



Maximum : 7.0°
Minimum : -1.0°
Humidity : 92%

SUNSET
Today 06:10 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 07:20 AM

OBSERVER

24th year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR

29 Jumadi-ul-Sani | 1442 Hijri | Vol:24 | Issue: 36 | Pages:08 | Price: ₹3

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



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

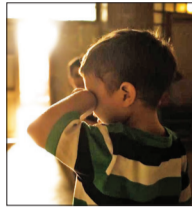


P3 NEWS GOVT TO UNVEIL SCHEME FOR STREET VENDORS

The Jammu & Kashmir administration has devised a scheme for protection of livelihood of street vendors and regulation of vending in the Union Territory...

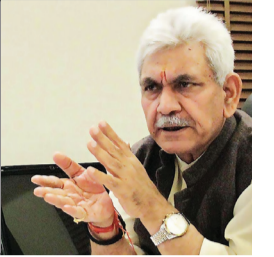
P5 THINK MINDFUL FRIDAYS SILENCING OUR CHILDREN: ASCENDING OF ABUSE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has posed catastrophic challenges to societies all...



P7 STATE URBAN RENAISSANCE HAPPENING IN J&K, SAYS LG

Taking a major step towards making Jammu city more vibrant, citizen friendly and congestion free, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today inaugurated the much...



Widom Quote!

Honesty is the first
chapter of the book
wisdom.

— Thomas Jefferson

NEWS DIGEST

Masoodi Raises J&K Situation In LS

NEW DELHI: Opposition members in Lok Sabha on Thursday criticised the Union Budget as disappointing and hit out at the government's policies, even as BJP leaders put up a strong defence saying that different sections of the society have praised the budget. During a discussion on the budget, National Conference's Hasnain Masoodi also lauded the budget, saying a better one could not have... More On P6

PAGD Wins DDC Chairperson Post In A'nag

SRINAGAR: The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) won the election for the post of chairperson of the District Development Council (DDC) in Anantnag district held on Thursday, officials said. PAGD is an amalgam of six parties seeking the restoration of the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. In the fourth phase of the polls... More On P6

Toddler's Body Fished Out From Nallah

GANDERBAL: The body of a toddler who had gone missing on Wednesday was recovered from Nallah Sindh at Kullan area of Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district today. Police sources said that the body of one year old kid Wahid Ahmad Sontra son of Mukhtar Ahmad Sontra, a resident of Rezan Gund was fished out from Nallah Sindh by police and locals. All efforts to trace the toddler had... More On P6

Six Injured In Budgam Bus Accident

SRINAGAR: At least six persons were injured when a passenger bus met with an accident in Ichgam village in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Thursday. Six passengers were injured when a bus bearing registration number JK01C-8138 turned turtle on road on way to Raithan village of Khansahib from Srinagar near Ichgam, news agency KDC reported. The injured identified... More On P6

Fake ID Card Maker Held In Baramulla: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested a person for making fake ID cards in North Kashmir's Baramulla district. Javeed Ahmad Malik of Dhoobiwan Kunzer was arrested by police on specific information regarding printing and designing of fake identity cards of different departments, a police spokesperson said. Malik was operating a Photostat... More On P6

Uttarakhand Glacier Burst Shifting Focus On Kashmir's 'Melting Ice'

Swati Joshi

KOLAHOI, the largest glacier in Kashmir and the fountainhead of two significant tributaries of River Jhelum - Lidder and Sindh - is melting rapidly.

A recent research paper has revealed that the largest glacier of Kashmir

has further reduced in the area over three years.

The research compares the recent findings to that of a 2017 study.

"Kolahoi Glacier has rapidly receded due to climatic changes prevalent over the Kashmir region.

The glacier has lost 23% area since 1962 and has fragmented into smaller parts," revealed the paper published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.

Irfan Rashid, one of the authors of the research paper, told Kashmir Observer that aerosol concentration, especially black carbon, is among the highest reported from the

Himalayan glaciated landscapes.

