



Maximum : 29°C
Minimum : 13°C
Humidity : 39%

SUNSET
Today 06:32 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:17 AM

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News Digest

Unexploded Mortar Shells Defused

Jammu: Four unexploded live mortar shells fired by Pakistan army during the ceasefire violation along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district were detected and destroyed by the Army on Friday, official sources said. On the information provided by the villagers about unexploded mortar shells fired by Pakistan targeting Balakote hamlet along the LoC on Thursday, a bomb disposal squad team rushed to the area, they said. The team detected and destroyed the shells in the operation. ● P-02

Hideout Busted In Kupwara: Army

Srinagar: A militant hideout was busted in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday and arms and ammunition recovered, the Army said. A search operation was launched on Friday afternoon in the Kandi forest area of Kupwara in north Kashmir based on a specific input, an Army official said. He said during the search operation, a hideout was busted. The forces recovered an AK 47 rifle, a grenade launcher and two hand grenades from the hideout, the official said. He said the search operation was in progress.

Police Arrests Four 'Gamblers' In Bandipora

Srinagar: Police in north Kashmir's Bandipora on Friday claimed to have arrested four gamblers in a raid in Saderkoot Payeen area of Ajas. Acting on an input, a team from Police post Ajas raided a gambling site at Saderkoot Payeen Ajas and apprehended four gamblers, a police spokesperson said Friday. He said an amount of Rs 6,250 besides playing cards were seized from the gamblers. The police spokesperson identified the accused as Abdul Majeed Dar and his brother Ali Mohamad Dar of SK Payeen, Mohamad Afzal Rather of SK Bala and Bilal Ahmad Ganie. ● P-02

Man Held 12 Years After Road Accident

Jammu: A man wanted in a hit-and-run case for 12 years was arrested in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Friday, police said. Based on specific information, a police team conducted a raid in Chhaja village in tehsil Mankote and arrested accused Nazakat Hussain, they said. Hussain had been evading arrest since 2008 in a case of rash driving and causing hurt to people, the police said. A court had already issued an arrest warrant against him, they said. The accused was produced before the court after the completion of all legal formalities, they said.

Rs 65000 Fine Slapped On Brick Kiln Owners

Srinagar: The authorities on Friday slapped a fine of Rs 65,000 against few brick kiln owners who were found involved in selling bricks at exorbitant rates in south Kashmir's Pulwama district. Acting upon the instructions given by Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr Raghav Langer a team comprising Assistant Controller Legal Metrology and officials from Revenue Department today conducted a surprise visit of brick kiln units which were selling bricks at exorbitant rates, an official spokesperson said. The team while inspecting

...SHOPIAN 'FAKE ENCOUNTER'

Army Admits 3 Slain Youth Were Rajouri Residents

Order Disciplinary Proceedings Against Troops For Exceeding AFSPA Powers

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Army has found "prima facie" evidence its troops "exceeded" powers under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act during an encounter in Kashmir's Shopian district in which three men were killed in July this year and has initiated disciplinary proceedings, officials said on Friday.

On July 18, the Army claimed three militants were killed in Amshipura village in the higher reaches of south Kashmir's Shopian district.

Committed to ethical conduct during anti-militancy operations, the Army initiated an inquiry after social media reports indicated the three men were from Rajouri district in Jammu and had gone missing at Amshipura, said Col Rajesh Kalia, the defence spokes-



Disciplinary Action Must Be Transparent: Omar

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Friday said the process of disciplinary action against those found guilty of killing three young men from Rajouri in an alleged fake encounter in Shopian should be transparent. "The families of the three murdered men had

person in Srinagar. The probe was completed in a record four weeks. The families of the three men

THE INQUIRY HAS BROUGHT OUT CERTAIN PRIMA facie evidence indicating that during the operation, powers vested under the AFSPA 1990 were exceeded and the Do's and Don'ts of Chief of Army Staff as approved by the Supreme Court have been contravened.

Woman Injured As Guns Roar Along LoC

JAMMU: A woman was injured as India and Pakistan troops traded gunfire for the second consecutive day Friday along the Line of Control (LoC) in Bandipora and Poonch districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials said Friday that Pakistan army continued ceasefire violations for the second straight day by resorting to heavy firing and mortar shelling in forward areas along the LoC in Poonch district, officials said.

