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P3 CITY

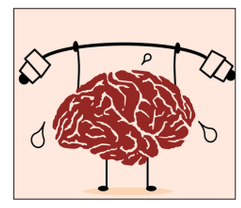
IN 5 DAYS, 50,000 VISITORS BEFALL TULIP GARDEN

Tulip garden located in the foothills of Zabarwan mountain range overlooking famous Dal Lake in Srinagar has enthralled a recorded number of almost 50,000 visitors in...

P7 THINK

7 SIMPLE HABITS TO PROTECT YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

When a patient came to see me for long standing symptoms of depression and anxiety (they often co-occur), he was hesitant at best. He wanted to feel better, but "getting treatment" didn't fit with his...



P5 STATE

FROM KASHMIR TO KANYAKUMARI IN 8 DAYS, VALLEY CYCLIST TRAVELS 3,600 KM IN EXTRAORDINARY FEAT

Adil Teli a professional Kashmiri cyclist Tuesday created history covering the 3600 Kilometers distance between...

Widom Quote!

Fortune sides with him who dares

—Virgil

NEWS DIGEST

PIA Written Balloon Found In Poonch

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir police recovered an aircraft shaped balloon with PIA written on it in Mendhar area of Poonch district, reports said Tuesday. The balloon was found near a Border Security Force (BSF) camp in Achhad area of Mankote in Mendhar on Monday evening, reports said. ● More On P10

Search Operation Conducted In Pattan

SRINAGAR: The state forces on Tuesday carried out a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Pattan area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. A joint team of Special Operations Group (SOG) of police, army's 29 RR and CRPF laid a siege around Magraypora village of Pattan on Tuesday afternoon and carried out a search operation, reports said. The search operation, reports ● More On P10

2 Hotels Damaged In Midnight Blaze

SRINAGAR: Two hotels were partially damaged in a fire that broke out during the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday at tourist resort Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. Fire erupted from one of the hotels-Hotel Crown View belonging to Farooq Ahmad Malik and Hotel Retreat & Restaurant owned by Tariq ● More On P10

39 Vehicles Without J&K Registration Seized

SRINAGAR: Police on Tuesday seized as many as thirty-nine vehicles plying without proper documents, the majority of which include the vehicles without mandatory Jammu and Kashmir registration. A police official said that the drive has been launched after directions received from authorities to make sure that all the vehicles are well-documented and any outside ● More On P10

Probe Ordered After PHCs Found Locked

JAMMU: The Poonch deputy commissioner has ordered action against errant officials after a surprise inspection found two primary health centres locked and low attendance at other facilities. On the direction of Deputy Commissioner Inder Jeet, the late-night inspection at the district hospital, sub-district hospitals (SDHs), primary health centres (PHCs) and community health centres (CHCs) ● More On P10

Imran Khan Sends Thank You Note To PM Modi

Says Peace In South Asia Hinges On Resolving Kashmir Dispute

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday responded to his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi's Pakistan Day message, saying that people of his country also desire peaceful and cooperative ties, Dawn newspaper reported.

PM Narendra Modi had written to Khan on March 23 and extended greetings to the neighbouring country on the occasion of Pakistan National Day.

In his letter, Modi said India desires cordial relations with Pakistan and underlined that an environment free of terror was ● More On P10

No Passport For Mehbooba's Mother Too

Application Rejected Over Adverse Police Report

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The passport application of Gulshan Nazir, wife of former Union home minister and two-time Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, has been rejected following an adverse police report.

Her daughter Mehbooba Mufti's application for a passport was also rejected and the PDP president had approached the Jammu and Kashmir High Court for the document but her petition was dismissed on Monday.

The mother and daughter, who had applied for fresh passports in December last year, wanted to perform "Umrah", a pilgrimage to Mecca which can be undertaken at any time of the year, according to some People's Democratic Party (PDP) leaders.

According to a letter sent to Nazir, the Regional Passport Office informed her that the Jammu and Kashmir Police's CID department has not cleared her passport application under ● More On P10

SOPORE **SHOOTOUT**

Injured Councillor Succumbs, Death Toll 3

File Photo

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A municipal councillor injured in a militant attack in Sopore town on Monday, succumbed to his injuries at a hospital here on Tuesday, taking the number of fatalities in the broad-daylight attack to three, reports said Tuesday.

