

Maximum : 2.5°
Minimum : -0.4°
Humidity : 92%
SUNSET
Today 06:05 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 07:26 AM

P3 NEWS

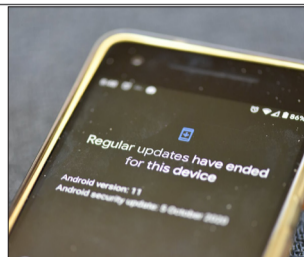
41ST INDIA CARPET EXPO WITNESS 292 OVERSEAS BUYERS FROM 51 COUNTRIES

The five-day 3rd Virtual Edition of 41st India Carpet Expo has received an overwhelming response from around 292 overseas buyers from 51 countries and 81 Buying....

P5 THINK

UPGRADE RAGE: WHY YOU MAY HAVE TO BUY A NEW DEVICE WHETHER YOU WANT TO OR NOT

We've probably all been there. We buy some new smart gadget and when we plug it



P7 WORLD

HAZARAS FEAR FOR FUTURE AS AFGHANISTAN RISKS SLIPPING INTO CHAOS

The choice was straightforward for Hamidullah Asadi, a member of Afghanistan's minority...

Widom
Quote!

Angry people are not always wise.
— Jane Austen

DIGEST

Man Held For Duping Job Aspirants

Jammu- The crime branch of the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday arrested a man for allegedly forging government appointment orders to cheat unemployed youth in the union territory, officials said. Manzoor Hussain Qadri along with co-accused Mush-taq Ahmed Ganai and Fayaz Ahmed Dar used to lure ● More On P6

'Mirwaiz Remains in House Detention'

Srinagar: The moderate faction of the Hurriyat Conference on Wednesday alleged that its leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq was still under house arrest and demanded his release. The amalgam contested Union Minister of State G Kishan Reddy's statement in Parliament that no person is currently under house arrest in Jammu ● More On P6

4.5 Magnitude Earthquake Hits J&K

SRINAGAR: A slight intensity earthquake was recorded in J&K on Wednesday while officials said no reports of any casualty or damage to property were received from anywhere so far. An official of the met office said an earthquake measuring 4.5 on the Richter scale occurred at 7.59 p.m. "The coordinates of the earthquake are ● More On P6

Man Found Dead In Kupwara Hospital

SRINAGAR: An elderly man from Karnah village along the Line of Control (LoC) was found dead inside Sub-District Hospital Kupwara on Wednesday, Raj Mohammed Ghorsi of Amrohi, Karnah was found dead inside the health facility on Wednesday morning by the attendants of ● More On P6

Minor Found Hanging In Her Home

JAMMU: A minor girl was found hanging in her house here on Tuesday, officials said Wednesday. They said that the minor girl (name withheld) was found hanging in her room in Bakshi Nagar area. The family members took her to hospital. However, the doctors who attended upon her, declared her dead on arrival. ● More On P6

Train Services Likely To Resume By Feb 17

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir administration in collaboration with the Railway authorities is mulling to resume the train services by February 17 after a gap of ten months, official sources said. People from different areas of Kashmir said that public transport is normally functional and now the government has also decided to open educational institutions, then why only services have ● More On P6

J&K Fully Integrated With India: Govt Tells RS

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have been fully integrated into the mainstream of the nation after the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile state, Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy told Parliament on Wednesday.

Replying to another question, Reddy said after the constitutional changes and reorganisation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir,



the UTs of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh have been fully integrated into the mainstream of the nation. ● More On P6

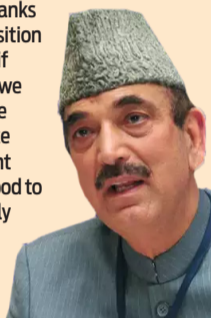
183 Still Under PSA Detention in J&K

The government said on Wednesday that 183 people in Jammu and Kashmir continue to remain detained under the Public Safety Act (PSA) while no one is under house arrest. Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy told Parliament on Wednesday that various measures ● More On P6

Azad Seeks Bill On Restoring Statehood

Observer Monitoring Desk

Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Wednesday asked the government to bring a bill in Rajya Sabha proposing restoration of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking during the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Azad said, "I appeal to you, if Jammu and Kashmir has to progress and if we have to fight our enemies at the borders, we need to take our own people into confidence and give them love." He said the government should "bring a bill in the House and statehood to be restored" adding that legislative assembly elections must be held after statehood is restored for Jammu and Kashmir. "Apart from Delhi, if the world ● More On P6



J&K Logs 3 More Covid Deaths

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Wednesday three more deaths due to coronavirus, while 65 fresh cases of Covid-19 were detected across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

The victims include a 65-year-old woman from Anantnag, an 80-year-old man from Srinagar and 55-year-old man from Kathua, officials said.

With these deaths, the fatality count has reached 1941 in J&K—1219 in Valley and 722 in Jammu division, the officials said. Srinagar district with 458 deaths tops the ● More On P6

Snowfall Disrupts Air Traffic, Raises Mercury In Kashmir



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Most parts of Kashmir received fresh

snowfall on Wednesday causing disruption in air traffic and resulting in significant improvement ● More On P6

Govt Amends Closure Order, Highway Open Today

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday amended the order announcing the closure of highway for repairs on Thursdays, while the traffic department urged commuters to avoid journey on the vital road link on February 4 in wake of the weather forecast "That every Friday falling on every 5th, 12th, 19th ● More On P6

Amarnath Yatra To Be Held Under Drone, CCTV Surveillance

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday ordered fool-proof security arrangements during the annual Amarnath Yatra, including aerial surveillance through drones, night dominations besides installations of CCTVs in all areas during the pilgrimage period.