Indian Army retaliated befittingly to the Pakistani aggression, they added. ● P-02

Pak Summons Indian Diplomat

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday summoned a senior diplomat from the Indian High Commission here to register its protest over the alleged ceasefire violations by the Indian forces along the Line of Control (LoC).

The Foreign Office in a statement said that Indian forces resorted to "indiscriminate and unprovoked firing" in the Hotspring and Jandrot sectors on Thursday, resulting in serious injuries to 15-year-old Irum Riaz; ● P-02

LADAKH FACE-OFF

Chinese, Indian Troops In Rifle Range

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Despite the Indian and Chinese foreign ministers agreeing to reduce tensions along the disputed border, both the countries troops are in rifle range at four locations at Pangong Lake in Eastern Ladakh, a senior official in the security establishment said.

Worryingly, the eyeball-to-eyeball deployment, at least in one place, is at a place where troops had disengaged previously after military-level talks. And the fresh eyeball-



to-eyeball deployment comes at a time when China is yet to indicate the date for the next senior military-level talks.

"At these places, troops and materials are just a few hundred meters away," the source said, adding they are at

AT THESE PLACES, TROOPS AND materials are just a few hundred meters away," the source said, adding they are at three locations on the southern bank of the lake and one on the northern bank.

Govt's High-Power China Study Group Reviews Situation

The government on Friday carried out a comprehensive review of the overall situation in eastern Ladakh including India's operational preparedness in view of the continued belligerence by the Chinese army and its fresh attempts to "intimidate" Indian troops in the region, government sources said. ● P-02

Naib Tehsildars Authorised To Issue Domicile Certificates

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday authorised Naib Tehsildars to issue domicile certificates to PRC holders and their family members across the Union Territory.

The decision regarding it was taken by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha during a meeting while reviewing the working of revenue department and the Auqaf, an official spokesperson said. He said that to speed up the process, LG announced to authorise Naib Tehsildars in addition to the Tehsildars for issuing Domicile certificate to all the PRC holders and their family members on priority.

"While enquiring about the status of delivery of domicile cer-



Domicile Certificate

tificates in the UT, the LG directed to complete all long pendency by 30th September, 2020," the officials spokesperson said.

LG's advisors KK Sharma and Farooq Khan; Chief Secretary, BVR Subrahmanyam; Principal Secretary Revenue Department and Inspector General of Registration Pawan Kotwal; Principal Secretary to LG, Nitishwar Kumar; CEO Board of Directors for specified Wakafs and specified Wakaf properties, Mufti Mohammad

14 More Coronavirus Deaths In J&K, Toll 968

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: A 21-year-old youth were among fourteen more people, who succumbed to coronavirus infection in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, taking the number of fatalities due to the virus in the Union Territory to 968.

While ten more Covid-19 deaths were reported from Jammu division, the remaining four, including a 21-year-old youth from south Kashmir were confirmed by officials here.

Regarding the youth, officials said, he was a resident of Ladoo Kulgam and was admitted to SKIMS Soura on September 11 after he

had fallen from height and turned out to be Covid-19 positive later.

"He had cardiopulmonary arrest at 2 am," a doctor at SKIMS Soura said.

A 56-year-old woman from Kaloosa Bandipora died at SKIMS Bemina where she was admitted on September 2, officials said.

A 58-year-old man from Dalgate, they said, was brought to SMHS hospital where doctors declared him brought dead and on testing he turned out to be covid-19 positive.

A 67-year-old man



Covid-19 Crosses 60K Mark With 1330 New Cases

Coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday crossed 60,000 mark as 1330 more people, including 70 travellers tested Covid-19 positive in the Union Territory. While 658 fresh cases of coronavirus were reported from Kashmir Valley, the remaining 672 were confirmed by the officials from the Jammu division, officials said Friday. This is for

Hurriyat Hails UN Chief's Kashmir Statement

SRINAGAR: Welcoming the statement of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres that India and Pakistan should take steps for 'positive' settlement of Kashmir issue, Hurriyat Conference (M) on Friday said that the onus of a peaceful resolution and an end to "human rights violations" in Jammu and Kashmir lies with the global body.

