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.. NEWS/ **06**

CHINA VIRUS DEATH TOLL NOW AT 80, MORE THAN 2,700 CASES CONFIRMED China continued to reel under deadly coronavirus epidemic on Monday with the death toll due to it sharply rising to 80 amid the country's National Health Commission reporting 2.744 confirmed...



IEW INDIAN LAW TO PROTECT FOREIGN INVESTORS TO EXCLUDE TAX DEMANDS: REPORT New legislation will improve protection for foreign investors in India by offering relief from possible policy changes but will uphold the state's right to tax them, according to its draft and government documents seen by Reuters.

08/SPORTS.....

KOBE BRYANT KILLED IN HELICOPTER CRASH

Kobe Bryant, one of the NBA's all-time greatest players and an athlete of global renown, was killed at age 41 on Sunday in a helicopter crash near Los Angeles



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News Digest

LG Congratulates Padma Awardees

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu on Monday congratulated Padma Awardees from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Murmu congratulated senior PDP leader Muzaffar Hussain Baig, recipient of Padma Bhushan. He also conveyed his greetings to Shiv Datt Nirmohi and Javed Ahmad Tak on being conferred with Padma Shri for their valuable contributions in the field of Public Affairs, Literature & Education and Social Work respectively

Grenade Lobbed At CRPF Picket

Srinagar: Suspected militants hurled a grenade towards a CRPF bunker near police station MR Gunj here in Srinagar on Sunday night, police sources said Monday. They said suspected militants hurled a grenade towards the bunker of CRPF 23 Battalion at Maharaj Gunj last night. However, the grenade did not explode. Police and troopers rushed to spot while Bomb Disposal Squad was called in that diffuse the grenade. (KNT)

Man Slips From Moving Train, Injured

Srinagar: A middle aged man was injured after he fell down from a train in Qazigund area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district. Satprakash Singh, son of Lal Singh from Delhi slipped from a running train in Qazigund, thus causing severe injuries to him, reports said. The incident took place when the train was heading towards Banihal from Srinagar. The injured person as per the officials was shifted to Emergency Hospital Qazigund (EHQ) where he is undergoing treatment. Officials said that the condition of injured man is stable. (KNO)

Kupwara Shuts On **Massacre Anniversary**

Srinagar: A partial shutdown was observed in frontier dis-trict of Kupwara on Monday against the killing of 27 civilians including three policemen allegedly by the soldiers on this day in 1994. Majority of the shops and business establishments remained closed and skeletal movement of traffic was • PO

550 Employees Of BSNL Opt For VRS In J&K

Srinagar: 84000 employees of state-run telecom operator BSNL have opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme which included 550 employees of J&K. Public Relations Officer J&K BSNL Masood Bala confirmed the development. "182 employees are in Kashmir division," he said. Notably, the BSNL has recently announced a voluntary retirement scheme for its mployees. The 31st January P02

Met Predicts Another Snow Spell From Today

SRINAGAR: The weather department on Monday predicted fresh spell of rain and snowfall across the Valley corded a minimum temperafrom Monday night, even as ture of 0.6 degrees Celsius, up freezing point, providing residents some relief from cold conditions.

A Met department spokes- freezing point for the first time person told Kashmir Observer in recent days and it was 1.6 that light to moderate snow would occur during the next part of the season. 48 hours from Monday night

the region. The official said that at a low of 0.8 degrees Celsius the weather will improve from Wednesday afternoon. Meanwhile, Srinagar city re-

the minimum temperature from the minus 0.2 degrees in Srinagar settled above the Celsius on Sunday, a MET official said He said the night temperature in the city was above the and Pahalgam was the coldest

coldest recorded place in the Kashmir Valley, the official added.

degrees above normal for this

western disturbance has hit Kashmir the minimum settled an increase of 1.5 degrees from the previous night's minus 0.7 degrees Celsius.

The night temperature in Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir settled at a low of minus 10.4 degrees Celsius down over seven degrees from the minus 3 degrees Celsius on Sunday recorded place in the Kashmir Valley, the official added.

