



Maximum : 25°C
Minimum : 09°C
Humidity : 38%

SUNSET
Today 05:59 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:34 AM



News Digest

Justice Magrey Named LLSA Head

Srinagar: Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey was on Monday nominated as the Executive Chairman of the Union Territory of Ladakh Legal Services Authority (LLSA). Justice Magrey was nominated following consultation between Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Ladakh, with the Chief Justice of the Common High Court for the Union Territory of J&K and Union Territory of Ladakh, an official spokesperson said. "He has been appointed to the post in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (b) of sub section (2) of section 6 of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 (No. 39 of 1987) ● P-02

SSB Trooper Shoots Self Dead

Srinagar: A paramilitary trooper of SashastraSeemaBal (SSB) ended his life by shooting himself dead with his service rifle at Handwara in north Kashmir's Kupwara district last night, officials said on Monday. A police officer said that the trooper identified as Amit Kumar of 37 Battalion took the extreme step inside a camp at Vilgam Handwara at around 2200 hours, reported news agency GNS. "Investigation has been launched to ascertain reasons as to why the trooper, a resident of UP, committed suicide," officer added.

India, Pak Troops Trade Fire

Jammu: India and Pakistani troops continued to trade fire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said Monday. Pakistani troops violated ceasefire by resorting to heavy firing and mortar shelling in forward areas in three sectors along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Monday, prompting the Indian army to give a befitting reply, they said. "At about 1445 hours today, Pak army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation ● P-02

70 Jammu Jail Inmates Free Of Covid

Jammu: Seventy-two of the 80 prisoners of the district jail here in Amphalla, who had tested COVID-19 positive over a fortnight ago, have recovered, an official said on Monday as authorities started retesting inmates and staff for the coronavirus. With 83 positive cases 80 prisoners and three staff members the jail had the highest number of COVID-19 cases among prisons in the Jammu region of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. It was followed by 51 positive cases in Kathua district jail, 50 in Rajouri district jail, 24 in ● P-02

Ex- Minister Sharief Niaz Passes Away

Jammu- Veteran Congress leader and former minister Mohammad Sharief Niaz passed away on Monday. He was 75. Party sources said that Niaz breathed his last after a brief illness in Jammu and his last rites will be performed at his native village. Born on April 24, 1944 in village Changa of Bhalessa in Doda district, Niaz was first time elected as MLA in 1987. Being a legal luminary, he was entrusted the responsibility of being the Law Minister of the J&K ● P-02

Lashkar Commander, Aide Killed In Srinagar Gunfight: Police



STATE FORCES leaving Barzulla locality after killing two militants in a gunfight on Monday. Pic AbidBhat

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: A top Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander Saifullah and his associate Irshad Ahmad Dar were killed on Monday in a fierce gunfight with government forces in Barzulla area of this capital city. According to police, the militants were killed a week after they shot dead two CRPF personnel, including an officer and injured

180 Militants, 55 Personnel Killed In 75 Ops This Year: DGP

The Jammu and Kashmir police on Monday claimed to have killed 180 militants of different outfits in 75 anti-militancy operations across the Valley this year. Addressing a news conference at Police Control ● P-02

three others in an audacious

attack in Nowgam area here. In the wee hours Monday, contingents of joint forces

launched a cordon and search operation in old Barzulla area of the uptown Srinagar after receiving what police ● PAGE 02

LADAKH STANDOFF

Another Round Of Military Talks Fail

NEW DELHI: India and China on Monday held the seventh round of high-level military talks with a sole agenda of finalising a roadmap for disengagement of troops from all the friction points in eastern Ladakh.

As the border standoff entered the sixth month, an early resolution to the row appears dim.

The talks at the Corps commander level began at around 12 noon in Chushul on the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, official sources said.