Black Carbon is organic carbon that is wind-driven and deposited on the glacier surface. It's mostly from fossil fuel (automobiles, factories, brick kilns, etc) and firewood burning (charcoal making in autumn, and hammams in winters).

On being asked about the local factors that have led to

the rapid declining of the glacier in the valley, the assistant professor at the University of Kashmir said that tourism in Kashmir is one of the major factors in the rapid receding of the glaciers.

"The promotion of tourism in the alpine landscapes of

More On P6

PAGE 1 ANCHOR



No Change In Policy On Jammu & Kashmir: US



Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: The United States on Wednesday said that there is no change in its policy on Jammu and Kashmir.

"I want to be very clear there has been no change in US policy in the region," State Department Spokesperson

Ned Price told reporters in view of a tweet from the South and Central Asia Bureau of the State Department which welcomed the resumption of 4G mobile internet in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We welcome the resumption of 4G mobile internet in India's Jammu... More On P6

Assembly Polls In J&K Soon: BJP

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) national General Secretary Tarun Chug Thursday said that Assembly polls will soon be held in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir soon and the dates will be decided by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Talking to reporters at the sideline of a function at BJP's Srinagar headquarters, Chug said that he is of the belief that Assembly polls will be held soon in J&K.

"Assembly polls will be held soon after the delimitation process is over. J&K UT will have an elected government soon," he said, adding as for the dates of polls, that was up to the ECI. "I think ECI will take a call on the dates of Assembly polls soon," he said.

Asked whether statehood would be given to J&K UT, he evaded the query stating that it (statehood) will come at an appropriate time... More On P6

...LAC STALEMATE

India Announces Breakthrough China To Move Troops To Finger 8 Of Pangong Lake: Rajnath

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India and China have reached an agreement on disengagement in the North and South banks of Pangong lake in eastern Ladakh that mandates both sides to "cease" forward deployment of troops in a "phased, coordinated and verifiable" manner, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced in Parliament on Thursday, in a breakthrough after a nine-month border standoff.

Sharing details of the pact to defuse the tense military face-off in eastern Ladakh that severely strained ties between the two Asian giants, Singh also assured the Rajya Sabha that India has not conceded anything in the sustained talks with China and it will not allow even an



inch of its territory to be taken away by anyone.

A video shared by the Indian Army showed the pulling back of three tanks of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA)

and one by the Indian side from south of Pangong Tso besides brief shots of a meeting between troops of the two sides.

Official sources said withdrawal of tanks... More On P6

I AM HAPPY TO INFORM THE HOUSE TODAY that as a result of our well thought out approach and sustained talks with the Chinese side, we have now been able to reach an agreement on disengagement in the North and South bank of the Pangong lake."

J&K Reports Two More Covid-19 Deaths

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday recorded 65 new positive cases, taking the tally to 1,25,117, even as two fresh deaths due to the virus were reported in the last 24 hours, officials said.

Out of the fresh cases, 15 were from Jammu division and 50 from Kashmir division of the Union territory, they said.

The officials said Srinagar district recorded the highest with 20 cases, including nine travellers... More On 6

Mercury Dips In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The minimum temperature in most parts of Kashmir dropped on Thursday, but there was some improvement in Srinagar, even as the MeT Office forecast dry weather for the next few days, officials said.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 0.4 degrees Celsius last night, up from the

previous night's minus 1.6 degrees Celsius, they said.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of minus 4.1 degrees Celsius, down from the

previous night's low of minus 3.8 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 4.1 degrees Celsius, slightly down from minus 4.0 degrees... More On P6

No Traffic On Highway Today

The Srinagar-Jammu highway will remain closed on Friday for traffic in view of the weekly maintenance and repair works, officials said Thursday. In a post put out on its... More On P6

...BANK FRAUD

ED Attaches Assets Worth Rs 20 Cr Of J&K Industrialist

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday said it has attached assets worth over Rs 20 crore of a Jammu and Kashmir-based industrialist in an alleged loan fraud case involving the Bank of India (BoI).

