

Maximum : 27°C
Minimum : 08°C
Humidity : 35%

SUNSET
Today 05:54 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:38 AM

OBSERVER

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News Digest

Civilian Injured In Cross-LoC Shelling

Jammu: A villager was injured when the Pakistan army on Friday resorted to heavy firing and shelling targeting forward areas and posts along the International Border (IB) and the Line of Control (LoC) in Kathua and Poonch districts of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. Pakistani rangers resorted to firing and mortar shelling along the IB in Manyari hamlet of Hiranagar sector in Kathua district, drawing retaliation from BSF troops, they said. In the shelling, Ramesh Chander of Manyari was injured, the officials said, adding that he was rushed to a nearby hospital. ● P-02

CRPF Man Killed After Vehicle Overtakes

Bandipora- A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel was killed while three others were injured after a vehicle they were travelling met with an accident in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Friday, officials said. Reports said that one Gypsy of 03 battalion CRPF skidded off the road at Nusoo crossing of Bandipora this morning, resulting in on spot death of a CRPF constable identified as Naresh Kumar and injuries to three others. The injured have been identified as Vinod Kumar, Ankit Gupta and Ravi Raj and were later ● P-02

Two KAS Officers Transferred

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday ordered transfer and posting of two KAS officers with immediate effect. According to an order issued here, Rahul Sharma (KAS), Managing Director, J&K Financial Corporation, has been transferred and posted as Excise Commissioner, J&K. Rajesh Kumar Shavan (KAS), Excise Commissioner, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Managing Director, J&K Financial Corporation, the order reads.

2000 Rounds Recovered From Hideout: Police

Srinagar: Police on Friday claimed to have busted an underground militant hideout in Awantipora area of Pulwama district in Jammu and Kashmir. The underground bunker was constructed by militants near the bank of Jhelum river inside a plant nursery at Kawani in Awantipora area and had two 8-feet high rooms and a toilet facility in it, a police official said. He said the hideout was destroyed after recovery of arms and ammunition along with other incriminating material. The recoveries include ● P-02

Ladakh Records Another Covid-19 Death

Leh: One more novel coronavirus patient died in the Union Territory of Ladakh, raising the related toll to 65 while 89 fresh cases brought the infection count to 5,393, an official bulletin said on Friday. The new fatality was registered in Leh district, the bulletin said. Of the total deaths linked to the infection, 27 are from Leh district and 38 from Kargil district, the bulletin released by the Directorate of Health Services said. Forty-nine more patients recovered from the infection, ● P-02

Return Of Spl Status Single Most Important Issue: Omar

NC Leader Takes Dig At BJP, Says 'No Government Lasts Forever'

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Hours after Jammu and Kashmir mainstream parties formed an alliance to fight for restoration of special status, former Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) Vice-President Omar Abdullah said that he will not go to Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a begging bowl as no government lasts forever.

In an interview with a New Delhi based news channel, Omar said that the newly formed People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration will continue to fight for the restoration of special status of Jammu and Kashmir, abrogated by Modi-government on August 5, 2019.

"We're not begging the government of India. Our fight is in the Supreme Court. I'm not going to go to PM Modi with a begging bowl. No government lasts forever. We will wait. We will keep the pot boiling. We will not give up," Omar told India Today's Rajdeep Sardesai.

When asked if the alliance was opportunist or political, Omar said it was a continuation of what started on August 4, 2019 when most parties ● PAGE 02



Omar Abdullah with father Dr Farooq seen here outside the residence of Mehbooba Mufti- KO File Photo

Cong Backs Gupkar Alliance, Demands Return of Art-370

The Congress on Friday demanded restoration of Article 370 and the rights of people of Jammu and Kashmir and welcomed the coming together of mainstream regional parties of the Union Territory. ● P-02

'Gupkar Alliance' Formed On Pak, China Directions: BJP

The BJP in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday alleged that the "Gupkar alliance" has been formed on directions of Pakistan and China and guided by "anti-India" forces, and warned that the alliance partners will ● P-02



Devotees offering congregational Friday prayers at an open space near river Jhelum in Srinagar.