The ski-resort of Gulmarg, in north Kashmir, registered In Qazigund the gateway a minimum of minus 10.2 deacross the Valley as a fresh town to the valley in south grees Celsius, the »PAGE 02

IHE NIGHT TEMPERATURE IN PAHALGAM TOURIST RESORT in south Kashmir settled at a low of minus 10.4 degrees Celsius down over seven degrees from the minus 3 degrees Celsius on Sunday and Pahalgam was the

2G Restoration Brings

...ARWANI GUNFIGHT **Hizb Militant** killed, Soldier

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

Iniured

SRINAGAR: A Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) militant was killed while a soldier sustained injuries in a fierce gun-battle in Arwani area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district

A police spokesperson told Kashmir Observer that acting on a specific input about the presence of militants, a joint team of the special operations group (SOG) of police and army launched an operation in Arwani village of Anantnag today. When the joint team made advances, sources said, the militants hiding in the village opened fire upon them.

"In the exchange of gunfire, Hizb militant Shahid Ahmad of Anantnag was killed. He was wanted for attacks on security forces," police spokesperson said. Earlier, a soldier identified as Shareef-ud-din of army's 1 RR

was injured in exchange of • P02

Kashmir Focus Of EU Parliament This Week, India Unfazed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London: In a significant development, the European Parliament is set to debate and vote on six resolutions on Jammu (Christian Democrats) (PPE), and Kashmir and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) 2019, filed by a majority of members of the European Parliament.

been tabled by groups within the European Union (EU), in
Green Left (GUE/NGL) Group.

The resolutions have PAGE 02

cluding the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament (S&D), Group of the European People's Party Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance (Verts/ALE), European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR), Renew Europe Group (Renew) and A total of six resolutions have European United Left/Nordic

Hope EU Resolutions Are Followed By Sanctions: Mehbooba

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Monday expressed hope that resolutions tabled in the European Parliament against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and curbs in Kashmir will be followed up with sanctions. "Relieved to see EU parliament pass resolutions against • PO2

Saini To Take **Charge As Army Vice Chief Today**



AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Lt Gen Satinder Kumar Saini will take charge as vice chief of Indian Army on Tuesday.

Lt Gen Saini, who was the Southern Command chief so far, will inspect a Guard of Honour before taking charge. The army vice chief's post fell vacant after incumbent, • P02

SRINAGAR: The restoration of mobile internet, 2G, in Kashmir after nearly six months of no internet has proved to be of little help due to extremely slow speed. Even permissible sites listed as

white listed sites' by the government are not accessible at times. "We are not able to upload photos, let alone mail them," Amir, a photo journalist said.

"The speed is extremely slow and the websites just don't open." For broadband restoration the businessmen are signing bonds committing not to allow IP ad-

dress for accessing social media. WiFi, encrypted files. videos and uploading of photos.
All USB ports of the computer

That the restoration >PAGE 02 All USB ports of the computer



will have to be disabled also. The business units or the company will be responsible for the breach or misuse of the internet.

The business house will provide complete access to all its content and infrastructure as and when required by security agencies.

MAC (minimum access con-The bond also bars use of trol) will ensure restriction to the use of internet access to regis

Life Returns To Normal In Kashmir

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Life returned to normal on Monday after remaining affected due to a strike called by Hurriyat Conference against the conduct of January 26 celebrations in the Valley.

Meanwhile, tuition and coaching centres reopened on Monday after remaining closed for four days due to security reasons following instructions by the government in the valley. This was the first RD celebrations after Jammu and Kashmir became Union Territory (UT) on August 5, when centre scrapped Article 370 and 35 A besides bi-

furcated the state into two UTs. A police official said that seurity personnel deployed in strength on Sunday to throttle has been removed and »PAGE 02

any militant attack in Kashmir, particularly in Srinagar, have been withdrawn. "All road blocks and nakas have also been lifted," he added.

Shops and business establishments reopened this morning while traffic was plying normally on all roads in the summer capital, Srinagar and other parts of the valley.