The Indian delegation is led by Lt Gen Harinder Singh, the commander of the Leh-based 14 Corps, and includes Naveen Srivastava, Joint Secretary (East Asia) in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). Close to 100,000 ● P-02

Pak, China Appear On 'Mission': Rajnath

NEW DELHI: After Pakistan, China is also creating a dispute at the border with India as if it was part of a "mission", Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday, as Indian and Chinese troops remain locked in a standoff in eastern Ladakh for over five months.

The defence minister, speaking at an online event after inaugurating 44 bridges, said India is not only facing the situations along the frontiers resolutely, but it is also bringing in major development including in border areas. ● P-02

Coronavirus Claims 11 More Lives, J&K Toll 1335

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least eleven more people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, taking the number of fatalities in the Union Territory since the outbreak of pandemic to 1335.

Kashmir valley reported six more fatalities due to Covid-19, while five more people succumbed to the virus in Jammu division. With six more deaths, the toll in the Valley due to the virus crossed 900 mark.

Among the victims from Valley included a 65-year-old man from CS Pora Anantnag, a 45-year-old from Rainawari Srinagar, a 60-year-old man from Balgarden Srinagar, a 56-year-old man from Illahibagh Srinagar, a 70-year-old man from Gurez Bandipora and an 83-year-old woman from Tahab Pulwama.

While deaths count has reached 901 in Valley, five casualties in Jammu division took the count to 434. Srinagar district with 319

Doctor, 9 Security Men Among 398 New Cases

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Monday 398 fresh cases of coronavirus, including nine security personnel besides a doctor and a minor, taking the total number of people infected by the virus in the Union Territory to 84031. Among the cases, 159 were reported from Jammu ● P-02

deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (225), Baramulla (130), Budgam (89), Pulwama (75), Kupwara (71), Anantnag (70), Kulgam (43), Bandipora (42), Rajouri (43), Doda (40), Shopian (32), Ganderbal (30), Kathua (29), Samba (24), Udhampur (23), Poonch (22), Ramban (11), Kishtwar (11) and Reasi (6), (With GNS inputs)

Flu Vaccination For Healthcare Professionals Begins

Jammu and Kashmir's health & medical education department on Monday began influenza vaccination for healthcare professionals dealing with patients infected by the coronavirus, officials said. ● P-02

BJP Terms Farooq's Remarks Seditious, Anti-National

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The BJP on Monday accused National Conference supremo Farooq Abdullah of making "seditious and anti-national" remarks on the issue of restoring the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and said he had become a "hero in China".

BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra said that the National Conference MP and former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir in an interview to a TV channel stated that "with China's support", Article 370 of the Constitution, which conferred special status to Jammu and Kashmir, will be restored.

Addressing a press conference at the party office, Patra claimed Abdullah has also justified China's recent aggression at

BJP Twisting Farooq's Remarks: NC

The National Conference (NC) Monday denied that its President Farooq Abdullah had said Article 370 would be restored with the help of China and accused the BJP of "completely twisting" his remarks ● P-02

the Line of Actual Control (LAC) by saying that the abrogation of Article 370 by the Indian parliament has irked and disturbed the communist country.

Underlining that Article 370 was abrogated in a "constitutional manner" by the Indian parliament, the BJP leader ● PAGE 02

Will Strive For Special Status, Not Statehood: PDP

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Monday reiterated that mere restoration of statehood to J&K is not going to undo the plunder of rights of its people and that the party would always strive to restore the position of August 4, 2019, as the first step towards the working out the resolution of the J&K issue in a dignified manner.

Addressing the party workers meeting of zone Khanyar-Srinagar

at the party office, PDP General Secretary Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura said that the people of J&K can't be tricked into the bargain of statehood against our special status, rights and identity.

"They want to force us into acceptance and create a sense of failure among us but let me make it clear, we will not relent in the pursuit and struggle for our agenda of resolution of Kashmir issue through dialogue and reconciliation of which the ● PAGE 02

THEY WANT TO FORCE US INTO

acceptance and create a sense of failure among us but let me make it clear, we will not relent in the pursuit and struggle for our agenda of resolution of Kashmir issue through dialogue and reconciliation of which the restoration of our special status has to be the cornerstone,"

HC Directs Uploading Of Encroachers' List On Website

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has directed the administration to upload on the official website a list of all encroachers, including influential persons, on government land.

