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P3 CITY

AFTER SEVEN YEARS PHC CHANAPORA CRAVES FOR UPGRADATION

Even after spending a whopping amount of more than Rs 20 crores, the 60-bedded hospital at Housing Colony, Chanapora, Srinagar is craving for up-gradation from... Primary Health

THINK

INDIA, NEW COVID VARIANT AND RESPONSE

After genome sequencing of over 10,000 COVID-19 cases in India, researchers have discovered a new variant with two new mutations which may be better at evading the immune system....



P5 STATE

FAMILY OF CRPF PERSONNEL ABDUCTED BY NAXALS STAGE PROTEST DEMANDING HIS SAFE RELEASE

Relatives of a CoBRA commando held hostage by Naxals after a recent gun battle with security forces...



Widom Quote!

People only see what they are prepared to see

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

NEWS DIGEST

Army Repatriates Pak Boy

SRINAGAR: The Army handed over a boy to Pakistani authorities at the Titwal crossing point along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district on Wednesday, a defence spokesperson said here. Mausam, the son of Manzoor Ahmad and a resident of the Lipa area in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (Pck), was handed over to the Pakistani authorities at 11.50 am, he added. "On the night of April 5, the... More On P10

HC Quashes 3 PSA Detention Orders

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has quashed PSA detention orders against three persons and ordered authorities to set them at liberty forthwith provided they are not required in any other case. A bench of Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul quashed District Magistrate, Pulwama order dated 31 August last year by virtue of which Manzoor Ahmad Bhat of Chersoo Katipora was placed under... More On P10

Pakistani Smuggler Killed Along IB: Police

AMRITSAR: An alleged Pakistani smuggler who crossed over to the Indian territory with over 22 kg of heroin was shot dead along the International Border (IB) here in a joint operation by the Amritsar rural police and the BSF, officials said on Wednesday. With this, the police claimed to have busted a major narco-militant module. Based on inputs about the movement of Pakistani smugglers towards the Indian territory... More On P10

2 Dead As Oil Tanker Falls Into Gorge

JAMMU: Two men were killed and two injured when an oil tanker skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, police said on Wednesday. The tanker was on its way to Dugga from Reasi and the accident occurred at Karka late on Tuesday night when the driver lost control over the vehicle while negotiating a blind curve, a police official said. He said rescuers immediately swung... More On P10

Leopard Captured In Doda

JAMMU: A leopard was captured by the wildlife department on Wednesday after hectic efforts lasting over six hours in a village in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. The leopard ventured into Pranoo village from the nearby forest around 8.30 am and was noticed by some local labourers working on construction of a road, the officials said... More On P10

Search Operation In Srinagar Ends After 18 Hours



Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Eighteen hour long search operation which was launched on Tuesday evening in Gulab Bagh area in the outskirts of Srinagar was called off on Wednesday after no militant was found.

A senior police officer said that a joint team of Police

and CRPF launched a cordon and search operation in Gulab Bagh on Tuesday evening after receiving specific information about presence of two militants.

The police officer further said that it was a huge building due to which it took us long time to carry out searches. Some tear... More On P10

Militants Attack Naka Party In Shopian

Unidentified militants on Wednesday attacked a checkpoint manned jointly by police and paramilitary CRPF in south Kashmir's Shopian district. According to the reports, unknown militants opened fire towards a checkpoint of the joint forces in Imamsahib area of the district on Wednesday afternoon. The militants, reports said, fired shots towards the state forces before making a quick exit. However, no loss of life or property was reported in the militant attack. Soon after the incident, the state forces cordoned off the area to nab the attackers.

J&K Film Policy To Be Among The Best In The Country: LG



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said that Jammu and Kashmir film policy will be among the best in the country and all the stakeholders would be taken onboard while finalizing it.

Chairing a high level meeting to review the proposed J&K Film Policy-2021, here at Civil Secretariat Sinha had point wise discussions on measures needed to be incorporated to attract and facilitate the filmmakers coming to the UT, besides maximizing the potential of promising local film sector

and talents for transforming J&K into the most preferred film destination, an official spokesperson said.

"J&K Film Policy will be among the best in the Country and all the stakeholders would be taken onboard while finalizing it," LG said, as per the official spokesperson.

The LG, he said, advised the concerned officers to consult the renowned names in the Indian Film Industry to seek and incorporate their suggestions.

"He also emphasized on streamlining the Single Window Clearance & Facilitation... More On P10

We Support Direct India, Pak Dialogue: US

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: The United States on Tuesday said that it encourages India and Pakistan to have a direct dialogue between them on issues of concern.

However, the State Department refrained from commenting on the recent decision of the Pakistani Cabinet not to import sugar and cotton from India.

"I wouldn't want to comment on that specifically," State Department spokesperson Ned Price told reporters at his daily news conference.

"What I would say is that we continue to support direct dialogue between India and Pakistan on issues of concern," Price said in response to a question.

