



Maximum : 22°C
Minimum : 04°C
Humidity : 35%

SUNSET
Today 05:43 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:46 AM

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News Digest

3 BJP Workers Detained In City Centre

Srinagar- Three people, claiming to be BJP workers from Kupwara district of north Kashmir, were on Monday detained while trying to hoist the tricolour at the historic clock tower near the city centre here, officials said. Three people tried to hoist the tricolour at 'Ghanta Ghar' (clock tower) in the commercial hub of Lal Chowk here early Monday morning, the officials said. They said the trio, claiming to be BJP workers from Kupwara district of north Kashmir, raised slogans of 'Bharat Mata Ki Ji' and in favour of the party. ● P-02

Minor Dies Of Drowning In Bijbehara

Srinagar- A four-year-old boy drowned to death on Monday evening in Panjpora area of Bijbehara in South Kashmir's Anantnag district. Muzamil Ahmad Sheikh, son of Ghulam Hassan Sheikh of Asthan Mohalla Panjpora accidentally fell into a spring when he was riding his bicycle on the road. Soon after the incident took place, the family and neighbors of the boy started a rescue operation and removed him to Sub District Hospital (SDH) Bijbehara where doctors declared him brought dead. Medical Superintendent SDH Bijbehara Dr. B S Tulla also confirmed the death of the minor boy—(KNO)

500-Bed Children Hospital In J&K Soon

Jammu: The first-state-of-the-art hospital dedicated to children with a 500-bed capacity is coming up in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. There has been a lot of focus on maternal and child health in Jammu and Kashmir, which is evident through the declining maternal mortality rate (MMR) and infant mortality rate (IMR) in the Union Territory in recent years, they said. "First-state-of-the-art dedicated 500-bed government children hospital coming up in Jammu and Kashmir soon," Financial Commissioner Health and ● P-02

CRPF Man Posted In Pak HC Shoots Self

New Delhi: A CRPF trooper, posted for the security of Pakistan High Commission here, allegedly shot himself with his service weapon on Monday afternoon, police said. D. Rambabu, who hails from Andhra Pradesh, was rushed to AIIMS trauma centre in a critical condition. "Around 3.30 p.m., an incident of a CRPF jawan shooting himself with his service weapon was reported near the Pakistan High Commission. ● P-02

Man Held With Cannabis In Samba

Jammu: An alleged narcotics smuggler was arrested on Monday with eight kilograms of cannabis in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said. A police party while performing patrolling duty noticed a truck that was wrongly parked near SIDCO Chowk in Samba, they said. When the patrolling party was about to approach the truck, the driver of the vehicle accelerated and tried to escape from the spot, they said. The alert cops intercepted the truck a few metres ahead. ● P-02

BJP Workers in Jammu Storm PDP Office, Hoist Tiranga

JAMMU: A high voltage political drama continued at the PDP's Jammu office on Monday with dozens of right wing activists assembling there and hoisting tricolour on the building. Police intervened after repeated attempts by the activists to hoist the flag there were made for the second day running.

Videos have emerged where BJP workers can be seen chanting "Bharat Mata Ki Ji" while hoisting the flag.

A controversy had erupted after a recent statement by PDP President Mehbooba Mufti, who stated that she wouldn't touch the Tricolor till the state flag of erstwhile J&K state is restored.

Earlier, on Sunday, a right wing activist Amandeep Singh Boparai accompanied by hundreds of his supporters reached the PDP office where they hoisted the national flag after a scuffle with PDP leaders.

A group of Akhil Bharatiya Vishwa Parishad (ABVP) activists on Sunday evening also reached the PDP office and hoisted national flags besides throwing green ink on the poster of Mehbooba Mufti.

"Mehbooba Mufti has stated that no one will hold Tiranga. We ask her to visit Jammu and to see that everyone holds a Tiranga in



The J&K unit of BJP on Monday took out 'Tiranga Rally' to celebrate accession day. Pic Abid Bhat

3 PDP Leaders From Jammu Quit Party

People's Democratic Party (PDP) suffered a setback after three of its Jammu leaders, including a former MP, on Monday announced ● P-02

Those Insulting Tricolour Will Be Pushed To Pak: BJP

Every inch of Indian land that is occupied by Pakistan and China will be taken back, even if it means using military might, Jammu and Kashmir ● P-02

their hands," said Boparai.