Deserted SPO Escapes From Budgam Cordon

Local Accomplice Surrenders

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A Special Police Officer (SPO) who recently deserted his camp taking along two service rifles managed to escape from a cordon laid by army, police and paramilitary forces in Chadoora area of Budgam district today.

However, police said a local militant was captured alive while the SPO managed to give slip to government forces. Police sources said that one local militant was captured alive ● PAGE 02

Missing SSB Trooper Arrested From Rajouri

A trooper of SSB who went missing along with a magazine of his service rifle from a camp in central Kashmir's Budgam district few days back has been apprehended by police in ● P-02

6 Militant Associates Nabbed: Police

Police on Friday claimed to have arrested six over-ground workers who had provided logistic support to militants for carrying out attacks on state forces that had left five personnel dead and several others injured. Special investigation ● P-02

J&K Borrows Rs 11,000 Cr Loan To Clear Power Dues

SRINAGAR: Taking advantage of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has signed an MoU for loan assistance of more than Rs 11,000 crore against power liabilities.

The amount will be provided by Power Finance Corporation (PFC) Limited and REC Limited, an official spokesman said here on Friday.

He said an MoU in this regard was signed in presence of principal secretary Power Development Department Rohit Kansal. Kansal complimented the Power Development Corporation officials for making it happen within the shortest possible

time. He asked them to extend full cooperation to J&K for realising its potential of making J&K a power surplus territory.

The Principal Secretary also commended the PDD officials for working tirelessly to achieve this historic milestone.

He said that after receiving the entire loan amount J&K will be able to liquidate the whole liability.

Kansal also advised the distribution companies to work continuously to cut the losses so that liabilities to department do not accrue again.

An official spokesman said under ANBA-2020, J&K ● PAGE 02

7 More Coronavirus Deaths In J&K, Toll 1368

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least seven more people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, taking the number of Covid-19 related fatalities across the Union Territory to 1368.

Among the victims, five belonged to Jammu division and two others to Kashmir Valley—one from Srinagar and other from Baramulla.

Regarding Srinagar, official sources said that the victim was a 66-year-old woman from Peer Bagh, who was admitted to SKIMS Soura October 6 with bilateral

3 Doctors Among 697 More Test Positive

Forty travelers and three doctors were among 697 new covid-19 cases reported in Jammu and Kashmir in last 24 hours, taking the total tally in the Union Territory to 86754. Among the fresh cases, officials said that 312 were reported from Jammu ● P-02

Azad Tests Positive For Covid-19

Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad has tested positive for COVID-19 and has quarantined himself at home. The 71-year-old Congress leader shared the information on Twitter and ● P-02

community acquired pneumonia. Last night, they said, a 60-year-old man from Pattan Baramulla died

at the tertiary care hospital, eighteen days after he was admitted. Among others, the ● PAGE 02

Property Worth Crores Of Two Ex Govt Officials Attached

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau on Friday attached property worth crores of two former government employees, including the then Managing Director SICOP, for resorting to illegal practices during their tenure.

The assets belonging to Rakesh Kumar Pargal, the then Chief Supervisor, FCI Godown, Udhampur and former Incharge Vigilance Squad in Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs and Rattan Lal Tikoo, former MD SICOP were attached by the ACB after conducting a probe.

"On the basis of a preliminary enquiry to verify the facts that Rakesh Kumar Pargal, ● P-02

LADAKH STAND-OFF

Armed Chinese Troops At LAC 'Very Critical' Challenge: India

Press Trust Of India

NEW YORK: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday said the presence of a large number of Chinese troops with weapons at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh posed a "very critical" security challenge to India.

Jaishankar also said the violent clashes at the de facto border in the Ladakh sector in June had a very deep public and political impact, and left the relationship between India and China profoundly disturbed.