The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Wednesday chaired a meeting of officers to take stock of security arrangements to be put in place for smooth conduct of Amarnath Yatra and directed concerned to ensure fool-proof

security arrangements including aerial surveillance through drones, night dominations, installations of CCTVs in all areas is held during the Yatra period, an official spokesperson said.

During the meeting, he said, Pole impressed upon acting on all directions on the ground in letter and spirit to ensure all arrangements are made available at all places for hassle-free conduct of the yatra.

"During the meeting deficiencies faced during Yatra-2019 were discussed threadbare and on spot directions were given to the concerned to ensure better facilities are made available ● More On P6

Use Social Media To Remove J&K's 'Negative Publicity': MPs Panel

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A parliamentary panel has recommended that the Jammu and Kashmir administration, the Ministry of Tourism and other stakeholders must try to remove "negative publicity" in the press of the region and use social media to "promote" a more positive image of it.

The 280th report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture—"Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee Contained in its Two Hundred and Seventieth Report on 'Development of Tourism in

Jammu and Kashmir" said that industry bodies should also be encouraged to hold meetings and visit the region.

"The committee recommends that the state government, Ministry of Tourism and the various other stakeholders must endeavour to remove the negative publicity in the press by finding innovative means to engage with the world at large via the social media.

"In this age of You Tube and social platforms like Instagram and Snapchat, social media influencers may be engaged to promote a more positive image of the state," the panel said. It recommended ● More On P6

KISAN MAHAPANCHAYAT

Tikait Holds Show Of Strength

Warns Centre Of 'Gaddi Wapsi'



Press Trust Of India

JIND (HARYANA): In a show of strength by protesting farmers, Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait on Wednesday

addressed a massive rally and warned the government it could find it difficult to stay on in power if the new agri-marketing laws are not repealed. Just before Tikait ● More On P6

LS Adjourned Twice As Oppn Protests

New Delhi: Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned twice on Wednesday as the protesting opposition members demanded a separate discussion on the farm laws issue. ● More On P6

India 53rd In EU's Democracy Index

India slipped two places to 53rd position in the 2020 Democracy Index's global ranking, according to The Economist Intelligence Unit, which said the "democratic backsliding" by authorities and "crackdowns" on civil liberties has led to a further decline in the country's ranking. However, India is ranked higher than ● More On P6

Pak Army Chief Bats For Peaceful Solution To Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and India must resolve the Kashmir issue in a "dignified and peaceful manner", Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa said on Tuesday.

General Bajwa was addressing the graduation ceremony at the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Asghar Khan Academy in Risalpur in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, according to the Army.

Pakistan and India must resolve the longstanding issue of Jammu and Kashmir in a

dignified and peaceful manner as per the aspirations of people of Jammu and Kashmir..., he said.

Pakistan is a peace-loving country that has rendered great sacrifices for regional and global peace, he said.

We stand firmly committed to the ideal of mutual respect and peaceful co-existence. It is time to extend a hand of peace in all directions, he said.

However, we will not allow anybody or any entity to misinterpret our desire for peace as a sign of weakness, Bajwa said.

Mehbooba Alleges Para Tortured, Police Junks Charges

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday claimed her party's youth wing president Waheed Para, arrested by the Jammu and Kashmir Police last month, was being kept under "inhuman conditions and tortured" to compel him to admit to false indictment, a charge denied by the police as "unfortunate".

The 61-year-old former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir took to Twitter on Wednesday morning alleging that the Criminal Investigation Department of the police had



been torturing Para and that he was also being kept under inhuman condition.

"JK CID has joined the list of central agencies that work to terrorise Kashmiris and falsely implicate them. ● More On P6

THE WEBSITE WAS COMPLETELY IDENTICAL

to the official passport website. Eventually, I filled in all the required information, including my personal details."



"I Googled 'Passport Apply' And Was Duped": Kashmir In 'Dark Web'

Romaan Arora

Cooling his heels for a call from the Regional Passport Office (RPO), a middle-age man was growing restless in his office on a chilling January morning in Srinagar.

The man known for his social sway was recently tricked by a network of fake websites, when he tried to renew

his passport.

"I googled 'passport apply' and that proved to be fatal," said Showkat Ahmad, a victim of the passport fraud.

"The website was completely identical to the official passport website. Eventually, I filled in all the required information, including my personal details."

Soon after paying Rs 3000 for his passport renewal, a reference number was generated. After waiting for a few days for a call from RPO Srinagar, he subsequently decided to visit.

His in-person visit to the RPO Srinagar revealed that he was

duped by a small yet dangerous online fraud network in Kashmir.

Showkat was victimised by the portal: www.portalpassportindia.in. It's one of the many fake websites that have conned Kashmiris in last few years.

Some other 'quite popular', yet fake websites, include—www.indiappassport.org, www.online-passportindia.com, www.passportindiaportal.in, www.passportindia.in, www.passport-seva.in and www.apply-passport.org.

Popular among Kashmiri techies as 'Passport Fraud', a network of websites, impersonating as official passport portals, has been actively deceiving more than 150 Kashmiris each year.

But now, the number is escalating, especially after the valley was stripped of its high-speed internet connection on August 4, 2019.

Opening a website on a 2G connection is in itself a big deal. And when the page opens, some fake websites pop up higher in the search

result as compared to the official passport portal.

"It's because of the payment that is made by these counterfeit websites to Google that they always appear on top of the search results," Tahir Ashraf, SSP Cyber Police, told Kashmir Observer.

"But there's no passport racket, not at least in Kashmir," he added.

So far, the officer said, no complaint has been filed or forwarded to the cyber police department since its foundation last year.

"We act upon complaints," SSP Tahir said. "Be it an ordinary complaint or a complaint from our own 'reliable sources'." ● More On P6