In a volte-face, Pakistan's Cabinet on April 1 rejected the proposal of a high-powered committee to import cotton and sugar from India, with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi asserting that there can be no normalisation of ties until New Delhi reverses its decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir... More On P10

Corona Cases Shoot Up In J&K, 812 Test Positive

Deadly Infection Claims Six More Lives

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday recorded its highest single-day spike this year as 812 new COVID-19 cases, including 257 travellers, taking the tally to 1,34,827, even as six fresh deaths due to the virus in the past 24 hours took the toll to 2,018, officials said.

Of the fresh cases, 347 were from Jammu division and 465 from Kashmir division of the Union territory, they said.

This is the highest number

of single day cases reported in Jammu and Kashmir this year so far.

The UT had less than 1,000 active cases on March 15 while the number of fresh cases crossed the three-digit mark from March 16.

The officials said Srinagar district recorded the highest of 238 cases, including 57 travellers, followed by 138 in Jammu and 79 in Udhampur district.

For the first time in past several months, all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir have reported fresh COVID cases.

The number of active cases has now breached... More On P10

Two ITI Staffers, 6 Students Test Positive

Two staffers besides six students of an ITI centre have tested positive for novel Coronavirus on conduct of Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) in Tral in south-Kashmir's Pulwama district. A medical official said that as per guidelines, employees and students of an ITI centre in Tral were tested for the infection through Rapid Antigen Test technique. "During the course of testing, two staffers alongside... More On P10

Dr Farooq Discharged From Hospital

Veteran politician and National Conference president Farooq Abdullah was on Wednesday discharged from a Srinagar hospital, where he was admitted last week as a precautionary measure after testing positive for COVID-19, officials said. Abdullah, a former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, was discharged as doctors were of the opinion that he could recover at home since all his parameters were fine, they said. The NC president will... More On P10

IGP Cautions Media: 'Don't Come Closer To Encounter Sites'

Directs SSPs Asked To Take Legal Action Against Violators

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Zone, Vijay Kumar on Wednesday said that he has issued written directions to all district SSPs to take legal action based on facts in case any media person comes closer to the encounter sites or "law and order" situations.



"I have already issued written directions to all district

SSPs yesterday. District SSPs will take legal action on facts," the IGP told a local news agency GNS.

When asked who comes under this advisory, IGP said it implies for both national as well as for local media outlets.

Yesterday he said that the media persons should not carry any live coverage of any encounter or... More On P10

Kashmir Media Anguished Over IGP's Remarks

The media bodies in Kashmir on Wednesday expressed anguish over the comments attributed to Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar cautioning journalists not to come closer to encounter sites and law and order situations. In a joint statement issued here, a dozen media associations said on... More On P10

Cop, Ex-Soldier Among 4 Held Over Minor's Rape

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday arrested four people, including a cop and a retired soldier over the rape of a minor in south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

According to a police spokesperson, a written complaint was filed by an individual at the police station Qazigund alleging that her daughter was raped by three persons at Bonigam Qazigund with the help of a woman of Damjen area. He said that the offence as per the complainant surfaced during the course of a medical examination where



she was found pregnant.

"On the receipt of the complaint, a case FIR No. 61/2021 under relevant sections of law was registered and investigation was... More On P10

Tricolour Hoisting Reflects Govt's Insecurity: Mehbooba

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday said that the Jammu and Kashmir administration's directions to hoist the national flag on all government buildings in the union territory reflect a sense of insecurity as no such order has been issued anywhere else in the country.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had asked officials to hoist the tricolour on all government buildings in Jammu and Kashmir late last month. The administration also directed all deputy commissioners and divisional heads of



departments to implement the LG's order within a fortnight.

"This shows their sense of insecurity... the sense of uncertainty. Why are such orders being issued in Jammu and Kashmir only? In other parts, the governor... More On P10

RICH IN VALUE, POOR IN USE

Kashmir's Medicinal Plants Withering

Swati Joshi

Behind those quiet visits of god-men or roaming foreigners in Kashmir jungles, a paper in Shodhganga (a reservoir of Indian thesis) reveals, were around 3,000 medicinal plant species dotting the length and breadth of the valley.

The hunt for natural antidotes in the woods of the region are still underway and sustaining the medical industry.

"Kashmir forests are valued for their rich medicinal plant species,"

says Rafiq Khan, an environmentalist. "No wonder why in the times of yore those Indian Sadhus would frequent our jungles to take home Jadibuti."

Apart from jungles, the larger landscape houses many plant species found in many ancient treatises. For example, Kusthah (Saussurea Costus) is mentioned for its anti-fever properties.

As a well-known medicinal plant of Kashmir, Kusthahis are found in high mountains. It's a robust, perennial 3-4 feet tall shrub,

with membranous and irregularly toothed leaves that require a humid and cool climate.

It possesses properties to relieve skin diseases and is recommended for rejuvenation of every part of the body.

A combination of Kusthah with gold, honey, long pepper, and sweet flag is an excellent tonic to boost the mental and physical development of children.

The perennial shrub is used in the treatment of bronchial asthma besides fever, cough, and leprosy.

Inulin (naturally occurring polysaccharides) extracted from Kusthah roots helps to develop a strong immunity.

Similarly, saffron (Crocus sativus) is a prominent medicinal plant deriving its name from the Arabic name "Azaferon".

It's a small herb of 25 cm in height with radical leaves... More On P10

