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SUNRISE
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.....PANORAMA
P5

News Digest

Petrol, Diesel To Get
Costlier From June 01

Srinagar: The petrol as well as the diesel is set to become costlier in Jammu and Kashmir as the government on Friday announced new tax besides surcharge of Rs five per litre on petrol and Rs 1.5 on diesel from June 01, 2020. "In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3 and 3A of the Jammu and Kashmir Motor Spirit and

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Edu Institutions To
Remain Shut Till June 15

Srinagar- The government on Friday ordered that all educational institutions and training institutions in the Jammu and Kashmir shall remain closed till June 15. The educational institutions were closed in March in wake of Coronavirus outbreak in Jammu and Kashmir that has claimed 28 lives and infected over 2000 people across the J&K so far.

Highway Shut After
LPG Cylinders Explode

Srinagar: The strategic Srinagar-Jammu highway on Friday was temporarily closed for vehicular traffic after a truck carrying Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders caught fire and triggered huge explosions near Udhampur. A truck carrying hundreds of LPG cylinders caught fire in Tikri area

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Fire Sparks Landmine
Blasts Along LoC

Jammu- A fire that engulfed a large forest area along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district triggered several landmine blasts on Friday, officials said. The fire broke out across the LoC and spread to this side of the border in the Balakote sector, resulting in mine blasts early Friday, they said. Landmines are planted by the security forces to prevent infiltration from across the border. However, there was no loss of life or damage to any

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Minor Girl Drowns
In Sopore

Srinagar: A minor girl died of drowning on Friday in Rafiabad area of Sopore in Baramulla district. Five-year-old Adiya Hameed, daughter of Abdul Hameed slipped into a ditch while her family was busy at their orchard in Behrampora village of Rafiabad this evening, reports said. Her family evacuated her and removed her to the Sub District Hospital (SDH)

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4 Booked For Violating
Quarantine Rules

Jammu: Four persons were booked for violation of quarantine rules in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district on Thursday night, police officials said. All the four persons were checked at Lakanpur corridor on May 26 by concerned authorities and were asked to report at the administrative quarantine centre in Thandi Khui, Vijaypur, they said.

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China Rejects Trump's Mediation
Offer On Ladakh Face-Off

File Pic: Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

BEIJING- China on Friday rejected US President Donald Trump's offer to mediate between India and China to end their current border standoff.

In a surprise move, Trump on Wednesday offered to "mediate or arbitrate" the raging border dispute between India and China, saying he was "ready, willing and able" to ease the tensions, amid the continuing standoff between the armies of the two Asian giants.

Reacting for the first time to the US president's offer, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said, the two countries

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India Gives Lie To Trump Claim On Ladakh Row

Top government sources on Friday virtually contradicted US President Donald Trump's claim of a conversation between him and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on India's ongoing military standoff with China in eastern Ladakh.

There has been no recent contact between Prime Minister Modi and President Trump, the sources said.

The clarification came hours after Trump said in Washington

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Trump Says, PM Modi 'Not In A Good Mood'



Reiterating his offer to mediate on the border dispute between India and China, US President Donald Trump has said that he spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is not in a "good mood" over the "big conflict" between the two countries. Interacting with journalists in the Oval Office of the White House on Thursday, Trump said

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WE ARE CAPABLE OF PROPERLY RESOLVING THE ISSUES between us through dialogue and consultation. We do not need the intervention of the third party, he said.

Army Top Brass Discusses Ladakh Stand-Off, J&K Situation

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The apex leadership of the Indian Army deliberated on various aspects related to existing and developing security challenges, the Army said on Friday at the end of a three-day conference of its top commanders here.

Issuing a brief statement, the Army did not mention the specific issues discussed at the biannual event.

However, official sources said review of the situation in eastern Ladakh where Indian and Chinese troops are engaged in a tense standoff was a major focus area of the discussion.



File Pic: Abid Bhat

The conference also extensively deliberated on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir after its

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Kashmiri Students At AMU
Booked For 'Pro-Pakistan Post'

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Police in Uttar Pradesh state has booked two Kashmiri students of the Aligarh Muslim University under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for allegedly posting pro-Pakistan and anti-India messages on social media.

The two Kashmiri students Saqib Rasool Bhat and Sheikh Arafat were booked by UP police on the basis of a complaint lodged by a Hindu right-wing leader Deepak Sharma Aazad claiming that the two students had posted 'inappropriate'



content on social media expressing their love for the "enemy nation", reports said. The complainant had further alleged that the two were propagating Kashmir's merger with Pakistan and desired to celebrate Eid in accordance

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Police Officer Detained
In Wife's Dowry Death Case

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The CBI on Friday took into custody a Jammu and Kashmir Police officer after filing a charge sheet against him in a Jammu court for the alleged murder of his wife over an unfulfilled dowry demand, officials said.

Jammu and Kashmir Police Inspector Vivek Bassan's wife Neha Kumari was found dead on February 26, 2018, with a gunshot injury from the service pistol of her husband, they said.

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court had handed over the case

to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which took over the probe into the case on March 26, 2019, the officials said.

During the investigation, the CBI also found that a station house officer of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and a ballistic expert had a role in allegedly concealing the role of Bassan and giving the crime the colour of suicide, regarding which probe is going on, they said.

"During the investigation, an alleged conspiracy was also revealed to manipulate evidence so as to reflect the incident as a suicide," CBI Spokesperson RK Gaur said.

