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P10 LIFE & TIMES HOW MODERNA'S COVID-19 VACCINE COMPARES TO THAT OF PFIZER'S US regulators authorized Moderna Inc's COVID-19 vaccine for ...

P6 THINK THE TRAGIC CHRONICLES OF 'LOVE JIHAD' These astonishingly ill - considered new laws have resulted in immense pain.



P12 OBSERVER OUTPOST U.S BLACKLISTS TOP CHINESE CHIPMAKER, ALLEGING MILITARY TIES The Trump administration blacklisted China's top chipmaker Friday ...



Wisdom Quote! "Don't be afraid of the shadows, that only means there's a light nearby." —Evanescence

news DIGEST

LG Pays Tributes To Ninth Sikh Guru

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha remembered the great sacrifice of the ninth Sikh Guru Sri Tegh Bahadur Ji on his Martyrdom day. In his message, the Lt Governor said, "I bow to Dhan Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji, Guru Ji's sacrifice for upholding the principle of freedom of conscience and vision for inclusive society will be remembered till eternity" Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji taught us about humanity, equality, courage, sacrifice, dignity, and religious freedom. I call upon all to imbibe his teachings in our life, he said.

Army Vehicle Mows Down Minor

Srinagar: A minor girl on Saturday sustained critical head injuries after being hit by an army vehicle at Bumhama area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

Eight-year-old Muddabirah Ismail came under an army vehicle in her native village Bumhama on Saturday evening due to which she sustained serious head injuries, news agency GNS reported. The injured girl, report said, was removed to the nearby sub-District Hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there referred her to a tertiary Srinagar hospital for advanced treatment.

The report quoted an unnamed police officer as saying that the driver has been arrested and the vehicle seized.

"An FIR number 356/2020 has been registered in this regard under sections 279, 337 and further investigations taken up in this regard", the official said.

Trooper Suffers Heart Attack On Poll Duty

Srinagar: An Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) trooper suffered a heart attack during poll duty in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Saturday.

The trooper identified as Ajay of B-Coy suffered a heart attack and collapsed on the ground during election duty in Hajin area of the north Kashmir district on Saturday, news agency KNS reported. The trooper was removed to the nearby medical facility for treatment.

Quoting an unnamed official, the report said that the condition of the trooper was stable.

3 Injured In Car-JCB Collision

Srinagar: At least three persons sustained injuries after collision between a JCB and a car in Kokernag area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Saturday afternoon.

Ghulam Hassan Shiekh, Qaisar Ahmad Shiekh and Aijaz Ahmad Decca, all residents of Deesu Kokernag were injured when the car they were travelling in collided with a JCB in Deesu village on Saturday afternoon, news agency GNS reported. The trio, the report said, were removed to sub-district Hospital Kokernag, wherefrom they were referred to GMC Anantnag for advanced treatment.

Meanwhile, a police official said that they have taken cognizance of the case and further investigations set in motion.

JKCA SCAM

ED Attaches Properties Of Farooq Abdullah

NEW DELHI: The ED on Saturday attached residential and commercial properties worth nearly Rs 12 crore of former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah in an ongoing case of alleged money laundering, drawing strong reaction from his party National Conference (NC) which said these properties were "largely ancestral" and he would challenge the action in a court of law.

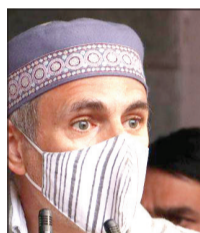
Among the properties attached is a house on Gupkar Road where the 84-year-old leader has been residing for several decades. The house is said to have been built in the 1970s by his father late Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah, the erstwhile state's chief minister, and is said to have been inherited by Farooq Abdullah.

The action, which comes hours after the eight-phased District Development Council (DDC) election was over, has been taken by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with its probe in the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA). >> More On P8



12 Properties To Be Sealed

Twelve properties of Farooq Abdullah ordered to be sealed include Residential Building on the land at Estate Sonwar (Gupkar Road), Tehsil Srinagar (South), District Srinagar, Four Commercial Buildings on the land at Estate Kothibagh, Tehsil Srinagar (South), District >> More On P8



Properties Attached Largely Ancestral: Omar

Former chief minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday termed the provisional attachment order of properties belonging to his father by the Enforcement Directorate as "baseless" and wondered how an ancestral property could be seen as >> More On P8



