

# KASHMIR OBSERVER

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P3 NEWS

## DAL LAKE FIGURES AMONG 12 SWACHH ICONIC PLACES

Dal Lake has figured among 12 Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) initiative of Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) launched by the Department of Drinking...

P7 THINK

## ONLINE JOB PORTALS AND JOB SEEKERS

Soon after COVID19 emerged all over the world, people faced various losses whether in business, life or jobs. Everyone was preoccupied with just staying alive and protecting their families from this deadly...



P11 SPORTS

## 'MODERN DAY LEGEND' ASHWIN BECOMES 4TH INDIAN TO TAKE 400 TEST WICKETS

Ravichandran Ashwin on Thursday became only the fourth Indian and sixth spinner in the world to take...



## Quote!

The art of being wise is knowing what to overlook

— William James

## NEWS DIGEST

### J&K Logs 108 New Covid-19 Cases

SRINAGAR: Thirty-seven travellers were 108 new covid-19 cases even as there was no death due to the pestilence in the last 24 hours in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Thursday. They said that 31 of the fresh cases were reported from Jammu and 77 from Kashmir Valley, taking the total case tally to 126201. Giving the district wise details, officials said, Srinagar reported 47 cases, Baramulla 7, » More On P10

### Minor Dies Of 'Convulsion' In Handwara

SRINAGAR: A minor on Thursday died of 'convulsion' in Handwara area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district. Four-year-old Ahraan Rizwan, son of Muhammed Rizwan Wani, a resident of Kultoor village of Langate Handwara was suffering from cough and fever, his family said. Hospital sources told news agency KNT that the child was brought dead to the hospital. They said prima facie the » More On P10

### 'Militant' Warns Sarpanch, Police Files Case

SRINAGAR: Police have filed a case against an unknown 'militant' after he allegedly threatened a Sarpanch in central Kashmir's Budgam district and asked him to resign from his post. Ghulam Hasan Rasray, a Sarpanch from Chewa Beerwah registered a complaint with police claiming that an unknown militant threatened him over telephone and asked him to resign from his post or else face the consequences, news agency KNT reported Thursday. » More On P10

### ACB Charges Tehsildar After 7 Years

SRINAGAR: The Anti Corruption Bureau on Thursday produced a charge sheet against Fayaz Ahmad, the then Naib Tehsildar, Sopore, in a "successful trap" case registered almost seven years ago. The ACB had lodged the case (FIR No. 01/2019) under section 5(1) (d) r/w 5(2) JK PC Act, Svt. 2006, 4 (A) Amendment Act 2014 following a written complaint. The charge sheet was filed before the Court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption » More On P10

### ED Conducts Raids For Second Day

SRINAGAR: Enforcement Directorate (ED), on Thursday resumed its raid for the second consecutive day at the residential house of a National Conference leader's son in Shivpora area of the city. ED sleuths accompanied by local Police raided the house of National Conference leader's son Shami Singh Oberoi located in Batwara area of Srinagar, news » More On P10

## LG Picks Top IRTS Officer For Industrial Outreach

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha has picked top Indian Railway Traffic Service officer Ranjan Prakash Thakur to help him in the Union Territory's industrial outreach. Thakur has been appointed as "Principal Secretary to the Government, Industries and Commerce Department," an order issued by the J-K government said on Thursday. Some weeks

back, Sinha had asked the Union Home Ministry to help select highly-rated officers to assist him. Sinha had last month announced a new industrial policy for Jammu and Kashmir, aimed at developing industries and bringing in big-time investments to the Union Territory in the next two years. Thakur will help drive that policy. While a railways officer (IRTS, 1990 batch) who has been ED (Tourism & Catering) and Divisional » More On P10

### LG Orders Withholding Salary Of Director SWD

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday directed for withholding the salary of the social welfare department's director in Kashmir for delaying the release of salary of teachers working in a special school. Expressing his dismay over the » More On P10

## Armistice At LoC: 'All Eyes On Backchannel Diplomacy Now'

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: Unlike last fall when the frontier flare-up badly bled his clan on the cutting edge known to explode every now and then, Abdul Rehman, 68, felt relieved on February 25, 2021, when he took a walk around his hamlet in Uri's Sultan Deki.

The elder's sense of relief came after armistice was announced by the two warring armies on the Line of Control

(LoC)—the bloodline dividing Kashmir into two halves.

"I hope we won't be running for our lives again after this announcement," Rehman said. "We want peace to prevail, as we have paid through our bodies and body parties to populate this hostile zone."

At least, now, said Irshad, a villager from Uri's Kamalkote area, his people won't be living under the constant shadow of shell pounding.

"It's painful to lose your



File Photo

loved ones in this madness," he said. "Let's hope this be a new dawn in our lives."

The same sense of relief was felt at the "godforsaken" heights of Teetwal, where Indo-Pak troops stand guard with war-stores.

"Today's announcement revived our memories of the 2003 ceasefire," said Mushtaq Bhat, a social worker of Teetwal. "If only these guns disappear from our lives, we would thrive just like the olden times."

Revival of 2003 Ceasefire?

