



Maximum : 2.0°
Minimum : -7.2°
Humidity : 91%

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SUNRISE
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P4 WORLD
BIDEN ADVISER: IRAN, AFGHANISTAN, CHINA ARE KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

US President Joe Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, says dealing with China, Afghanistan and Iran are key early priorities for the new....

P7 THINK
REVEALING REMINISCENCE BAITHAK(S) OF HERITAGE KASHMIRI HOUSES

In #Kashmir Diwan Khana usually refers to a large room/hall located on any of the floors (mostly ground/ top) used....



P11 SPORTS
VRAT KOHLI AT 4, CHETESHWAR PUJARA RISES TO 6 IN LATEST ICC TEST RANKINGS

Virat Kohli remained the highest-placed Indian batsman at fourth position even as Cheteshwar....



Widom Quote!
We never know the worth of water till the well is dry."
— Thomas Fuller

NEWS DIGEST

Electric Shock Injures PDD Daily Wager

SRINAGAR: A daily wager of the Power Development Department (PDD) on Saturday was injured due to electrocution in Kulgam district of south Kashmir. Manzoor Ahmad Dar of Damhal Hanjipora received an electric shock when he came in contact with a live wire in Nandmarg locality while repairing a transform, resulting in injuries to him, news agency KNO reported. Quoting officials, ● More On P10

OGW Arrested In Pampore: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested a militant associate of Lashkar-e-Taiba from Pampore town of Pulwama district. Junaid Altaf of Konibal locality of Pampore was arrested by a joint team of police, army's 50 RR and CRPF 110 battalion and incriminating material of LeT was recovered from his possession, a police spokesperson said Saturday. He said all the recovered ● More On P10

Banned Wildlife Items Seized, Man Held

SRINAGAR: A joint team of wildlife department officials, police and CRPF personnel recovered a large quantity of contraband wildlife products during a raid in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Saturday and arrested the accused. On a specific information provided by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, New Delhi (WLCBB), a team of Police, personnel of CRPF 40 Battalion and wildlife officials of ● More On P10

Missing Man Found Dead In Kupwara

SRINAGAR: The body of a missing man was recovered on Saturday in Cherkoot area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district. 33-year-old Javid Ahmad Mir's body was recovered in the forest area of Cherkoot on Saturday, a fortnight after he went missing from his home in Igzund village of Khumriyal on January 15, news agency GNS reported. Four days after his disappearance, the report said, a missing report ● More On P10

ITBP Gets New Commander In Ladakh

NEW DELHI: The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), which guards the Line of Actual Control with China, has posted a new officer to head its frontier in Ladakh, official sources said on Saturday. Lhari Dorjee Lhatoo, a 1999-batch officer of the Manipur cadre, will be replacing ITBP Inspector General (IG) Deepam Seth, who was commanding the force troops deployed along the LAC with China in Ladakh. Seth, a 1995-batch ● More On P10

Centre Okays Use Of J&K Forest Land For Non-Forestry Purposes

Agencies

SRINAGAR: For the first time after abrogation of Article 370, the Government of India has given its clearance for use of forest land for non-forestry purposes in Jammu & Kashmir for construction of a multipurpose project of geo-strategic and national importance. Central government has given approval for non-forest use of 680.1 hectares of forest land for construction of Ujh multipurpose hydro-electric project in district Kathua of Jammu &



Kashmir, a local news agency KNO reported Saturday while quoting official documents. The report further said that this was the first project submitted to Centre's Forest Advisory Committee after ● More On P10

THE REHABILITATION & RESETTLEMENT PLAN shall ensure that no rehabilitation is proposed over forest land. A copy of the approved R&R plan shall be submitted by the user agency to the UT administration who will monitor to ensure that no project affected person occupies forest land."

