



Maximum : 9°C
Minum : 4°C
Humidity : 80%

SUNSET
Today 06:36 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:45 AM

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LIFE & TIMES / 08
CONTINUITY OF CARE LEADS TO CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENTS IN PATIENT
In a breakthrough study, researchers have found that higher continuity of care, meaning a care team cooperatively involved in ongoing healthcare, is better for health outcomes.....



SCINDIA JOINS BJP, SAYS COUNTRY'S FUTURE SECURE IN MODI'S HANDS
A day after quitting the Congress, Jyotiraditya Scindia joined the BJP on Wednesday in the presence of its president JP Nadda and slammed his former party for "denying reality" and "not acknowledging".....

11/ Sports.....

WHAT WOULD AN OLYMPICS CANCELLATION COST JAPAN?
Japan and Olympic organisers are at pains to insist this summer's Games in Tokyo are on, despite the new coronavirus outbreak, but what would a cancellation cost the world's third-biggest economic powerhouse.....

News Digest

Soldier Dies Of Stroke

Srinagar: An army soldier on Wednesday died due to cardiac arrest in Rangreth area of city outskirts. M Paramaswaran of 127 Light AD Regiment at Old Airfield Rangreth, was found dead this morning by his colleagues, news agency GNS reported. He was immediately shifted to a nearby military health facility where the wdctors declared him brought dead, said the official. "Apparently, the soldier died of cardiac arrest," he added.

Grenade Recovered, Diffused In Srinagar

Srinagar: A grenade was Wednesday recovered here in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir and later defused without any loss of life or property, police said. Police detected an old hand grenade lying near a CRPF bunker near Barbarashah bridge in the city's Kralkhud police station area on Wednesday morning, a police official said. He said a bomb disposal squad was called to the spot which collected it. The grenade was later destroyed on the bund area in Rambagh without causing any kind of loss, the official said.

Pak F-16 Jet Crashes In Islamabad

Islamabad: An F-16 fighter jet belonging to the Pakistan Air Force crashed in Islamabad on Wednesday while carrying out rehearsals for the country's Republic Day parade to be held on March 23. The plane crashed in a jungle near Shakarparian area of the capital, the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) said in a statement. The plane was carrying out routine exercises for the Pakistan Day parade when it crashed, it said, adding that the PAF has ordered an inquiry into the ● PIO

Three Jaish associates Held In Budgam: Police

Srinagar: Police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested three militant associates of Jaish-e-Mohammad, including a minor from central Kashmir's Budgam district. A police spokesperson said that based on specific input, forces arrested Dilawar Sofi and Sameer Yousuf Ganie, who are associates affiliated with proscribed militant outfit JeM. The third associate held is a minor. All of them are residents of Chadoora, Budgam," a police spokesperson said. They were active in the area for the past few months, they said. He said the three were involved ● PIO

Misfire Injures

Soldier In Pulwama
Srinagar: An army soldier was injured in Tral area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Wednesday evening. Reports said that the soldier of 42 RR sustained bullet wound in his arm during a search operation at Hayna area of Nazneenpora when his service rifle went off accidentally. The injured soldier namely Sepoy P V Reipamso was immediately taken to army's nearby health facility for treatment, they said. A police officer also confirmed the injuries to the soldier. (GNS)

451 Under Detention In J&K: Minister Tells Rajya Sabha



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A total of 451 people are under detention in Jammu and Kashmir, including 396 slapped with the Public Safety Act, Rajya Sabha was informed on Wednesday.

Giving details, Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said the Jammu and Kashmir authorities had taken 7,357 persons in preventive custody since August, 2019 when the special status of the erstwhile state was abrogated and it was divided into two Union Territories.

He said among those detained were stone pelters, miscreants, over ground workers (OGWs) of militant outfits, separatists.

"Out of these, 451 such persons are presently under preventive detention, which includes 396 persons under Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA)," he said.

The minister said the detentions have been made under section 107 of the CrP, as also under the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978.

In reply to another question, Reddy said no case had been registered against any person under sedition law for using social media platforms in the union territory.

WHO Declares Coronavirus A Global Pandemic

Agencies

GENEVA: The World Health Organization on Wednesday declared the rapidly spreading coronavirus outbreak a pandemic, acknowledging what has seemed clear for some time — the virus will likely spread to all countries on the globe.

Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the situation will worsen.

"We expect to see the number of cases, the number of deaths, and the number of affected countries climb even higher," said Tedros, as the director general is known.

As of Wednesday, 114 countries have reported that 118,000 have contracted Covid-19, the disease caused by the virus, known as SARS-CoV2. In the United States, where for weeks state and local laboratories could not test for the virus, just over 1,000 cases have been diagnosed and 29 people have died. But authorities here warn continuing limits on testing mean the full scale of spread in this country is not yet known.

The virus causes mild respiratory infections in about 80% of those infected, though about half will have pneumonia. Another 15% develop ● PAGE 10

Govt Orders Closure Of All Educational Institutions In JK

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday ordered closure of all educational institutions across the union territory till March 31 as a precautionary measure amid the coronavirus scare. Cinema halls in all the 10 districts of Jammu division will also remain closed till March 31, officials said.

While only one person has tested positive for the contagious coronavirus in the union territory, one man with high viral-load has been reported and his samples have been sent to the National Centre for Disease Control in New Delhi, they said.

"All schools, colleges ● PIO



Mayor, Div Com Lock Horns Over School Closure



SRINAGAR: Hours after Srinagar Mayor, Junaid Mattu, made announcement regarding closure of all schools within SMC limits, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Basheer Ahmad Khan on Wednesday said decision of "closing or keeping open" the educational institutions was administrative matter to be decided only by the government.

