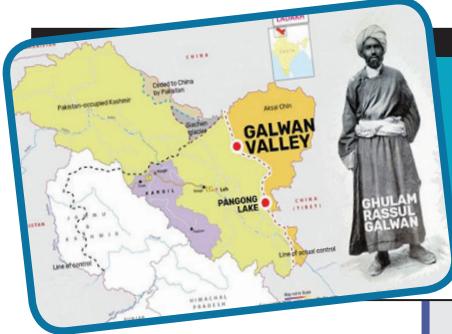




Maximum : 23°C
Minum : 12°C
Humidity : 69%

SUNSET
Today 07:38 PM
SUNRISE
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BACKSTORY OF LADAKH'S GALWAN VALLEY AND THE LEGEND OF RASSUL GALWAN

The world's two most populous countries which had fought a full-fledged war in 1962 — are now facing a stern test once again as their militaries are in an eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation at a few places along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Ladakh region. Alongside the main story of border tensions, skirmishes and alleged incursions, there lies a strategic importance of the Galwan Valley in the restive region. But how this valley was named Galwan? And what is its backstory? Several historians, scholars and experts of Ladakh affairs are of the view that Galwan Valley was named after Rasool Galwan. According to the book Forsaking Paradise: Stories from Ladakh, Ghulam Rasool Galwan or Ghulam Rassul Galwan had arrived in Leh in 1895. "In the year 1895, after a hazardous journey of one year and three months in Central Asia and Tibet, Rasool Galwan,.....

.....PANORAMA

P5

News Digest

HC To Consider Sagar's PSA Plea

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Monday said it will consider plea challenging detention under Public Safety Act of Ali Muhammad Sagar, General Secretary of National Conference, on June 10. A bench of Justice Sindhu Sharma passed the orders after Senior Additional Advocate General B. A. Dar undertook to produce the Sagar's detention record before the Court by June 10. Earlier, the Senior AAG submitted that he has filed

Youth Found Dead In Sopore

Srinagar: A youth on Monday was found dead under mysterious circumstances in Sopore area of Baramulla district. 30-year-old Muhammad Akbar was found dead at his home in Hardshiva village of Sopore by his family members, reports said. The deceased was a driver by profession. A police team reached the spot and took the body for post-mortem to determine the cause of death. Meanwhile, police have

Accidental Fire Kills Minor In Reasi

Jammu: A four-year-old boy was killed when he was hit by a bullet from a rifle inside a house in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said Monday. Vansh, along with his elder brother Rohit (10), had come to his maternal home at Maslot village in Arnas on Sunday and started fiddling with .303 rifle of the grandfather who is a Village Defence Committee (VDC) member, a police official said. He said the gun went off accidentally and a bullet

Doda Woman Injured In Bear Attack

Jammu: A woman was injured after a bear attacked her near her house close to a forested area in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, officials said. Hajra Begum, a resident of Void Drubel in Chatroo, was attacked on Sunday evening. She was saved by locals and later hospitalised, they said. She has suffered critical injuries, the officials said.

Man Booked For Skipping Quarantine

Jammu: A man, who escaped from a quarantine centre in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, was brought back and an FIR slapped against him, officials said on Monday. On receiving information that one person escaped from the quarantine centre Calvary Mission School in Ghagwal, police team immediately swung into action and brought him back, they said. A case has been registered against the man at Ghagwal Police Station, the officials said. The administration has appealed to the district residents to cooperate and not to violate quarantine rules, they said.

People Living On Higher Altitudes Less Vulnerable To Covid-19: Report

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Researchers have found that populations living in higher altitudes, especially 3,000 meters (9,842 feet) above the sea level, significantly report lower levels of coronavirus infections than their lowland counterparts.

The Washington Post cited one peer-reviewed study, published in the journal Respiratory Physiology & Neurobiology, in which researchers from Australia, Bolivia, Canada and Switzerland looking at epidemiological data from Bolivia, Ecuador and Tibet found that Tibet's infection rate was "drastically" lower than that of lowland China, three times lower in the Bolivian Andes than in the rest of the country and four times lower in the Ecuadorian Andes.