J&K Reports 3 More Covid-19 Deaths

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Saturday three more coronavirus deaths while 76 new cases of virus were detected across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. The victims officials said, were a 95-year-old man from ● More On P10

Doda Becomes Corona Free

Press Trust Of India

BHADERWAH: Jammu and Kashmir's Doda has become the first coronavirus-free district in the Union Territory after the last three active cases turned negative and subsequently discharged from hospital, officials said on Saturday. The hilly district had not registered any new COVID-19 cases over the past fortnight, ● More On P10

Chilleh Kalan Ends, Chill Persists



A woman carries a bucket of water on her head as water lines in Srinagar and elsewhere froze due to severe cold conditions on Saturday. KO Picture, Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Valley continued to reel under intense cold conditions even as the winter's harshest phase—the 40-day long Chilleh Kalan—ended with Srinagar recording the season's coldest day at minus 2 degree Celsius on Saturday. Srinagar city ● More On P10

Highway To Remain Closed On Thursdays

Jammu-Srinagar, the only surface link connecting Kashmir Valley with the outside world, shall remain closed for next four ● More On P10

30,000 KP's Apply For 2,000 Posts Under PM's Package

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Over 30,000 Kashmiri Pandits have applied for the 2,000 re-allocated government jobs under the prime minister's employment package and the selection process would be completed by the end of April, officials said on Saturday. The prime minister's package for Kashmiri Pandit migrants announced in 2008 has two major components — one pertaining to the provision of 6,000 jobs for youth and another pertaining to the provision of 6,000 accommodation units for the recruited employees.

"As regards to the jobs, out of 6,000 posts, 3,841 candidates have already been selected and appointed in various departments. The remaining 2,000-odd posts have been referred to J&K Service Selection Board (JKSSB)," a relief and rehabilitation department spokesperson said. "The JKSSB has already received more than 30,000 applications for these posts and the selection process shall be completed by the end of April. This will ensure completion of the PM package component related to jobs," the official said. He said there are a few posts which have remained unfilled due to ● More On P10

Injured Militant, Associate Surrenders During Pulwama Encounter: Police

Will Welcome Those With Open Arms Who Shun Violence: IGP

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two local militants of Hizbul Mujahideen, one among them injured, laid down their arms during a gunfight with government forces in Lelhar area of Pulwama district, police said Saturday. Acting on a specific input about the presence of militants, police, army's 50 RR and the personnel of CRPF 183 battalion launched a cordon and search operation in Lelhar area of the south Kashmir district around 8:00 pm Friday, a police spokesperson here said. The holed up militants, he said, fired upon



the search team when their presence got ascertained. "The search party retaliated to the fire leading to an encounter. However, the joint forces showed utmost ● More On P10

Cross-Border Firing Rattles Kathua

Observer Monitoring Desk

JAMMU: After exchanging fire along the Line of Control (LoC) for two consecutive days, the Indian and Pakistani troops on Saturday traded heavy gunfire along the International Border in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said Saturday. The Pakistani army has violated the ceasefire again by resorting to unprovoked firing along the IB in Kathua district, they said. The firing from across the border started around 10.10 pm on Friday in the Bobiyaan border outpost area of Hiranagar sector, prompting an effective retaliation by the Border Security Force (BSF), the officials said. They said the cross-border firing between the ● More On P10

JKP Among Best Forces: LG

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said Saturday that Jammu and Kashmir police was among the best police organisations in the country and being accorded with one of the highest numbers of gallantry medals in the last few years, itself speaks about the courage and bravery of the JKP personnel. Sinha made these remarks while attending Special Security Force's (SSF) "Bada Khana" held here at Raj Bhavan on Saturday, an official spokesperson said. The LG, he said, lauded the SSF personnel for performing their duties with a high order of ● More On P10