Officials told Kashmir Observer that the injured councillor Shams-ud-Din succumbed to his injuries at the SMHS hospital here where he was being treated after Monday'smilitant attack.

"He had received a bullet in his abdomen. He was put on life support system, however around 4:30 am today, he breathed his last," Medical Superintendent, SMHS hospital, Dr Nazir ● More On P10

PSOs Should Have Retaliated Against Militants: IGP

AGENCIES

Admitting the security lapse in Sopore militant attack in which two Municipal Councillors and a cop were killed, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Vijay Kumar Tuesday said that had the PSO's present at the spot retaliated, militants would not have succeeded in their efforts. He said four PSOs have been suspended while as an OGW has been arrested who has revealed that the plan to carry out the attack was hatched by one LeT militant and a foreigner at his home. Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the wreath laying ceremony of a CRPF man, who was injured in Lawaypora militant attack and succumbed yesterday, at RTC Humhama here, the IGP said: "There has been some ● More On P10

Police To Revisit Existing Security Deployments

In the aftermath of recent militant attacks, IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar (IPS) chaired a security review meeting here through video conferencing with Range DIsG and district SSsP of Kashmir. DIG CKR Srinagar and SSP Srinagar attended the meeting physically at PCR Kashmir, a police spokesman said. "On the occasion, IGP Kashmir was briefed by the participating officers about the overall security scenarios in their respective areas and the security measures being adopted to counter the challenges," ● More On P10

10 KAS Officers Shifted In Minor Rejig

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: In the interest of the administration, the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha led Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday ordered transfer of 10 Kashmir Administrative Service (KAS) officers with immediate effect.

According an order issued on Tuesday, Asif Hamid Khan (KAS), Registrar, Cooperative Societies, J-K, has been transferred and posted as Member, J&K Special Tribunal (Srinagar Bench).

Rohit Khajuria (KAS), awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Vice-Chairman, Jammu Development Authority.

Babila Rakwal (KAS), Vice-Chairman, Jammu Development Authority, has been transferred and posted as Chief Executive Officer, Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA) relieving Alok Kumar, IRS, Principal Secretary to the Government, Youth Services and Sports Department of the additional charge of the post.

Rachna Sharma (KAS), Additional District Development Commissioner, Samba, has been transferred and posted as Administrator, Associated Hospitals, Jammu.

Dr. Ravi Shanker Sharma (KAS), Additional Secretary to the Government, ● More On P10

Coronavirus Spikes In J&K As 359 Test Positive

Covid-19 rules go for a toss at the famed Tulip Garden in Srinagar on Tuesday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: In what seems to be an alarming trend, Jammu and Kashmir reported on Tuesday 359 new cases of coronavirus, even as one death due to Covid-19 was also reported from the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, the cases witnessed over 100 percent jump since last week when 157 had tested positive for the infection. Also, this is for the second time that single-day cases breached 300-mark in Jammu and Kashmir. In all, nearly 2900 cases were added to the tally in the last fortnight, officials said.

Also, one death due to the virus was reported in the last 24 hours, taking the J&K's fatality count to 1990—735 in Jammu and 1255 in Kashmir.

Among the fresh ● More On P10

Srinagar Placed In Orange Zone As Cases Surge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu and Kashmir State Executive Committee on Tuesday put Srinagar district in the orange category in view of the rising number of COVID positive cases. According to an order issued by Chief Secretary B V R Subrahmanyam, who is also the chairperson of the SEC, Srinagar district has been put in orange category while the areas on either side of Jawahar Tunnel -- the gateway to Kashmir -- has been placed in red zone. Lakhanpur containment area has also been categorised in red zone with a buffer of 500 metre radius. The rest of the areas in the Union territory continue to be in the green zone as far as permitted activities are concerned. Srinagar has been the worst affected district of Jammu and Kashmir ● More On P10

Dr Farooq Tests +ve, PM Wishes Him Speedy Recovery

Veteran politician and National Conference president Farooq Abdullah tested positive for COVID-19 on Tuesday and he received wishes for speedy recovery from several leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In a tweet this morning, the National Conference (NC) leader's son Omar Abdullah informed about his father testing positive for the coronavirus and also urged everyone who came in contact with him recently to get tested. Prime Minister Modi, while replying to his tweet, wished Farooq Abdullah, a Lok Sabha member and a former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, a speedy recovery. "Praying for the good health and speedy recovery of Dr. Farooq Abdullah Ji. Also praying for your and ● More On P10

SASB Invites Religious Heads For Upcoming Yatra

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) on Tuesday extended invitations to two prominent Haridwar-based religious heads for the upcoming pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine of Amarnath in the South Kashmir Himalayas.

