



Maximum : 11.9°  
Minimum : -2.0°  
Humidity : 89%

SUNSET Today 06:10 PM  
SUNRISE Tomorrow 07:22 AM

Contact: -0194-2502327  
FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS &  
YOUR COPY OF



www.kashmirobserver.net • twitter.com / kashmirobserver • facebook.com/kashmirobserver • Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016



P3 NEWS

20 GOVT SCHOOLS TO BE DEVELOPED ON MODERN LINES: CITY MAYOR

In order to review the status of transfer of 83 primary schools to SMC under 74th Constitutional Amendment Act along with posts, institutions, functions, and funds to...

P5 THINK

HEALTH FOR THE AGING POPULATION

Traditionally, older adults are taken care of by their families. However, because of the changing gender roles, employment of women, erosion of traditional family...



07 STATE

DIV COM REVIEWS PROGRESS ON MANASBAL LAKE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole today chaired a meeting...



Widom Quote!

Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens  
— Jimi Hendrix

DIGEST

J&K Logs 43 New Covid-19 Cases

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 43 new COVID-19 cases on Monday, taking the infection tally to 1,24,952, officials said. No fresh COVID-19 death was reported in the last 24 hours, they said. Of the new cases, seven were from the Jammu division and 36 from the Kashmir division, officials said. Srinagar district recorded the highest 20 cases, including two travellers. >> More On P2

Cross-Border Firing In Kathua

JAMMU: Pakistani Rangers opened fire on forward posts and villages along the International Border in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Monday. The firing from across the border in Karol Krishna border outpost area started around 10:20 pm Sunday, prompting strong retaliation by the Border Security Force (BSF), the officials said. They said the cross-border firing between the two sides continued till 5 am but >> More On P2

Uri Youth Dies Of Burn Injuries

SRINAGAR: A youth on Monday died after suffering serious burn injuries in a fire incident in Uri town of Baramulla district. 25-year-old Sajid Ahmad died at Srinagar's SMHS hospital on Monday afternoon, a day after he received serious burn injuries in a fire incident in Sultankadi area of Uri, reports said. Besides Ahmad, four other people identified as Abdul Rasheed, his wife >> More On P2

Four Gamblers Held In Pulwama: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Monday claimed to have arrested four gamblers in a raid in Khrew area south Kashmir's Pulwama district. Acting on an input, police raided Mandakpal village of Khrew on and arrested four gamblers from the spot, a police spokesperson said Monday. He said besides playing cards, an amount of Rs 18120 was recovered from the alleged gamblers. The police spokesperson identified the accused as Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Khanday, >> More On P2

Revenue Officials, Lawyer Booked For 'Fraud'

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police crime branch registered a case against several revenue officials and a lawyer on Monday for their alleged involvement in misappropriation of the property of the Rajiv Gandhi trust here, an official said. The case was registered under relevant sections of the law against three revenue officials and the lawyer who is also executor of the trust, besides several other people, a spokesperson of the >> More On P2

RS Approves Bill To Merge J&K Cadre With AGMUT



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Rajya Sabha on Monday cleared The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2021 that seeks to replace the ordinance to merge the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) cadre of civil services officer with the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre. The bill was introduced in the Upper House of the Parliament

last week and it was approved with voice vote before Rajya Sabha chairman and Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu. "The complete integration of both UTs along with one nation one constitution, holistic development and public welfare are being ensured at each level. Through amendment of this bill, the merger of J&K cadre with AGMUT cadre is an important step in that direction," Minister of State >> More On P2

Azad Doubts Govt's Intention Over J&K Statehood

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Questioning the ruling NDA on whether it wanted permanent UT status for Jammu and Kashmir, Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday batted for restoration of its statehood, saying development had halted, there was an increase in unemployment and industries were closing, making survival difficult in the region. The former Jammu and

Kashmir chief minister said, "I want to ask Home Minister Amit Shah if the present cadre was working well then what was the need to merge it? You had promised that the statehood will be restored...But bringing this bill creates suspicion that Govt wants to keep J&K permanently a union territory."

Opposing the Statutory Resolution and Legislative Business (Bill for Consideration and Passing) - the Jammu and Kashmir (Amendment) Bill 2021 as >> More On P2



PM Praises Azad, Slams Congress

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday lauded Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad for praising the conduct of elections in Jammu and Kashmir and took a swipe at his party's leadership, saying he hoped it will take Azad's remarks in the right spirit and not do something to the contrary by mistaking them as "advice of G-23". His reference was to the internal rift in the opposition >> More On P2

'Speedy Development Work Underway In J&K'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Minister of State for Home Affairs G Kishan Reddy on Monday said speedy developmental work has been underway in the newly-constituted Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in the last two years, but the set target could not be achieved due to COVID-19 pandemic. Asserting that "revolutionary and historical decisions" have been taken for the development of the Union territory, the minister said in Rajya Sabha that >> More On P2



Basharat Ahmad Zargar

...UTTARAKHAND MISHAP

Mystery Continues Over Missing Kashmiri Engineer

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: Barely 24 hours after he saw a gigantic avalanche ravaging the power project site in Uttarakhand where his father had gone for the spot inspection, Saliq Zargar embarked on the journey to trace his missing father. "We are yet to receive a word about his whereabouts from his

company," Uttarakhand-bound Saliq told Kashmir Observer. "They told us that we have sent our team but they are yet to reach the spot." Basharat Ahmad Zargar, a Kashmiri engineer is among hundreds of people who went missing following a glacier burst in Uttarakhand state in northern India on Sunday morning. >> More On P2

530 Vacancies In Education Dept: Govt

Agencies

SRINAGAR: As many as 530 departmental posts are lying vacant in the School Education Department, the government said on Monday. The multiple orders issued by the School Education Department reveal that at least 530 posts in the Department were lying vacant upto February-02-2021. "The school-wise >> More On P2

Militants Escape Govt Forces Dragnet In Anantnag



The Govt forces have increased random security checks and frisking in Srinagar in wake of recent militant attacks: KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Unidentified militants on Monday gave slip to government forces after a brief firefight in Khanabal area of Anantnag district.