"There are today a very large number of troops (of PLA) with weapons concentrated on that segment of the border and that is obviously a very critical security challenge that we face, said Jaishankar, speaking at a virtual event hosted by the Asia Society.

Tensions had escalated manifold between India and China after the Galwan Valley clashes in eastern Ladakh on June 15 in which 20 Indian Army personnel were killed. The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) also suffered an unspecified number of casualties.

Jaishankar said India has built a relationship with China over ● PAGE 02

CANCER SOCIETY OF KASHMIR



کینسر سوسائٹی آف کشمیر

Website: www.cancersocietykashmir.org E-mail: cancersocietyofkashmir@gmail.com

Ref. No. CSK/ELECTION-40/2020/5939
Dated: 13-10-2020

Notice

All the founder & life members of the Cancer Society of Kashmir are informed that the election for the following honorary Office-Bearers of the Cancer Society of Kashmir are scheduled to be held on 02-NOV-2020 at the office of the society 4-Bagh-i-Islam Colony Lal Nagar, Chanapora Srinagar:-

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|------|
| 1. | Chairman | One. |
| 2. | Vice-Chairmen | Two. |
| 3. | General Secretary | One. |
| 4. | Joint-Secretary | One. |
| 5. | Treasurer | One. |

The Dates For Process Of Elections Have Been Fixed As Under:-

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. | Filling of Nominations Papers | -: 14-10-2020 TO 20-10-2020 |
| 2. | Scrutiny of Nominations Papers | -: 22-10-2020. |
| 3. | Last date for withdrawal of nominations | -: 27-10-2020. |
| 4. | Issue of Notification for final list of contestants | -: 28-10-2020. |
| 5. | Date of Voting (From 9.30 AM to 4.30 PM) | -: 02-11-2020. |
| 6. | Counting of votes and declaration of results | -: 02-11-2020. |

--SD--

Justice (Retd.) M.Y. Kawoosa.
Election Authority

4-Bagh-i-Islam Colony Lal Nagar, Chanapora
Srinagar 190 015 Tele Fax 0194-2441899/2430899

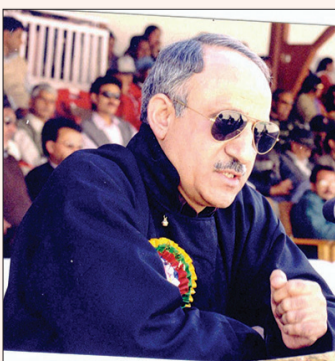
In FOCUS / Post-Script: Kashmir Lost Its 'Tourism Man'

Swati Joshi

Sudden demise of Mohammad Ashraf Batku on Tuesday night evoked massive condolences across the valley, with many calling it a passing of a man who made the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir's tourism an 'adventurous' sector.

Known as 'tourism man of Kashmir', Batku breathed his last at SKIMS, Srinagar on October 13. He had been unwell for a brief time.

The deceased was a prolific columnist and had four published books on his name. Two of them "Remember-



ing Jammu" and "Travels in Ladakh" were published in 2015.

Batku was a trained engineer before becoming an administrator.

In 1973, he tried to promote adventure tourism in J&K when he gave a project to the State Tourism Department. His accepted pitch promoted him as the in-charge of the wing.

He worked tirelessly to promote mountaineering in Kashmir. He was also a patron and current president of the Jammu & Kashmir Mountaineering and Hiking Club which is currently the oldest and also the largest hiking club in J&K.

Batku retired in 2003, after serving tourism department for 30 years. A man of grit, the former director-

general is still being remembered for introducing tourism in the arid region of Ladakh.

In 1974, when Ladakh was opened for foreign tourism, Batku was extensively involved in developing tourism in this mysterious and enchanting land beyond the Himalayas.

He was born on August 25, 1943, in a middle-class family of Srinagar's Amira Kadal locality. Batku received his schooling in many schools, from Islamia Middle School to Tyndale Biscoe School, before passing his matriculation exam from the SP Higher Secondary School. Later, he secured second position in the ● PAGE 02