Business and other activities resumed in main hub in the city, including LalChowk, the nerve centre of the summer capital, Hari Singh High Streets (HSHS), Batamaloo, Dal Gate and Polo View after remaining suspended on Sunday. The roadblocks around S K Cricket Stadium, where the main R-Day function in Kashmir was held

Train Service Resumes

SRINAGAR: After being suspended for a day in view of security reasons, the train service resumed in Kashmir on Monday.

The train service between Banihal and Baramulla takes 16 to and fro trips, covering the entire length of the valley. More than 20,000 people use the train service every day.

The train service remained suspended for the longest period of time, almost 100 days due to the revocation of Article 370, but subsequently the service was resumed on November 26. • P02

No Power Can Stop Pandits From Returning To Kashmir: Rajnath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MANGALURU: No power can now stop Kashmiri Pandits from going back to Kashmir, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday, forcefully defending the NDA government's decision to reorganise Jammu and Kashmir and abrogating its special status under Article 370.

In an address at a rally here, said India will not let anyone live in peace if it is harmed.

if someone bothers us, then we are not going to let them live in peace," he said.



the Defence minister also sent a of a large number of Kashmiri strong message to Pakistan and Pandits from the Valley in the late 1990s at the height of militancy, Singh said no power now We will not touch anyone, but can stop them from returning to their homes.

On the Citizenship Amendment Act, the minister said it is Referring to the migration not a law to hurt the **>> PAGE 02**

Row Over Dropping 'Sher-E-Kashmir': NC Alleges Vendetta

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR: The National Conference on Monday took strong exception to the dropping of words 'Sher-e-Kashmir', an epithet used for the party founder Sheikh Abdullah, from the nomenclature of JK police medals.

The party, whose top leaders history with this move.



present ruling dispensation in New Delhi heaving with subjecare in detention since the scrap- tive prejudices and complexes ping of special status of Jammu against ideals revolving around and Kashmir on August 5 last the Indian Constitution and year, alleged that the adminis- the spirit of its accommodatration was taking its "vendetta tive federalism hasn't ceased to a higher level" and distorting its witch-hunt against everything recognizable with Sheikh "It is a calibrated effort to Muhammad Abdullah," district trim every single symbol of J- president of the party Peer Afaq K's political individuality. The Ahmad alleged in a statement.

He said the step should be seen as yet another glaring attempt "aimed at distorting J-K's

history" "His (Abdullah's) persona is above petty recognitions, and awards. A conscious leader, he preached to his countrymen to overcome timidity and prejudices," Ahmad said, adding his vision of J-K was shorn of regional and religious prejudices.

He claimed the present ruling dispensation "still fears a leader, who has physically left the world three decades back".

NC spokesman Imran Nani Far also criticised BJP leader Nirmal Singh's reported remarks against Sheikh Abdullah. »PAGE 02

Troubled To See Omar Abdullah's Picture: Stalin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CHENNAI: DMK President M K Stalin on Monday said he was deeply troubled to see a photograph of National Conference leader Omar Abdullah in which he sports an overgrown beard and demanded the Centre immediately release all leaders in detention in Jammu and Kashmir. The top Dravidian party leader took to Twitter to demand his release and said "Deeply troubled to see this picture of @OmarAbdullah" and tagged three images of the Kashmiri leader. While the first • P02

Hanjura, Hajini Meet LG Murmu

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Justice (Retd) MK Hanjura, Chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Law Commission and Dr Aziz Hajini, Convener, Northern Regional Board, National Akademi of Letters, New Delhi, on Monday met Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu at the Raj Bhavan here.

Hanjura and the LG dission and how the mandate used for securing quick and fair justice to the aggrieved.

retary Jammu & Kashmir preservation and promo- the earliest.



ing of the J&K Law Commis- ni also called on LG Mumru. schemes of JKAACL etc.

Hajini sought LG's interof Law Commission could be vention for addressing cer- that all the genuine issues tain issues on the cultural and demands raised by him domain including adoption would be looked into me-Meanwhile, former Sec- of Cultural policy for J&K, ticulously and redressed at

cussed wide ranging issues Academy of Art, Culture and tion of regional languages, pertaining to the function- Languages (JKAACL) Dr Haji- implementation of various

The LG assured Hajini