Cusco in Peru, a picturesque Andean valley, the high-altitude city of 420,000 residents, had only recorded the death of three tourists from Mexico, China and Britain, between March 23 and April 3, at the start of Peru's strict national lockdown. Since then, there has not been another covid-19 fatality in the entire Cusco region, even as the disease has claimed more than 4,000 lives nationally. Infections have also remained low. Just 916 of Peru's 141,000 cases come from the Cusco region, meaning its contagion rate is more than 80 per cent below the national average.

The illness's link to high-elevation regions has prompted speculation from researchers that the coronavirus gets "soroche", the Quechua word for altitude sickness.

Similarly, Ecuador has

'Dragon Is Already On Our Doorsteps': Reporting Ladakh Amid Faceoff

Augib Javeed

DURBOK: Ladakh — Barring some clamorous military convoys rumbling on blacktops and snaking through the sand swatches while ferrying and feeding war-stores to hostile frontiers, this small and silent village defies the sense of seething showdown, some 100 kilometres away, even as the 'enemy' jets have reportedly infringed the airspace.

Living between Chang La mountain pass and Tangste on the way to Pangong Tso Lake, the villagers here, however, feel far from the official position: "All is Well" — the

phrase popularized by Aamir Khan, in his 3-Idiot movie, shot in Ladakh, 11 years ago.

"The problem is," a villager told Kashmir Observer, "government wants to stay silent for some mysterious reasons, even when the dragon is already on our doorsteps."

If it's the "usual incursions" at Line of Actual Control (LAC), he said, then why so much heavy artillery guns and aircrafts are being deployed here?

"So when the Indian side has already increased their troop strength here," the villager said, "the government and its stooge media need to tell the truth to the



File Pic Abid Bhat

nation. And the truth is, Chinese have come deep inside our terri-

tory and built bunkers." **Fresh faceoff**

J&K Reports 3 Covid-19 Deaths In Single Day

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus on Monday claimed three more lives across Jammu and Kashmir, raising the toll due to the deadly disease in the Union Territory to 31, officials said.

Dr Mir Mushtaq, Deputy Medical Superintendent District Hospital Pulwama said a 70-year-old-man was brought dead to the hospital this morning. "His swap sample was taken which came out to be positive now," he said.

The body was kept in hospital mortuary and would be handed over to the family as per covid-19 protocol.

"The man had comorbidities like COPD," he said.

Earlier, a 72-year-old man with comorbidities from Doda and a 45-year-old man from Shopian died at SKIMS Soura.

Professor Farooq Jan, Medical superintendent of the SKIMS Soura said that a 45-year-old man



A MUNICIPALITY worker disinfects a casket of a Covid-19 deceased at Srinagar hospital. KO File Photo: Abid Bhat

from Ramnagar area of Shopian was admitted to tertiary hospital's emergency at 9 P.M. on Sunday as a case of "CKD, ESRD with b/l Chest infiltrates".

"The patient had AGE like illness and was in shock. After initial stabilization, he was shifted

10 Pregnant Women, Medico Among 155 Test Positive

Coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday crossed 2600 mark, as 155 more people, including a doctor and 10 expecting mothers tested positive for the virus, taking the number of infected

DGCA Asks Airlines To Keep Middle Seats Vacant

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Monday asked airlines to allot seats in flights in such a manner that middle seats are kept vacant to the extent possible.

However, if a flyer has been allotted the middle seat due to a high passenger load "then additional protective equipment like wrap-around gown of the Ministry of Textile approved standards" must be provided to that passenger in addition to three-layered face mask



and face shield, said the DGCA order.

India resumed its domestic passenger flights from May 25 after a gap of two months due to the coronavirus-triggered lockdown. International commercial passenger flights continue to remain suspended in the country.



Image for Representation

3 Militants Killed Along LoC In Rajouri: Army

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- Army on Monday claimed to have foiled an infiltration attempt by killing three unidentified militants along the Line of Control (LoC) in Naushera sector of Rajouri district.

The Pakistani militants made the abortive attempt to sneak into the Kalal area of Nowsheera from Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (Pck) on May 28

CASO Launched Along IB After 'Suspicious Movement'

State forces launched a search operation following "suspected movement" in the riverine areas along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua-Samba sector, officials said on Monday.