CBI Arrests ESIC Deputy Director With Rs 50K Bribe

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday arrested Deputy Director of the ESIC posted in Jammu for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 50,000. Darbara Singh, incharge Regional Director, ESIC Jammu was arrested by CBI on the basis of a complaint filed by an employee of a private firm that provides security services to different private institutions, a spokesperson said. "The complainant came

to know in the month of December 2020 that a notice has been issued to the firm by ESIC, Regional Office," he said. On knowing this, the spokesperson said, the complainant and the owner, both visited the office of ESIC to meet Dy. Director and during the meeting Singh allegedly told them that their papers were not proper and ESIC would impose a penalty of Rs.23, 90,850/- (approx) on them and if they would pay him a bribe of Rs.2 lakh, he can reduce the penalty amount. "After negotiation, ● More On P10



Kashmir Life Editor Bereaved

KEG Expresses Solidarity With Masood Hussain

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Gull Hassan Wani, father of senior journalist and Editor-in-Chief 'Kashmir Life', Masood Hussain, passed away Saturday morning at SKIMS, Soura. Wani was not keeping well for some time and was admitted to SKIMS Soura on Wednesday, late evening, family sources said. As his condition deteriorated, he was put on ventilator support, where he breathed his last at around 5 am.

A resident of Gehend village in Shopian district in south Kashmir, he was laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard. Late Wani is survived by wife, five sons and a daughter. Kashmir Editors Guild (KEG) condoled the demise of Gull Hassan Wani, father of Masood Hussain, Editor Kashmir Life and KEG Secretary General. In a condolence message KEG expressed grief over Mr Wani's demise. A highly revered person, Gull Hassan Wani ● More On P10

KEG Condoles Demise of Masood's Mother

Kashmir Editors Guild (KEG) condoles the sad demise of mother of senior Journalist Nazir Masoodi. In a condolence message KEG expressed ● More On P10

Govt Orders Minor Reshuffle In Admin

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday ordered minor reshuffle in the administration by shifting half a dozen officers with immediate effect. As per an order issued here in this regard, Rajesh Sharma, Secretary, J&K Public Service Commission, has been transferred and posted as Custodian General, J&K, replacing Suriya Jabeen, who has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary to Government, Tribal Affairs Department, an official spokesperson said. He said Raj Kumar Katoch, Director, Tourism, Jammu, has been transferred and ● More On P10



Kashmir Through Pages: Five Upcoming Books To Watch Out For

Yash Daiv

The abrogation of Article 370 that revoked Kashmir's semiautonomous status was a thunderclap in a storm that has been brewing in the region for decades. While it brokered many emotions — confusion and anger being the prominent ones — it also generated many stories that have now found their expression in books. The coming quarter of 2021 has interesting books in the offing, ones that reflect the current mood and others that invoke the memories of past. Then, there are commentaries on

the geography and old battles that have now found place in the limelight. This thoughtful, organic travelogue is born in the dark that came over Kashmir after August 5, 2019. Author Suhas Munshi, who has spent a decade reporting politics, conflict and culture across India, was visiting Habba Khatoon's relic in Gurez when Article 370 was abrogated. The narrative of his book was extracted from the gloom that overshadowed Kashmir. It tries to give a sense of what that moment has meant to the common Kashmiri. Apart from these stories, this insightful travelogue breaks away from

the clichéd view of Kashmir — one that sees it "either as an earthly paradise or a living hell". It takes you to unexpected places, into the homes of poets, playwrights and street performers; to the minuscule Christian community in Baramulla and much more. Farah Bashir, a former photojournalist with Reuters, is set to make a scintillating debut with Rumours of Spring. In the book, she documents her adolescent years in Kashmir during the 90s — the epoch marked by the siege. She writes about understanding militarisation of domestic spaces and forming new etiquette with the

boundaries that turned Kashmir into a sore oyster. The book has already been hailed by stalwarts from many domains for it is the kind of on-ground, honest narratives that world needs. In 'Forgotten Kashmir', Dinkar P Srivastava—who joined Indian Foreign Service in 1978 and is current Indian Ambassador to Iran—sets a chronology of events that led to stretching of barbed wires, diving one people and the subsequent evolution of Pakistan-administered Kashmir over seven decades. It includes major milestones like the 'tribal' war in 1947-48. ● More On P10