PDP spokesman and former MLC, Firdous Tak on the other hand accused BJP of trying to cash-in on the situation to regain

its lost ground.

"This is part of cheap politics as BJP is left with no answer to public queries and is now trying to do such acts," ● PAGE 02

BJP Retains Power in LAHDC Leh; Wins 15 Seats

Congress Bags 9 Seats; Independents 2

Press Trust Of India

LEH: Retaining power, the BJP on Monday won the election to the 26-member Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)-Leh by bagging 15 seats, while the Congress got nine seats.

Independents won two seats in the election, the first since Ladakh was made a Union Territory in August last year.

BJP president J P Nadda termed the party's victory in the Thursday vote as historic. "Gratitude to the people of Ladakh for their faith in



File Photo

BJP," he tweeted and congratulated party leaders and workers.

The party had won 17 seats in the 2015 election. The Congress had won four, the National Conference had two seats and the Independents had three. ● PAGE 02

Army Conference To Discuss Ladakh Stand-Off Today

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Top commanders of the Army on Monday held extensive deliberations on a plethora of issues relating to human resource management in the 1.3 million-strong force, on the opening day of a four-day conference, official sources said.

On Tuesday, the commanders are likely to carry out a comprehensive review of India's combat readiness in eastern Ladakh as well as other sensitive areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China.

The sources said the commanders held detailed deliberations on ways to bring further efficiency in

shaping up young talents, matters relating to promotion and meeting aspirations of all rank and file of the Army personnel.

In the course of the conference, the commanders will also deliberate on a slew of long-pending reform measures like cutting down on ceremonial practices and non-military activities to ensure a rational distribution of resources, the sources said.

The Army Commanders' Conference (ACC), which is an apex level biannual event that formulates important policy decisions through a collegiate system of deliberation, is being attended by all commanders, Principal Staff Officers (PSOs) ● PAGE 02

Cross-Border Firing Damages Houses In Kathua

JAMMU: Some houses were damaged as Pakistan Rangers heavily shelled forward hamlets and border outposts (BoPs) along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, official sources said on Monday.

Pakistan Rangers resorted to heavy mortar shelling and firing on BoPs and hamlets in Londi, Manyari, Karol Matra, Check Changa areas in the Samba-Hiranagar sector, they said.

In the shelling, some houses were damaged, triggering panic among residents, ● P-02

Militant Killed, Aide Captured In Tral

SRINAGAR: An unidentified militant on Monday was killed while another laid down his arms before the government forces during an encounter in Tral area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Acting on an input about the presence of militants, police, army's, army's 42 RR and CRPF laid a siege around Noorpora village of Tral on Monday evening and launched cordon and search operation, a police official said.

He said the trapped militants opened fire upon the search team when they tried to make advances.

"The joint team returned the fire triggering off an encounter. In the exchange of fire, ● P-02

CRPF Man Dies 12 Days After Shooting Self

SRINAGAR: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) man, who fired at himself with his service rifle on October 12, succumbed to his injuries at SMHS hospital in Srinagar, officials said on Monday.

They said that a CRPF man, who was under treatment at Srinagar's SMHS hospital since October 12, succumbed to injuries on Sunday night after his condition deteriorated.

The deceased belonged to D-Coy 141 battalion CRPF ● P-02

Delimitation Of District Councils Completed

Election Authority Notifies 280 Segments In J&K UT

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Authorities in Jammu & Kashmir have completed the process of delimitation of territorial constituencies of District Development Councils (DDCs).

The Election Authority, notified by the Jammu & Kashmir government under the Panchayati Raj Act-1989, on Monday evening notified 280 territorial constituencies of DDCs after considering the objections and suggestions submitted by different quarters.

"..... After incorporating all the changes in respect of the objections/recommendations which have been accepted, the Election Authority hereby notifies the delimitation of District Development Councils in terms of Rule 108-B," reads the notification issued by Chief Electoral Officer, Hirdesh Kumar, who has been designated as the election authority under the law.

The draft delimitation proposal was put in public domain by deputy commissioners of all 20 districts for suggestions/ objections till October 23.

Subsequently, a committee headed by deputy commissioner and



comprising deputy district election officer, assistant commissioner development, assistant commissioner revenue and district panchayat officer in each district was constituted by the election authority for examining the objections.

