India

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said it is absolutely essential for India and Pakistan to be able to come together and seriously discuss their problems, cautioning



that any military confrontation would be a disaster of unmitigated proportions for both countries and the whole world. Well, what I said in the

statement...is unfortunately the same that I can say today. I mean, I do believe that it is absolutely essential to have a de-escalation of the situation, namely in the Line of [Control]," the UN chief said.

Guterres was responding to a question by a Pakistani journalist on tensions between India and Pakistan over the situation in Kashmir. The question also referred to the statement Guterres had issued >>> More On P10

Cold Wave Persists, More Snow From Feb 2



File Photo: Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR : Cold wave conditions intensified in Kashmir on Friday as mercury plunged by two degrees in Srinagar, while the minimum temperature elsewhere in the valley stayed mostly 10 degrees below freezing point, officials said.

The temperature plunged amid reports of a fresh Western Disturbance likely affecting the Western Himalayan region from January 31 and under its influence fresh pell of snowfall is likely during 1st to 3rd February, Meteorological Department (IMD) tweeted. Srinagar city >>> More On P10

One Way Traffic On Highway Today

Jammu-Srinagar highway shall reopen for one-way traffic on Saturday after a day's closure for maintenance on Friday, officials said. "Tomorrow (January 30) subject to fair weather and better road condition only one way traffic shall be allowed from Srinagar towards Jammu including Banihal-Ramban (local traffic) on Jammu-Srinagar highway," officials. "No vehicle carrying even live stock or fresh >>> More On P10

LG Visits Late Sethi's Family

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday visited the family of Krishan Dev Sethi, the last surviving member of the Jammu and Kashmir Constituent Assembly, who passed away at his residence in Jammu on Thursday.

The LG offered his heartfelt condolences to the family members on the passing away of K D Sethi, father of Law Secretary J&K, Achal Sethi, an official spokesperson said Friday. The LG, he said, prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family >>> More On P10

Mehbooba's Fresh Jibe At BJP Govt 'Centre Using Kashmir Template In Other Parts Of Country'

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti accused the BJP-led Centre on Friday of using the template of "terrorising Kashmiris" into silence in other parts of the country as well, including in relation to farmer protests.

"GOLs template of terrorising Kashmiris into silence by using draconian laws & othering them is being extended to other parts of the country. Be it CAA or farmer law protests both were termed anti national & anti-terror laws like UAPA invoked



to quell these peaceful movements," she said in a tweet.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, who has been vocal in her opposition to three new farm laws of the Centre, said the government should repeal the legislations.

Fall Of Knitting Culture Fading Wool And 'Warmth' In Kashmir

Asif Khan, Arbeena Shah

Crossing her baby bump, Rabiya wonders about the 'fading warmth' in Kashmir Valley.

She had been dreaming of making woollen gloves, socks, and colourful sweaters for her baby since the day she received the good news.

But, her father's exhaustive market exploration trips are yielding no wool at the moment.

"People don't knit these days," Rabiya's father says while giving a sense of being fed up with the wool hunt. "The fallen culture of knitting is shrinking wool in the valley."

Disheartened with the yarn scarcity in the market, Rabiya reminisce

her childhood, when long needles embedded in colourful wool balls would be found in almost every Kashmiri home. The knitting culture would assemble women for chitchats in the evenings.

Back then, hand-knitted mufflers or sweaters would be exchanged as gifts. They were preserved like amulets by people as the interwoven threads were symbolic to the makers of love and affection.

Taking a trip down memory lane, homemaker Asmat Yasin, 58, recalls her first expectancy period when she received a variety of knitted clothes from her elder sister as a gift for her upcoming child.

"I've still stored some caps,



mufflers and socks safely in my cupboard," she says.

While affectionately holding a red muffler in her hand, she adds, "every

time I see them, they fill me up with love for my Didi."

The lazy and dull wintry afternoons would often see Kashmiri women gather in their homes, carrying Kangris under their embroidered Pherans, humming verses of Habba Khatoon and LalDed.

The group would share a collective laughter in reaction to jokes and satire cracked towards one another. The cold waves engulfing Kashmir and russet leaves swirling down from the trees would signal the suitable time for collective knitting.

And thus, the season of exchanging handmade garments would begin which mostly comprised of sweaters, mufflers, mittens, socks,

and caps.

Saima, a mother of three children, recalls being gifted a full suitcase of knitted clothes by her mother-in-law upon her delivery.

"My mother-in-law had been knitting for more than a year for my first child," Saima says smilingly.

"I could feel her love and warmth through the clothes she had sent," she adds nostalgically.

Knitting was a trade of love in exchange of love. But, the fall of knitting culture has become the nemesis for the loss of warmth in relations these days.

Evening chit chats have now been replaced by social media and OTT platforms and people >>> More On P10