After LoC became a popular route to armed movement in Kashmir during 1990s, the Indo-Pak armies made it a new fire front. "Before 2003," said Lt. Gen. (ret.) DS Hooda, "the situation along the LoC was terrible."

Following years of bloody confrontations, the NDA-I led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee entered into the 2003 LoC ceasefire with Islamabad. » More On P10

## India, Pak Agree To 'Strictly Observe' All Ceasefire Pacts

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India and Pakistan on Thursday announced that they have agreed to strictly observe all agreements on ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir and other sectors, even as Indian Army officials asserted there would be no let-up in its fight against militancy or in its troop deployment along the borders.

A joint statement issued in Islamabad and New Delhi said the Director Generals of Military Operations of the two countries held discussions over the established mechanism of hotline contact and reviewed the situation along the LoC and all other sectors in a "free, frank and



File Photo

cordial" atmosphere.

"In the interest of achieving mutually beneficial and sustainable peace along the borders, the two DGMOs agreed to address each other's core issues and concerns which

have propensity to disturb peace and lead to violence.

"Both sides agreed for strict observance of all agreements, understandings and cease firing along the Line of Control and all » More On P10

### Mainstream Camp Welcomes Move

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) and the PDP on Thursday welcomed the agreement between armies of India and Pakistan on ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) and other sectors. "We welcome it and hope » More On P10

### Hurriyat Hails Truce Agreement

The Hurriyat Conference led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Thursday welcomed the agreement between armies of India and Pakistan on ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, » More On P10

## Govt Tightens Rules For Social Media

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Weeks after a spat with Twitter, the government on Thursday announced the tightening of rules governing social media and streaming companies, requiring them to take down contentious content quicker, appoint grievance redressal officers and assist investigations.

The 'Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code', that IT and Communications Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said are designed to curb misuse of social media platforms, requires WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter and other social media firms as well

as streaming services such as Netflix, YouTube and Amazon Prime Video to appoint executives to coordinate with law enforcement, disclose the first originator of the mischievous information and remove, within 24 hours, content depicting nudity or morphed pictures of women.

Any contentious content flagged by the government or legal order has to be taken down quickly.

The guidelines require social media intermediaries to appoint a resident grievance officer, who shall register complaints in 24 hours, and file monthly compliance reports. User grievances have to be resolved within 15 days. » More On P10

### ...WAHEED PARA CASE

## Police To Take Into Custody Davinder Singh

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Police will soon take into custody suspended Deputy Superintendent of Police Davinder Singh and Hizbul Mujahideen militant Naveed Babu for their custodial interrogation in a case in which PDP youth wing president Waheed-ur-Rehman Para has been arrested, officials said on Thursday.

According to documents submitted in a court, the Central Investigation Kashmir (CIK), a branch of CID mandated to probe cases under the Unlawful Activities and Prevention Act (UAPA) and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), has



informed the judge that it would be soon taking over their custody to tie up loose ends in the case.

The CIK filed the case under various sections of the UAPA last year based on "reliable and confidential sources" who said some political functionaries were misusing » More On P10

## Delimitation Panel Set To Get Extension

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Government of India is set to give extension to the tenure of delimitation commission constituted by it last year for fixing boundaries of Assembly and parliamentary segments of Jammu & Kashmir, sources disclosed.

Highly placed sources said that the panel set-up on March 6, last year is expected to get an extension of six months or one year to carry out its work.

"The Commission's work was severely hampered last year due to an outbreak of coronavirus. It couldn't even

convene its meetings. Its tenure is coming to end on March 5, 2020. So it is likely to get an extension of six months to one year," an official said.

He said the panel's work was also affected by holding of the district development council polls in J&K Union Territory in November- December last year.

"The State Election Commissioner KK Sharma couldn't take part in proceedings of the panel due to his poll-related engagements," he said, adding that before the appointment of Sharma, Hirdesh Kumar was part of the Commission » More On P10

## Kashmir's Higher Reaches To Receive More Snow: MeT

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Places like Gulmarg, Sonmarg, Zojila and Banihal may receive "half foot" of snow even as light rains or snow has been predicted across Jammu and Kashmir till the end of this month.

Sonam Lotus, Director Meteorological Department here, said that there was possibility of light rain/snow on higher reaches at scattered places of J&K. Widespread light to moderate rain with thunderstorm (hail in Jammu region) and snow on higher reaches has been forecast on

February 26.

"On February 27, there is possibility of light rain/snow on higher reaches at scattered places of J&K while there is possibility of isolated light rain or snow on February 28," he said, adding, "Places like Gulmarg, Sonmarg, Zojila, Banihal Top may receive half foot of snow." The predictability is more than 70%, he said.

Meanwhile, a meteorological department official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 7.4 degree Celsius against 4.2 degree Celsius on the previous night. The temperature » More On P10

### No Traffic On Highway Today

The Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir with the outside world, shall remain shut on Friday for maintenance and repair work, authorities said on Thursday. In a communiqué, traffic department said that no traffic shall be allowed from either direction on the highway between Nashree and Jawahar Tunnel in view of the repair work. However traffic from Jammu towards Patnitop, » More On P10