The attached properties are in the name of Raj Kumar Gupta and they include 44 kanals and 10 marlas of land located in Kartholi village of Samba

district worth Rs 7.59 crore, and 491 kanals and 16 marlas of land in Pampore tehsil of Pulwama district that is worth Rs 12.66 crore.

The total value of the attached properties is Rs 20.25 crore, it said.

The ED said in a statement that the case pertains to siphoning of BoI funds worth Rs 91.63 crore through companies linked to Gupta like Jhelum Infra

Projects India Pvt Limited (Rs 39.70 crore), Jhelum Industries (Rs 33.83 crore)... More On P6

Athar Deputed To J&K from Rajasthan

Press Trust Of India

JAIPUR: Rajasthan cadre IAS officer Athar Aamir-ul-Shafi Khan will go to Jammu and Kashmir on deputation for a period of three years, according to a government relieving order.

Khan, who belongs to J-K, had married IAS officer Tina Dabi, who was the topper of the 2016 batch and the officer of the Rajasthan cadre, in 2018 and they reportedly filed for divorce in a family court here in November last year.

The state government relieved Khan, an officer of the 2016 batch... More On P6

...UTTARAKHAND TRAGEDY

Fate Of Kashmiri Engineer Remains Unknown

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: The fate of a Kashmiri engineer, who went missing after a glacier burst wreaked havoc in Uttarakhand on Sunday, remains unknown even as his family have joined the rescue operation to trace their loved one.

Basharat Ahmad Zargar, a resident of Soura here, was working on a privately owned Rishi Ganga power project (130 Mw), which is on the upper stream of the Alaknanda river site and was the first to face the brunt of the avalanche.

"There is little hope that our brother can be alive, but miracles do happen," Zargar's brother Shabir Ahmad told Kashmir Observer from Uttarakhand on phone.



Besides Zargar, hundreds of people, including labourers went missing after a glacier break triggered a surge of water in the Alaknanda river system.

As soon as Zargar's family heard about the incident, Ahmad along with his nephew Saliq Zargar embarked on the journey to trace his missing brother. "The rescue... More On P6

LG Seeks 'Qualitative Improvement' In Kashmir University Functioning

Observer Monitoring Desk

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday asked the Kashmir university administration to prepare a roadmap for bringing in qualitative improvement in the overall functioning of the institution.

Chairing the 81st Kashmir university council meet at the Raj Bhavan here, Sinha called on academia to identify the challenges in the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 and prepare a plan accordingly, thus making the higher education sector effective, result-oriented, and more vibrant.

The Lt Governor, who is also the chancellor of the university, also directed the administration to strengthen its



research ecosystem, upgrade infrastructural facilities, and academic and research programmes with a special focus on most recent advancements. He sought a detailed report on the activities and initiatives launched by the varsity and advised it to take comprehensive measures for strengthening

academic and research environment in the varsity.

Talat Ahmad, Vice-Chancellor, University of Kashmir apprised Sinha regarding the various administrative, academic, financial, and examination related reforms and research breakthroughs made by the varsity... More On P6

DC Cannot Suspend Tehsildar Without Govt Approval: HC

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Thursday quashed an order by Administrative Tribunal by virtue of which it had rejected plea by Tehsildar Bari Brahmana, a KAS officer, who was placed under suspension by the Deputy Commissioner Samba in 2019.

"We are of the view that the learned Tribunal has clearly erred in holding that the (Deputy Commissioner, Samba), had the requisite jurisdiction to place the petitioner (Qaiser Mehmood), a member of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service, under suspension, that too without approval of the competent

authority in the Government," a bench of Justices Ali Mohammad Magrey and Puneet Gupta said, adding, "That being so, the order dated 3rd of February, 2021, as passed by the learned Tribunal, is set aside."

He held that it is the appointing authority or any authority to which it is subordinate or any other authority empowered by the Government that has got the powers to place an employee under suspension where an inquiry into his conduct is contemplated or is pending or a complaint against him/her of any criminal offence is under investigation or trial.

"In the instant case, risking repetition, it must be noted that the Deputy Commissioner, admittedly, is not... More On P6