



Maximum : 31°C
Minimum : 17°C
Humidity : 41%

SUNSET
Today 07:46 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:23 AM



News Digest

4 New JKPSC Members Take Oath

Jammu: Four of the six newly appointed members of the J&K Public Service Commission on Monday took oath of office. Chairman, J&K Public Service Commission, B.R. Sharma, today administered oath of office to the four newly appointed members, an official spokesperson said. While two members, Subash Gupta and Sameer Bharti were administered oath at Jammu office, Syed Iqbal Aga and Showkat Ahmad Zargar took oath of office at Srinagar through video conferencing mode.

6 Rafale Jets To Arrive In India Next Month

New Delhi: India is likely to receive by July 27 the first batch of six Rafale fighter jets which are expected to significantly boost the combat capability of the Indian Air Force, people familiar with the development said. The IAF has been on a high alert for the last two weeks in view of escalation in tension with China following clashes between troops of the two countries in Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh in which 20 Indian Army personnel were killed. The two armies are locked in a bitter standoff in the region for seven weeks. ● P-02

HM Amit Shah Meets Jaishankar, Goyal

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday met External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, officials said. It is immediately not known the subjects the three ministers discussed in the meeting. The meeting comes amidst the ongoing stand-off between the Indian Army and China's PLA in Ladakh. There have been campaigns in certain quarters to boycott the China-made products in view of the stand-off.

SKIMS Discharges 10 More After Recovery

Srinagar: At least ten Covid-19 patients on Monday were discharged from SKIMS, Bemia here after recovering fully from the deadly disease. According to an official spokesperson, 10 patients who were admitted at SKIMS, Bemia after found positive for Covid-19, were discharged today after successful completion of treatment and testing negative. "With this the number of COVID-19 recovered patient's moves to 479 out of total COVID positive admitted patients numbering 610 till date," the official spokesperson said. "The recovery rate at present is more than 78.5 percent and with four fatalities the mortality ● P-02

Rs 1.7L Penalty Imposed On 2 JKSRTC Conductors

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation on Monday imposed a total penalty of over Rs 1.7 lakh on its two conductors and suspended the services of a driver for negligence of duty, an official statement said. Managing Director, JKRTC, Angrez Singh Rana issued these orders on the recommendations and reports submitted by general managers (operation) of Jammu and Kashmir, it said. In view of magnanimity of offence, a total of Rs 1,70,553 penalty has ● P-02

HC Allows J&K Bank To Open Online Registration For 1850 PO, BA Posts

Agencies
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Monday allowed the J&K Bank to make available the link for online registration of candidature by the prospective candidates pursuant to a fresh notification for 350 probationary officers and 1500 banking associates vacancies. "The law being that mere participation in the recruitment process does not confer any right of appointment on a candidate, the Court is of the opinion that even if candidature of prospective candidates pursuant to the fresh notification dated 01.06.2020 is registered and the selection process is allowed to be completed upto a certain stage, it would not confer any right of appointment on such candidates," a bench of Justice Ali Mohammad

Ailing Geelani Throws Surprise, Quits Hurriyat

Observer News Service

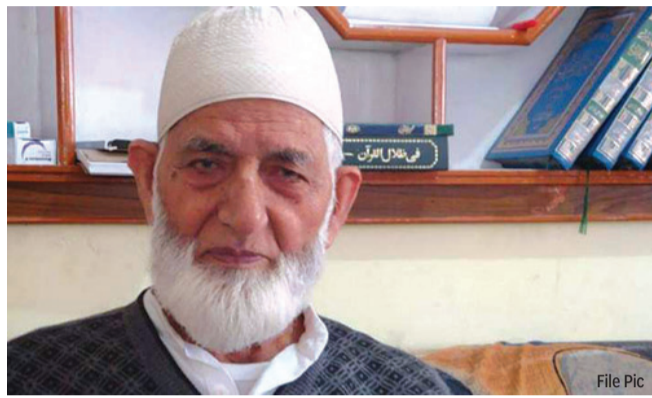
SRINAGAR- Hurriyat Conference (G) chairman Syed Ali Shah Geelani on Monday announced his dissociation from the faction of the Hurriyat Conference that he floated in 2003 by enforcing a vertical split in the amalgam.