Mattu, quoting special set of statutory provisions, had ordered closure of all ● PIO

Coronavirus: 1 More Tests Negative, 1211 People Under Lens

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: One more person on Wednesday tested negative for deadly coronavirus disease in Valley, even as 1211 people have been put under surveillance by the authorities in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Test reports of 35 ● PIO

Avoid Large Gatherings, Unnecessary Travel: CS

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, B. V. R. Subrahmanyam on Wednesday urged people to put on hold family functions and congregations and avoid unnecessary travel to minimize risk of transmission of coronavirus infection. In a statement issued ● PIO

India Suspends All Tourist Visas Till April 15

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India on Wednesday suspended all tourist visas till April 15 in a bid to contain spread of novel coronavirus, according to an official statement.

The suspension will come into

effect from 1200 GMT on March 13 at the port of departure.

The decision was taken at the meeting of group of ministers held here under the chairmanship of Health Minister Harsh Vardhan. "All existing visas, except diplomatic, official, UN/International

organisations, employment and project visas stand suspended till 15th April 2020. This will come into effect from 1200GMT on 13th March 2020 at the port of departure," the statement said.

Visa-free travel facility granted to OCI card holders is also ● PAGE 10



ALL EXISTING VISAS, EXCEPT DIPLOMATIC, OFFICIAL, UN/INTERNATIONAL organisations, employment and project visas stand suspended till 15th April 2020. This will come into effect from 1200GMT on 13th March 2020 at the port of departure," the statement said.

HC Dismisses PIL Seeking Ban On Pellet Gun Use Says Govt Has Fulfilled Obligation Regarding Constitutional Tort

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Wednesday dismissed a Public Interest Litigation by Kashmir lawyers Body, seeking a total ban on pellet guns as a means of crowd control and prosecution of those responsible for using the munitions during 2016 unrest in Jammu and Kashmir.

So far as the constitutional tort was concerned, a division bench of Justices Ali Mohammad Magrey and Dhiraj Singh Thakur held that the government has fulfilled its obligation inasmuch as they have made ex-gratia payments to



"most of the injured persons."

The PIL was filed before the high

court in 2016 by J&K High Court Bar Association, seeking a stay on the use of pellet guns as a large number of people had been killed or injured due to its use. Subsequently, the high court dismissed the plea on 21 September 2016 following which lawyers' body challenged the 'interim order' before the Supreme Court on the ground that the Centre had already constituted a Committee of Experts through its Memorandum dated July 26, 2016 for exploring alternatives to pellet guns. When the matter came up for hearing on December 14, 2016, the Supreme Court had observed that pellet guns should not ● PAGE 10

India Has 'Significant Human Rights Issues': US Report

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: Violence and discrimination targeting minorities based on religion and social status are among the significant human rights facing India, an official US report claimed on Wednesday.

Despite government efforts to address abuses, a lack of accountability for official misconduct persisted at all levels of government, contributing to widespread impunity, said India section of the 2019 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

The Congressional-mandated annual report was released by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. India did not find mention in his opening remarks. In his interaction with the me-



dia, Pompeo expressed serious concerns over human rights abuses in countries like in China, Iran, Venezuela, and in Cuba.

"In China, the Chinese Communist Party uses high-tech surveillance systems to monitor potential dissidents. It's imprisoning ● PAGE 10

Ex-J&K Governor: Govt Feared 1000 Deaths Post August 5 Move, Was Told To Replace Kashmir Police Security

Izhar Nazir Ali

SRINAGAR: In a sensational disclosure, former J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik has said that the government feared massive backlash in Kashmir following the abrogation of special status and the fear of the bloodbath was anticipated by a senior official of his administration.

Addressing an International Parliament organized by the Jat community at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, Malik unfolded sequence of events that took place a day before the Modi-government scrapped Article-370 and 35A besides bifurcating Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories.

"Today, I can safely say that when



the topic of abrogating Article 370 came up, I told my Chief Secretary

in the evening of August 4 that Article 370 will be removed tomorrow," Malik told the gathering.

"Sir, we have to kill 1000 people," Malik quoted CS B V Subrahmanyam as saying, according to the video of his speech now available on social media.

Malik, who was appointed as Governor of Goa on October 25, adds further that he questioned Chief Secretary why such a need would arise.

"He replied that here 10 people died during Farooq Abdullah's election, 120 people died after killing of Burhan Wani. He said people will storm Raj Bhawan and that he too will come to Raj Bhawan along with his luggage," the ex-Governor said.

Malik said that he assured CS not to worry, as he has well understood the emotions of the people ● PAGE 10

After Valley, Bukhari To Launch 'Apni Party' In Jammu

Agencies

SRINAGAR: After Kashmir Valley, the former finance minister Syed Altaf Bukhari is all set to launch his Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) in Jammu province before March 16, 2020.

Bukhari along with other leaders affiliated with the newly launched party will be flying to Jammu in coming days to launch the party in the region too, news agency KNO reported.

"We have finalized the matter and will move to Jammu in coming days to officially launch the party there," sources said, adding that the faces of Jammu will also attend the launching ceremony.

They further informed that the party will be officially launched in Jammu region before March 16. Sources also said that following launching of party in Jammu, the designation of leaders will be decided accordingly.

Pertinently, many leaders who were affiliated with different parties in Jammu and Kashmir have joined hands and structured a new political party here and ● PAGE 10

Renaming Institutions Won't Change History, Says NC

'Sher-E-Kashmir Remains Towering Figure Of Sub-Continent'

National Conference on Wednesday regretted dropping of Sher-e-Kashmir prefix from Srinagar's premier international convention complex, popularly known as SKICC, saying it is yet another attempt of distorting the reality and undermining the stature of the party founder late Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.

"Changing of names won't change the history, which stands testimony to the role and contribution of Sher-e-Kashmir ● PIO