The 56-day Amarnath Yatra is scheduled to start through the twin routes of Pahalgam and Baltal on June 28. Principal Secretary to the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor and SASB Chief Executive Officer Nitishwar ● More On P10

Key PDP Leader From Jammu Quits Party

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: In a major setback to the PDP, its senior leader and former MLC Surinder Choudhary on Tuesday resigned from the basic membership of the party, saying it has been hijacked by "drawing-room politicians, land grabbers and land mafia" members.

He said he was leaving the party because it has been hijacked and not under the pressure of any government agency.

He claimed the Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti ● More On P10

Happiness Centre Inaugurated At IIM-Jammu

LG Calls Upon Youth To Find Inner Joy Through Meditation, Yoga

Observer Monitoring Desk

JAMMU: Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated a happiness centre at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM)-Jammu virtually on Tuesday.

The minister said that incorporating happiness in the academic curriculum is a very crucial step towards empowering the nation, and congratulated the institute for the venture.

'Anandam - the Centre for Happiness' aligns with the National Education Policy 2020, aiming to achieve holistic wellbeing for all, he said.

"This step will take our education system to new heights, similar to the times of ancient Indian universities like Nalanda and Takshashila," the minister added.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who was present on the occasion, suggested that universities and institutes invest in well-being also and replicate the model of the IIM ● More On P10

MeT Predicts Widespread Rains In J&K On April 5

Agencies

SRINAGAR: After fresh rainfall, the minimum temperatures dropped across the Kashmir even as meteorological department has forecast widespread rainfall on April 5 in J&K.

A meteorological department official said that the Srinagar received 3.2mm of rain in 24 hours till 0830 hours while mercury settled at 8.6 degree Celsius against previous night's 11.2 degree Celsius in the summer capital. The temperature was above by 2.5 degree Celsius in Srinagar for this time of the year, the official said.

Qazigund, the gateway town of Kashmir, received 2.2mm of rain and recorded a low of 6.0 degree Celsius against 7.4 degree Celsius on the previous night, he said.

Pahalgam received 6.2mm of rain while mercury settled at 2.3 degree Celsius against 7.0 degree Celsius on the earlier night at the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, received 3.6mm of rain and recorded a low of 4.3 degree Celsius against previous night's 10.7 degree Celsius, the official said.

The minimum temperature settled at 6.0 degree Celsius in Kupwara against 8.7 degree Celsius on the previous night, the official said. The north Kashmir district received 5.7mm of rain ● More On P10

HC Orders Major Reshuffle, 175 Judicial Officers Shifted

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Tuesday ordered a massive reshuffle in judiciary with 175 judicial officers transferred and posted at new places. Among them include 63 district judges.

As per an order by Registrar General, Mohan Lal Manhas, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Udhampur has been transferred and posted as Principal District & Sessions Judge, Jammu vice Sanjeev Gupta.

Mohd. Akram Choudhary, Principal District & Sessions Judge Samba has been transferred and posted as Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar vice Abdul Rashid Malik.

Rajesh Sekhri, Special Judge Anti-Corruption (CBI) Cases, Jammu has been transferred and posted as Member J&K Special Tribunal, Jammu on deputation vice Ms. Bala Jyoti.

Sanjeev Gupta, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Jammu has been transferred and posted as Special Judge, Anti Corruption (CBI Cases), Jammu vice Rajesh Sekhri.

Abdul Rashid Malik, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar has been transferred and posted as Principal District & Sessions Judge, Pulwama vice Mohd. Ibrahim Wani.

Kishore Kumar, Principal District & ● More On P10