Around 11:00 am Monday, police, army's 3 RR and CRPF laid a siege around Matipora village of Khanabal and launched a combing operation to flush out militants present in >> More On P2

BSF Shoots 'Intruder' Along Samba Border

An unidentified Pakistani intruder was shot dead by the Border Security Force (BSF) along the India-Pakistan international border in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on Monday, officials said. Inspector General of BSF, Jammu frontier, N S Jamwal said >> More On P2

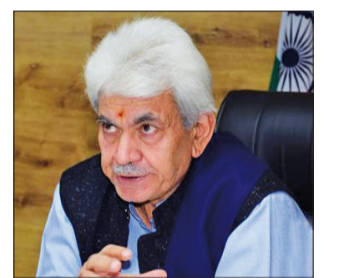
46 Security Men Killed In Pak Firing Last Year

Pakistan resorted to 5,133 incidents of ceasefire violations last year in which 46 security force personnel were killed, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday, referring to Pakistani hostilities along the Line of Control and >> More On P2

Govt Opening Up New Avenues For J&K Youth: LG

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Monday that the objective of his government is to create a strong environment for professional and technical skill development in the Union Territory by encouraging entrepreneurship with progress, expansion and fulfilling the aspirations of the youth. Speaking after the launch of



Livelihood Generation Training Program in Banking, Financial Services and >> More On P2

Weather Shows Marked Improvement In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: There was an improvement in the cold conditions in Kashmir as the minimum temperature increased across the valley on Monday, while it settled below the freezing point at all weather stations, officials said. Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 2 degrees Celsius last night, up from the previous night's minus 3.6 degrees Celsius, the officials said. Qazigund recorded a minimum of minus 5.5 degrees Celsius, up from the previous

night's low of minus 6.3 degrees Celsius, they said. Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 5.3 degrees Celsius, up from minus 7.5 degrees Celsius the previous night. The minimum temperature at the Gulmarg skiing resort, in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, settled at minus 2.5 degrees Celsius last night, an increase of four degrees from the previous night, the officials said. They said the night temperature at the resort was 4.2 degrees above normal for this time of the season. Kupwara town >> More On P2



Consistent frigid temperatures have turned famous Drang waterfall near Tangmarg into an icy wall attracting hordes of visitors to watch the nature's spectacle. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Suspended IAS Officer Reinstated

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The government on Monday ordered the reinstatement of Kumar Rajeev Ranjan (IAS) who was last year detained by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in an arms licensing case. Immediately after his detention by the CBI, the government had ordered Ranjan's suspension with effect from February 29 last year. Ranjan was then posted as Additional Chief Executive Officer, Metropolitan Regulatory Authority, Jammu and was also holding the additional charge of Vice-Chairman, Jammu Development Authority (JDA). >> More On P2



KASHMIR In Capital: 'Masterpieces' Of Valley In Delhi

Romaan Arora

Rambling in Lajpat Nagar of New Delhi introduced me to several shops owned by a successful Kashmiri business class. To my luck, the variety of different Kashmiri handicrafts instilled in each shop made me come across Sajad Enterprises, a renowned Kashmiri Papier Mache seller in Delhi. Syed Sajad, now 61, came to the capital 30 years back to build a home outside home. "When the banks became non-functional in 1990, I made my

decision to move out," said Sajad, sitting calmly on his desk. "Also, I had 250 artisans to take care of. Hadn't I moved out of the troubled home at that time, all the 250 artisans, along with their families, would have rendered jobless," he added. However, his family wasn't fond of his decision, and his parents always insisted upon staying back in the valley and eating at the same dining table. "It was a taste of life," said Sajad, while referring to working in Kashmir, which he did for around eight-ten years. For him, just like other Kashmiris in Delhi, working

in the valley is more of working at home, in a mesmerizing lovely atmosphere. But, in the capital, things were different. Hot weather, unfamiliar faces, and different cultural practices proved difficult to master. Yet, there was always a reason for Sajad to spend most of his life in a foreign land. "In the very first year [in 1991] I came here, I was coming back to Nizamuddin from Rashtrapati Bhavan in my own car. Since I didn't know the route, I called another person in a car. But he didn't respond," he said.

Nonetheless, things changed in the blink of an eye. "The moment I returned empty-handed from the first person, a Navy General came to me, breaking his protocol, and informed me about the path ahead in the politest manner one could imagine," he said. This act of kindness made him steadfast upon the decision of establishing his commerce in Delhi. However, it was Sajad's association with the union textile department that accorded him immense notability. It also earned him few trips to Europe to >> More On P2