6 Jaish OGWs Held In Budgam: Police

Police Monday claimed to have busted a narco-militant module in Budgam district of central Kashmir by

Pak Attacked Indian Posts With Guided Missiles: Army

Army on Monday accused Pakistan troops of attacking forward posts with

China Flies Fighter Jets 30-35 Kms From Eastern Ladakh: Report

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Amid rising tension and buildup by the two nuclear countries along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh, the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) on Monday flew fighter jets around 30-35 kms near the contested area fueling fears of border escalation.

According to Asian News International (ANI), the Chinese army have kept a fleet of around 10-12 fighter aircraft at Hotan and Gargunsa at the moment and they are also carrying out flying activity close to the Indian Territory. The two airbases of Hotan and Gargunsa are around

100-150 kms from the LAC.

"We are keeping a close eye on the movement of these J-11 and J-7 fighter aircraft," ANI quoted sources as saying.

"Their fighter aircraft have been carrying out sorties from air bases in Hotan and Gargunsa and fly 30-35 kms from our territory in Ladakh region, sources told the wire agency.

The tension along the LAC has heightened after the armies of the two countries moved in heavy equipment and weaponry, including artillery and combat vehicles to their rear bases close to the disputed areas in eastern Ladakh. The Chinese troops have also deployed J-7 and J-11 fighter aircraft

J&K Govt Exempts Central Forces From RTPCR Testing, Quarantine

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Monday exempted the defence and Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel returning to join their duties from the compulsory 100 per cent RTPCR testing and administrative quarantine.

According to an official order, Chief Secretary and Chairperson State Executive Committee B V R

Subrahmanyam said these personnel would be allowed to proceed to the institutional quarantine of their respective units or formations for necessary quarantine as per their internal procedures.

"The personnel of defence and CAPF returning to duty are exempted from compulsory 100 percent RTPCR testing and administrative quarantine in any facility authorised by the government of Jammu and Kashmir," the order read.

Meanwhile, an official release said all returnees coming from outside to the Union Territory of J and K, whether by road, rail or air, would have to compulsorily undergo a COVID-19 test following which they will be under administrative quarantine for 14 days.

"If the test result is negative, they will be released for home quarantine and if the test result comes

THE PERSONNEL OF DEFENCE AND CAPF RETURNING TO DUTY are exempted from compulsory 100 percent RTPCR testing and administrative or institutional quarantine in any facility authorised by the government of Jammu and Kashmir,"

Meet The Man Who Arranges Burial For Kashmir's Covid Casualties

Saqib Aziz

SRINAGAR: It was already sun-down on May 27, 2020, when Sajad Khan, 37, got a call from a man introducing himself as a retired Superintendent of Police.

But even before the caller's cop introduction would make him imagine things, Khan was curtly told: "I saw your video on Facebook..."

Sometimes before, when Khan was passing through the lanes of his hometown Bemina, he saw some reluctant relatives standing at a 'safe' distance from a COVID victim, for the fear of the novel coronavirus.

"I couldn't take it and ran towards my departmental shop named

Houseful in Bemina and took 8 PPE [Personal Protective Equipment] gears from shelf," Khan, 37, recalls the day, that would motivate him to come up with an important community cause.

"I could see satisfaction on the faces of those eight PPE-clad men who participated in the funeral prayers of that late lady, and gloom on those who could only stand around as sorrowful spectators."

The case set him thinking.

If Khalsas can do it, Khan thought, why can't Kashmiris help each other during these trying times?

He would shortly contact his friends, and share his idea with them.



Sajad Khan

Khan wanted to rope in the like-minded for the burial of the COVID-19 victims being 'abandoned' for the fear of contagion in Kashmir Valley.

Once he raised a volunteer group of around 20 friends, he uploaded a video on his Facebook page, Athwaas, Handshake, where he would

share his message, "Anybody can call us anytime", and personal contact number.

"I only requested people that during these tough times, we need to support each other," Khan, the ex-banker, known for his community welfare works in his hometown, continues.

"Rather than presenting myself as some social worker, I wanted to motivate people to come forward, when this virus had disrupted our compassionate community ecosystem."

It was in this backdrop that he received that call from the retired police officer on May 27.

The ex-cop had introduced himself as an uncle of a 55-year-old Fateh Kadal man—who