In a four-line letter and an audio message to the media, a spokesperson for the 90-year-old leader said, "Geelani has announced complete dissociation from Hurriyat Conference forum."

Geelani has written a detailed letter to all constituent parts of the amalgam about the reasons behind his decision to leave the Hurriyat Conference, of which he had been nominated as a lifetime chairman, he said.

Geelani said the activities of Hurriyat Conference members currently in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PcK) were being investigated by the amalgam for various allegations.

"The activities of these representatives were limited now to seeking access to assemblies and ministries for joining the government there (PcK). Some members were expelled while others started holding their own meetings. These ac-



Madhav Blames Geelani For Kashmir Quagmire

The BJP said on Monday that Syed Ali Shah Geelani, who has announced his dissociation from the Hurriyat Conference, was singularly responsible for pushing Kashmir into militancy and ruining lives of thousands of Kashmiri youths and families. Coming down heavily on the ailing leader, BJP general secretary Ram Madhav asked if Geelani's action can absolve him of the "past sins". "This man was singularly responsible for ruining the lives of thousands of Kashmiri youths and ● P-02

activities were endorsed by you (constituents) by holding a meeting here to endorse their decisions." Geelani said in his two-page letter.

He referred to inaction by the Hurriyat members post the abrogation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, and the division of the erstwhile state into two Union territories.

THE LACK OF DISCIPLINE AND OTHER SHORTCOMINGS WERE ignored and you did not allow a robust accountability system to be established over the years but today, you have crossed all limits and indulged in rebellion against the leadership,"

Pak Troops Shell Army Posts Along LoC

SRINAGAR: Pakistani troops opened unprovoked fire at Indian positions along the Line of Control (LoC) in Tangdhar sector of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday in violation of a ceasefire agreement, an army official said. "On 29 June 2020, in the evening hours, Pakistan initiated an unprovoked ceasefire violation along the LoC in Tangdhar (in north Kashmir's Kupwara district) by firing mortars and other weapons," the official said.

He said befitting response was being given to the Pakistani fire.

There were no reports of any casualties so far. ● PAGE 02

Hizb Commander Among 3 Militants Killed In Anantnag Encounter

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Three militants, including a Doda native on Monday were killed in a firefight with government forces in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Acting on a specific input about the presence of militants, special operations group (SOG) of police, army's 19 RR and CRPF laid a cordon around Khulchohar area of the district and started a search operation, a police spokesperson said. The militants hiding in the village fired upon the search party drawing retaliation from them.

"In the ensuing encounter, 3 militants were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter. The identification and ● PAGE 02

Police Declares Doda 'Militancy Free'

Doda district in Jammu and Kashmir has become "militancy free" as the last of the surviving militants in the area was killed in an encounter with state forces in Anantnag district on Monday, police said. "With today's operation at Khull Chohar in Anantnag by Anantnag Police along with 19 RR, CRPF in which two LET (militants) including one district commander and one ● P-02

Militants Fire UBGL Towards Army Camp

Unidentified militants on Monday made a failed attempt to attack an army camp in Chattergam area of central Kashmir's Budgam district. Unknown militants fired an under barrel grenade launcher (UBGL) towards an army's 50 RR camp in Chattergam area of the district on Monday evening, a police official said. However, the grenade, he said landed outside the ● P-02

Businessman Mubeen Shah Booked For Sedition

Observer News Service



SRINAGAR: Police on Monday slapped sedition case against prominent businessman and former president of Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) Dr Mubeen Shah over a

social media post in which he had flagged concerns over the newly introduced domicile laws.

According to reports, a case of sedition has been filed against Shah at the Ram Munshibagh police station over his social media post in which he had advocated boycott and ouster of non-Kashmiris over fears of demographic changes due to the new domicile laws.

"Yes, we have lodged a case against him (Shah). Law will take its own course," said Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar Dr Haseeb Mughal.

In the post that went viral on popular social networking ● PAGE 02

2 More Covid-19 Deaths In Kashmir, Toll In J&K Reaches 96

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Two more people died of coronavirus at a hospital here on Monday, taking the number of fatalities caused by the virus to 96 in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

A 65-year-old Covid-19 positive man from south Kashmir's Shopian district died at the SMHS hospital here on Monday morning.