"Whereas, a number of objections/ recommendations were found to be devoid of merit and thus not accepted. However, some objections/ recommendations have been found reasoned and in consonance with provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act 1989 and Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Rules 1996 and it has been found necessary to modify to the proposed delimitation of the district ● PAGE 02

..... AFTER INCORPORATING ALL THE changes in respect of the objections/recommendations which have been accepted, the Election Authority hereby notifies the delimitation of District Development Councils in terms of Rule 108-B,"

ACB Files Charges Against Corrupt Cop

JAMMU: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday filed a charge sheet against a policeman for accepting a bribe of Rs 59,000 for the release of an arrested person in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, the agency's spokesperson said.

The charge sheet was filed against Head Constable Khurshid Ahmad, presently posted at District Police Lines, Poonch, before the court of special judge anti-corruption Rajouri, the spokesperson said.

The instant case was registered on August 11, 2016 on the outcome of a verification conducted into allegations that Ahmed, as investigating officer of ● P-02

Case Filed Against Lawyer Deepika

JAMMU- Jammu and Kashmir Police confirmed on Monday that they have booked an advocate for hurting the religious sentiments of a community.

Police sources said advocate Deepika Singh Rajawat has been booked under sections 295A and 505 (b) (2) of the IPC for creating enmity and hatred between different classes of people.

The Jammu based advocate had on last Tuesday tweeted a cartoon which was objected to by members of the Hindu community who alleged that Rajawat had made the social media ● P-02

In FOCUS / In Kashmir Meadows, Tribal Boy Maroof Awaits Seasonal—Suspended—School

Umer Ahmad

HIRPUR, Shopian – Spending most of his time rearing livestock in the sprawling south Kashmir sanctuary, Maroof is missing his school friends.

Apart from his friends, this Class 5th student of a Gujar-Bakarwal tribe every day waits for his teachers in the meadows of Hirpur wild-life sanctuary to resume his seasonal school. But his wait only lingers on.

The teenager has not been to school since August 2019 when New Delhi scrapped Article 370, which gave special status to the erstwhile state.

Before schools would become shut shops in Kashmir last year, Maroof had found a new direction—"an aim in life"—changing his focus towards studies and life.

"I was unsure about things before teaching started appealing me last year," says the barely 13-year-old boy. "I want to take teaching as my profession so that I can guide children of my community."

Every year, Maroof along with his Gujar-Bakarwal tribe follow the centuries-old tradition of summer migration in the valley. The tribe starts from their winter habitat in Jammu, on the first week of April, and reach their summer destination in a span of 40-45 days on foot journey.

As the caravan of gypsies reach the valley, their children begin their seasonal—mobile—schooling.

These schools were first started in 1953, when the government opened them in Rajpora Kashmir, and Samba district of Jammu.

The motive behind such schools was to sustain education of the tribal children even during their migration period.

Till 1980, almost 800 seasonal schools were functional in J&K. In 2000, under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA), 1500 seasonal schools run by 2000 teachers were further initiated in the erstwhile state. Nearly about 33504 tribal students were getting their education in



these seasonal schools.

However, to Maroof's chagrin, seasonal schools for the tribal children have not opened this year.

Political lockdown followed by pandemic curbs have greatly impacted the education of tribal children bereft of other means of study,

like online classes or private tuitions.

"Every year teachers used to come to this place and teach the children of nomads, but this year, no mobile school was arranged," says Baidullah, one of the community members living in the meadows of Hirpur. "How can our children compete with other children in this state of apathy?"

Apart from the situational distress, most of the mobile school teachers are being accused for dereliction of duties.

"Teachers who're assigned to these seasonal schools have a nexus with the higher authorities," Zahid Parveez Chowdhary, a tribal activist, told Kashmir Observer. "Despite

raising the issue with higher authorities, these teachers are yet to put these schools in order."

The disparity exists even as Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha already announced a separate budget to provide mobile phones for the tribal students, the activist says.

"Nothing has been done so far," he says. "They only talk big and give us false hopes."

Notably, the promise of mobile phone was made to keep the tribal community connected. As part of their lifestyle, these tribals migrate to the 'no-network zone' hinterlands of Kashmir.

Meanwhile, in absence of seasonal schooling, Maroof calls ● PAGE 02