ED Move A 'Political Vendetta': Tarigami

Senior CPI(M) leader and former legislator M Y Tarigami on Saturday said attaching the property of National Conference president Farooq Abdullah is part of vindictive politics practiced by >> More On P8

No Let-Up In Cross-LoC Shelling

JAMMU: For the second consecutive day Saturday, Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

A defence spokesperson here said that Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire on Saturday with unprovoked firing and mortar shelling on forward posts and villages along the LoC in Poonch district. The Indian Army retaliated befittingly to silence the Pakistani guns, he added. >> More On P8

UN Probes Targeting Of Observer Vehicle

UNITED NATIONS: The UN is investigating an incident where a vehicle of the United Nations Military Observers (UNMO) in the Chirikot sector along the Line of Control (LoC) was hit by an unidentified object, a spokesperson for the Secretary General said Friday.

"At this stage, I believe that the details we have are in fact that there was no one hurt but there has been >> More On P8

51% Turnout In Last Phase



People Have Reposed Faith In Democracy With Overwhelming Participation: SEC

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The last phase of District Development Council (DDC) elections held across 28 constituencies in Jammu & Kashmir recorded nearly 51 per cent voter turnout, J&K State Election

Commissioner (SEC) K.K. Sharma said on Saturday

Addressing a press conference here, the SEC said that polling was peaceful in the poll going 28 constituencies of DDC including 13 in Kashmir division and 15 in Jammu division that >> More On P8



MALE VOTERS stand in a queue outside a polling booth in Budgam district during the last phase of DDC elections on Saturday. KO Pic: Abid Bhat

2 Candidates Hurt In Group Clashes

POONCH: At least fifteen people, including two DDC candidates were injured in four different incidents of group clashes in Poonch during the last phase of district polls on Saturday. >> More On P8

LG Praises Voters, Election Machinery

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday congratulated the voters of Jammu and Kashmir and the election machinery for the successful conduct of first-ever District Development >> More On P8

MINUS 6.6 DEGREE CELSIUS

Srinagar Records Second Coldest December Night Of Decade



A BOY WARMING his feet using traditional Kashmiri firepot (Kangri) in Srinagar outskirts on Saturday. —KO Pic: Abid Bhat

SRINAGAR: The second lowest December night temperature in ten years was recorded in Srinagar as the cold wave continued its firm grip across the Valley, the weatherman said on Saturday.

The mercury in the summer capital of the J&K plummeted to minus 6.6 °C, making it the second-lowest December night since 2010. While mercury on 27 December 2010 settled exactly the same

as recorded overnight, it had plummeted to minus 7.7°C on 27 December 2018 and was the lowest in 28 years.

On December 7, 1990, the minimum temperature had settled at minus 8.8 degree Celsius in Srinagar, the official said. The lowest ever temperature in December was minus 12.8 which was recorded on 13th of the month in 1934, the official said. >> More On P8

COVID-19

J&K Reports 4 More Deaths

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus claimed the lives of four more people in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, even as 301 fresh cases of Covid-19, including 13 travelers were detected across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours, taking the total number of infected people to 118006.

Among the four victims, three were residents of Jammu division and one from Kashmir Valley, officials said Saturday. The victim from the Valley was a 52-year-old woman from

Bemina here. Among the three fatalities reported from Jammu division, two were residents of from Samba and one from Kathua.

With these deaths, the total fatality count in J&K reached 1837-1165 in the Valley and 672 in the Jammu region. Srinagar district with 441 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (342), Baramulla (170), Budgam (106), Pulwama (88), Kupwara (88), Anantnag (82), Doda (60), Bandipora (58), Udhampur (55). >> More On P8

PM To Roll Out SEHAT Scheme Next Week

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will roll out the Social Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine (SEHAT) scheme in Jammu and Kashmir on December 26, an official spokesperson said here on Saturday. He said Financial Commissioner, Health and Medical Education, Atal Dulloo chaired a review meeting here to ensure smooth implementation of the scheme. At the meeting, Dulloo impressed upon officers to keep all arrangements in >> More On P8

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JEE SELECTION RATIO

18 Under 500 42 Under 1000

MOTION'S SELECTION 994/2538 = 39.16%

NEET SELECTION RATIO

Above 650 Marks 12 Above 625 Marks 47 Above 600 Marks 137

Students Qualified 2663 / 2843 = 93.66%

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