A resident of Sujan Shopian, the sexagenarian was admitted to the SMHS hos-

Newborn, 5 Security Men Among 144 Test Positive

Jammu and Kashmir on Monday recorded 144 new cases of Covid-19, including a six-day-old baby, three CRPF men and two army soldiers, raising the total number of infected persons across the Union Territory to 7237. "144 new Covid-19 cases were detected in J&K. While 99 of them are from Kashmir, 45 are from Jammu," the officials said. ● P-02

The patient was hypertensive and had breathlessness besides other ailments. He died at 1:30 a.m. today," he said. Later in the day, SMHS reported death ● PAGE 02

LADAKH STAND-OFF India, China Corps Commanders To Hold Talks Today



It will be the third round of Lt General-level talks and it will take place in Chushul sector on the Indian side of Line of Actual Control. The meeting is scheduled to start at 10:30 am, the sources said. The first two meetings had taken place at Moldo on the Chinese side of the LAC. In the second round of talks on June 22, the two sides ● PAGE 02

India Keeps Eye On Chinese Activity In Indian Ocean
The Navy has increased its surveillance missions and beefed up operational deployment in the Indian Ocean region in the wake of India's seven-week bitter border standoff with China in eastern Ladakh, people familiar with the development said. ● P-02

Despite India's Objection, Pak To Hold Elections In Gilgit-Baltistan

GB Election Commission Will Hold Elections On August 18

approved August 18, 2020, as the poll day for general elections to the Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) Legislative Assembly, according to a statement from the President House. The GB Election Commission will hold the elections in 24 constituencies, according to the statement. The Gilgit-Baltistan order of 2018 provided for administrative changes, including authorising the Prime Minister of Pakistan to legislate on an array of subjects. India last month issued a demarche to a senior Pakistani diplomat in New Delhi and lodged a strong protest over the apex court ruling. India also clearly ● PAGE 02

Delhi Court Seeks Tihar Jail Reply On Shahir Shah's Plea

NEW DELHI: A Delhi Court Monday sought response from Tihar jail authority on a plea of Hurriyat leader Shahir Shah, arrested in two separate cases of alleged militant financing, seeking a separate cell in Tihar central jail in the wake of coronavirus pandemic. Special Judge Dharmendra Rana issued notice to the jail superintendent with a direction to file the reply by July 1. In an application, Shah's advocate Qausar Khan submitted that the accused was suffering from various ailments, including heart disease, and that his immunity was ● P-02

Interview: 'Following CPEC, China Desiring A Greater Role In Kashmir'

By Saumy Tripathi

AMID Ladakh standoff, China has once again sought to raise the Kashmir issue at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The development took place days after a certain Beijing-based think tank linked the August 5 events in Kashmir with the ongoing faceoff — that already saw the two nations raising war-rooms at Line of Control (LAC).

Following these developments closely, Manoj Kewalramani, known for his twitter handle "theChinaDude", is being sought as a Chinese expert on various platforms today.

A Fellow-China Studies at the Takshashila Institution, Bangalore, Kewalramani has in his name a



reckoning research titled the role of the US post 9/11 and its effects on the Kashmir issue. But before becoming a policy analyst, he had his journalistic stints

with NDTV, NewsX and CCTV news China, where he worked as a Senior Editor, Digital News. His experience of working with CCTV has given him an insight into the workings of the Chinese state. He publishes a weekly brief called Eye on China for more than two years which tracks development in China. In an exclusive chat with Kashmir Observer, Kewalramani talks about the current confrontation and its impact on the Kashmir issue. **As a Chinese expert, do you also see a link between the recent LAC attacks and the internal pressure faced by Xi Jinping on his handling of the COVID-19 crisis?** I'm not of the opinion that the current escalation in tensions along the LAC is linked to domestic pressure faced by the Chinese Communist Party with regard to its handling of the Covid-19. If this were to be the case, we would've seen greater media coverage to stoke na-

tionalism. Instead, party-state media has generally followed the official line and been fairly circumspect this time, unlike its behaviour during the 2017 Doklam incident. That said, it's highly likely that the casualties following the clashes in Galwan would've had some impact in terms of elite politics. **A recent report by the Chinese think tank CICIR titled 'India blinded by double confidence' says that the recent tensions have their links in the abrogation of Article 370 by India. As somebody who tracks Beijing's politics closely, how valid is this reasoning?** I don't believe we can locate the cause of the current crisis to one specific issue or decision. But ● PAGE 02