In a statement issued here, a Hurriyat spokesperson said that the UN should ensure India and Pakistan resolve the issue through dialogue as per the wishes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir so that the people are not "killed" and they live with dignity.

"The onus of a peaceful resolution and an end to human rights violations in J&K lies with it," the spokesperson said. ● P-02

Pak To Raise Kashmir At UNGA

ISLAMABAD: The all important general debate of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) will be commencing from September 22 in a virtual session with zero in-person participation from anyone from outside.

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan will take part in the General Assembly in New York and will be addressing it on September 25, as detailed by Pakistan foreign office spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri during a weekly press briefing on Friday.

"The Foreign Minister will participate virtually in the high level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations," he said. As per diplomatic sources, ● P-02

LG Directs PDD To Submit 'Winter Preparedness Plan' Within A Week

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Friday directed Power Development Department (PDD) to submit a winter preparedness plan in a week besides ensuring that no unscheduled power curtailment is made in the metered areas of the Union Territory.

According to an official spokesperson, LG conducted a meeting at the Civil Secretariat here on Friday to assess the preparedness of the Power Development Department for the ensuing winter season. ● P-02



Govt Forms LG Secretariat Monitoring Cell

The J&K government on Friday accorded sanction to the establishment of 'Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat References Monitoring Cell' in the General Administration Department. It has been established for expeditious

Pvt Schools Warned For Collecting Capitation Fee

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The government on Friday directed all the private educational institutions of Jammu and Kashmir not to charge any admission fee from the students.

In an order issued, principal secretary to the government for school educational department and skill Development, Asgar Samoon also asked the private educational institutions to refund the amount to the parents which was collected by the management from November 2019 till date.

"The Fee Fixation Committee (FFC) was mandated to regulate the fee structure in private educational institutions in J&K and the committee has ordered inter-alia that



private schools shall only charge tuition fee, annual fee, transport fee, voluntary special purpose fee or any other fee as may be approved by the FFC after following the due procedures. But shall not charge, in any manner, any other fee including admission fee," the order reads.

The order further states that the FFC requested that the

In FOCUS

What Government Reports Tell About Business In Kashmir

Swati Joshi

EVEN after the removal of Article 370 which was considered a "hurdle" in the development of Jammu & Kashmir, the Naya Kashmir still lags in Ease of Doing Business (EODB) and Export Preparedness Index (EPI).

Ease of Doing Business
J&K ranks 21st in the EODB rankings released by the Department of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). The ranking is based on the implementation of Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP).

The DPIIT started a reform exercise in 2014 to rank all states and union territories in India based on some reform parameters with the aim to create a business-friendly environment.

The first report titled "Assessment of State Implementation of Business Reforms" was released in September 2015 covering the findings of reforms implemented by States/UTs under the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP).

Similar reports of the ranking came out in 2006 and 2017-18. The reforms cover 12 broad areas like labour regulation, land adminis-



For the rankings of 2019-20, the assessment is based only on the feedback from service users and industries. The respondent data is

shared by the states through the BRAP portal.

The users are then surveyed by the DPIIT to determine the efficacy of the reforms.

Under BRAP 2019-20, feedback is only sought on those reforms, which has been implemented by the states and UT.

In 2017-18, Kashmir was put under the category of "aspirants" who have implemented less than 80 percent of reforms. The combine scorecard of reform evidence and feedback of J&K was 32.76 percent.

were implemented in the region. Neighboring states of J&K- Himachal Pradesh (HP) and Punjab have implemented 175 and 178 reforms respectively. HP ranks 7th and Punjab ranks 19th in EODB.

However, the methodology used in the 2017-18 ranking is different from that of 2019.

The 2017-18 edition used state government and user feedback to compute the score, whereas in 2019 only business feedback (for whom the reforms were intended) was taken into account.

After the abrogation of Article 370, business stood standstill for a long time in Kashmir. Covid, in 2020, further dented it.

Tourism, handicrafts, and other retail businesses have incurred huge losses during the period, ● P-02