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File Pic: Abid Bhat

Man Tests Covid-19 Positive
After Death, J&K Toll At 28

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- A day after his death, swab samples of a 70-year-old man from south Kashmir's Shopian district came out to be positive for the novel coronavirus, taking the death count due to the deadly disease in Jammu and Kashmir to 28, officials said.

Dr. Salim Khan, nodal officer for COVID-19 at the Government Medical College Srinagar, said that the septuagenarian from Alipora, Bagander Shopian was admitted to SMHS hospital on May 27 as "pneumonia patient with underlying hypertension and diabetes mellitus."

The patient died on Thursday evening and his sample was taken for COVID-19 test, he said, adding that his report came positive on Friday.

With his death, the COVID-19 related death toll in Jammu and Kashmir has risen to 28- 25 in Kashmir and 3 in Jammu, they said.

So far Srinagar district has highest number of the fatalities—7 followed by Anantnag and Baramulla with five deaths each, Kulgam has reported four while Budgam and Jammu have two each and one death each has been reported from Bandipora, Shopian and Udhampur.

THE PATIENT DIED ON THURSDAY evening and his sample was taken for COVID-19 test, he said, adding that his report came positive on Friday.

128 More Test Positive For Covid-19

128 more people tested positive for COVID-19 in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, taking the number of cases in J&K to 2164, officials said. "128 new COVID-19 cases were detected in J&K. While 92 of them are from Kashmir, 36 are from Jammu," the officials said. Among fresh cases, 27 cases were reported from Srinagar, 19 from Kulgam, 18 from Kupwara, 14 from Poonch, 13 from Pulwama, eight from Baramulla, seven from Jammu, six each from Anantnag, Rajouri & Kathua, two from Samba and one each from Shopian & Udhampur.

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NC Says It Won't Be Part Of
Delimitation Commission

‘Unwilling To Accept Events Of August 5’

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The National Conference on Friday rejected the process of setting up of a Delimitation Commission by the Centre for redrawing parliamentary and assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir, saying its MPs will not participate in the exercise as the party is unwilling to accept the events of last year's August 5.

It said the delimitation commission is a product of the J&K Reorganization Act 2019, which the party is challenging in and outside the Supreme Court.

"With reference to the recently announced Delimitation Commission by the government of India, Jammu and Kashmir National Conference today rejects this process



and its three members of Parliament will not participate in the said commission," the NC said in a statement issued here.

"Participating in this Delimitation Commission will be tantamount to accepting the events of 5th August 2019 which the NC is unwilling to do," the party said, referring to the nullification of Article 370 and bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into union territories by the Centre.

According to the Constitution of J and K, the NC said, the constituencies of the erstwhile

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Migrants On Move: Desperate Bids And Bumpy Ride On J&K's Horror Highway

Swati Joshi

IN the wee hours of May 17, 2020, Suresh Kumar finally managed to embark on a desperate home journey to Uttar Pradesh.

The 35-year-old house painter had earlier come out thrice, but cops enforcing COVID lockdown had derailed the same and sent him packing to his rented room in Srinagar.

That day, as he finally succeeded, it appeared a much-relieved drive, until it became a nightmarish journey on the horror highway — the only surface link connecting Kashmir with the rest of the world.

In the 40-kilometer long Ram-

ban-Ramsoo stretch of the nearly 300-kilometre long Srinagar-Jammu highway, he had to wait for the road clearance, as two workers were killed and 7 others injured that day.

Notorious for erosion and shooting stones, the uncertain thoroughfare was hit by a massive landslide burying nine vehicles on May 17.

The incident is believed to have happened due to the negligence of the contractor company, CCPV, carrying out excavation work from Nashri to Banihal.

By the time, Suresh reached Seeri Ramban, the erosion spot, a rescue operation was already underway.

"Even as the vehicular traffic was moving ahead," Suresh said, "the



Image for representation

battered highway scenes made it a scary site. In panic, I even told the driver, 'Bhaya, let's go back to Kashmir.' But then, he said, 'Take it easy.

It's a usual journey for us on this road.' Throughout our journey to Jammu, I kept praying for our safety."

The hazardous drive only made his homecoming as a harrowing experience.

But what Suresh experienced has been a lingering gripe of Kashmiris since 1947—when their sole surface communication became this erstwhile pony track used by Jammu-based Dogra Maharajas.

The fair-weather highway not only holds life in Kashmir hostage, but also sends body bags to the valley. It's said that the hostile highway has consumed more lives, than the raging strife in the backyards of Kashmiris.

At about the same when Suresh

was following the footsteps of his troubled tribe heading home in hordes from cities and countryside, Saleem Ahmad, a barber from Bihar, began his home journey.

As part of the pandemic-induced workforce exodus, Saleem witnessed desperate homecoming bids and bumpy ride on the highway.

"Unlike other places, we weren't starving in the valley," the fresh-faced barber, who would earn around Rs 1500 during the pandemic lockdown in Srinagar, said.

"But since we were told it's a long haul, most of us got desperate to join our families back home."

Both Suresh and Saleem arrive with a workforce influx in the re-

gion every year. Being a good wage provider, Jammu and Kashmir is home to many migrant workers. From construction to smalltime industries, these migrant workers play an important role in various spheres of life in the erstwhile state.

According to Indian Wage Report 2018, regular wages in urban areas are highest in Haryana—followed by Assam, Jharkhand, Jammu and Karnataka.

In rural areas, J&K rank second, amongst states with the highest wages.

Lately, these migrant labourers started hitting the highway after Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that coronavirus is here

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