The court said the revenue secretary and the divisional commissioners would be held liable for contempt of court if the directions were not complied.

In an order on Friday, it had ordered a CBI inquiry into the

transfer of state land to the occupants under the Roshni Act, disposing of a bunch of public interest litigations seeking a probe into alleged discrepancies in the process.

A bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Rajesh Bindal, after pointing out numerous discrepancies, issued a string of directions to the administrations.

The order said the revenue department commissioner should ensure that the information regarding ● PAGE 02

Imposes Rs 25K Costs To CEO GDA

Jammu and Kashmir High Court has granted Chief Executive Officer Gulmarg Development Authority for filing a compliance report but said it shall be done with depositing Rs 25000 costs. "There is no compliance of our order dated 12.06.2020 passed in the instant application. We have noted on that date that ● P-02

Excise Commissioner Guilty Of Contempt

JAMMU: A local court here on Monday held Jammu and Kashmir Excise Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan guilty for contempt of Court.

Second Additional District Judge Virender Singh Bhou on Monday held Shavan guilty for disobeying the court order, observing that the defense set up by him is sham and frivolous.

The judge after hearing the advocate observed that defence set up by the contemnor is thus rejected as being frivolous in the ultimate analysis, and the direction therein and as such, he is held guilty of disobedience by non-compliance of the court order and meaning to undermine the very authority of a court of law, in terms of order 39 Rule 2-A CPC. ● P-02

Business Revival In J&K LG Reviews Progress Made On Recommendations



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday sought a detailed report on a host of financial and administrative measures recommended for the revival of the business sector and directed disbursement of financial assistance

to the beneficiaries at the earliest.

In a meeting held on Monday at the Civil Secretariat here, Sinha reviewed the progress made on the recommendations of the Committee on Business revival in Jammu and Kashmir, an official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said sought a detailed report on a host of financial ● PAGE 02

In FOCUS / Before Long Winter At LAC, Farooq Abdullah's Status Quo Call To China

Mir Khanam

Political pundits are already feeding and fuelling news mills about New Delhi's fresh implementation of around a dozen new central laws in Jammu and Kashmir. Among other things, they argue, these laws only hint at a shore up resolve to undo the region's old order.

These laws came on the heels of the controversial language act and the bolstering campaign for the script change in the Muslim-majority region.

It was in this backdrop that National Conference president Farooq Abdullah—the ardent advocate of

binned autonomy of the Atal-era of NDA-I regime—blew a Beijing bugle, seeking menacing dragon's intervention in restoring pre-August 5, 2019 position in the erstwhile state.

The NC patron's mercurial political temperament apart, his newfangled political pitch, many believe, was stirred by a salvo of stories—suggesting Beijing's bitterness with the unilateral abrogation of Articles 370 and 35-A from the conflict zone. Even Abdullah is making no bones about it.

And now, as New Delhi is staring at the long frozen haul at Ladakh frontiers—where US says China has already stationed 60 thousand PLA troops—the NC president is appar-



ently fishing in troubled waters. But between the Beijing's belligerence and Farooq Abdullah's political

bidding, lies the fast-altering landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. Political commentators believe that the ongo-

ing no-holds-barred approach is only making Delhi dauntless to flip the distinctness of the region.

What's equally supporting this assertion is the speedy projects being implemented in J&K since last summer. For instance, to manage the defiant territory, the administration has invoked the Public Safety Act (PSA) against 444 persons, out of which nearly 300 have been released so far.

While 51 of them were set free on the orders of J&K High Court, others were also released after administrative reviews, with the conditions that they will not issue any (political) statements.

Due to 'no carrot and only stick' policy, Union Ministry ● PAGE 02