



Maximum : 28°C SUNSET Today 07:42 PM Minimum : 15°C SUNRISE Tomorrow 05:19 AM Humidity : 53%

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THE CURE WORSE THAN THE DISEASE

WE have flattened the wrong curve i.e. GDP – these words were uttered by one of the most important business voices in India the other day. Covid-19 one of the greatest pandemics of our times, which has caught world leaders off-guard, has demonstrated that some of the powerful governments and their economies are ill-prepared to deal with an aggressive outbreak. While the world fights to mitigate the impact of the corona crisis which has unsettled lives, livelihoods and businesses worldwide, the outbreak also accentuates the need for leaders and people in power to be resilient. While the top of the line leaders are already hand in gloves in charting the right course to successfully lead their areas of operation amid the crisis, leading through a crisis of this magnitude requires more than just a rule book and best practices....

.....OPINION P4



News Digest

Petrol, Diesel Prices Hiked For Second Day

New Delhi: Petrol and diesel prices were hiked by 60 paise per litre on Monday, for the second day in a row, as state-owned oil firms reverted to daily price revisions after a 83-day hiatus. Petrol price in Delhi was hiked to Rs 72.46 per litre from Rs 71.86 on Sunday, while diesel rates were increased to Rs 70.59 a litre from Rs 69.99, according to a price notification of state oil marketing companies. This is the second daily P-02

Soldier Ends Life In Poonch

Srinagar: An army man on Monday allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself dead with his service rifle in Mankote sector along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district, officials said. Lance Naik Ashish Kumar of 8 Garhwal Unit was found in pool of blood by his colleagues soon after they heard a gunshot in Balnoi, an army official said. The soldier was removed to the nearby health facility but was declared brought dead on arrival by the doctors. P-02

4 Gamblers Held In Ganderbal: Police

Srinagar: Police on Monday claimed to have arrested four gamblers in a raid in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Following an input, a team from police station Lar raided Watlar area and apprehended four gamblers from the spot, a police spokesperson said. He said an amount of Rs 13460 was recovered from the gamblers. The police spokesperson said that the accused identified as Muzaffar Ahmed Danga and Mohammed Ayoub Bhat of Tullmulla and Shitaaq Ahmed P-02

Bags Carrying Bullets Seized At Airport

Srinagar: Security forces recovered some live bullets and empty cases from two bags during X-Ray scanning at the Srinagar airport here on Monday, officials said. During X-Ray scanning at the drop gate of the airport, security personnel deployed there recovered some live bullets and empty rounds from two bags, they said. The officials said while four AK-47 rifle rounds and one round of INSAS rifle were recovered from a bag, 21 empty cases were recovered from a suitcase. P-02

Pak Breached Truce In Poonch: Army

Jammu: Pakistani troops on Monday opened fire and heavily shelled forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, drawing retaliation from the Indian Army, a defence spokesperson said. "At about 1945 hours today, Pakistan army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and intense shelling with mortars along LoC in Kharikarma sector in the district," he said. He said the Indian Army P-02

4 More Hizb Militants Killed In Shopian

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Four more Hizbul Mujahideen militants were killed in a fierce gun-battle with the government forces in Shopian district on Monday, a day after five militants of the same group were killed in a similar encounter with the state forces in the south Kashmir district on Sunday.

Around midnight, special operations group (SOG) of police and 44 RR of army, assisted by paramilitary CRPF 14th battalion laid a siege around village Pinjora of Shopian and started a search operation amid intelligence reports suggesting presence of militants in the area, police said today. When the joint team intensified search operation, the militants present in the village opened fire upon them in a bid to break the cordon and P-02



88 Militants Killed In J&K This Year: DGP

Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag Singh on Monday said 88 militants, including a number of top commanders, were killed and 280 others arrested so far in J&K this year. Twenty-two of the militants, including six top commanders, were killed in the past two weeks, Singh said. P-02

INCriminating material including arms and ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other crimes."

Kashmiris Took Art-370 Abrogation Positively: Lt Gen Raju

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: People of Kashmir took the scrapping of Article 370 in a "positive manner" as there was relative peace for a long time but Pakistan is on a "hyperdrive" on peddling a false narrative to keep the pot boiling in the valley, a top army officer said on Monday. "Starting from the situation post abrogation of Article 370, I think the population took the decision in a positive manner. We saw relative peace for a fairly long period of time," Lt Gen B S Raju, heading the strategic XV corps, told reporters in Awantipora, 33 km from here. Flanked by General Officer Com-



manding of Army's South Kashmir based Vice Force Major General A Sengupta and Inspector General of CRPF, Gen Raju, who was talking to media following killing of nine militants in two encounters in Shopian district in less than 24 hours, said normalcy was almost back P-02

Singh Inaugurates CAT Bench At Jammu

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Monday inaugurated the Central Administrative Tribunal's (CAT) Jammu bench and said it would speed up the process of redressing the grievances of employees. The CAT adjudicates service matters of central government employees. Speaking after the inauguration, Singh said the setting up of the CAT's Jammu bench to deal exclusively with service matters of government employees would go a long P-02

IAS Officer Faces Action For 'Creating Hurdles' In Prayers

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has asked the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) to take action against an IAS officer who allegedly tried to prevent the Amarnath Shrine Board officials from undertaking "pratham pooja" (first prayer) for Amarnath yatra, sources said on Monday. This is for the first time in many years that the J and K administration has made a complaint to the DoPT against a bureaucrat, they said.

This step was taken after the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) officials made a complaint to the office of Lieutenant Governor G C Murmu that an IAS officer tried to prevent them from undertaking "pratham pooja" for Amarnath yatra, the sources said. The administration has written to the DoPT seeking action against the officer who tried to create hurdles in the passage of the pooja, the sources told PTI. The Lt governor has taken a serious note of the "behaviour" of the officer, they said. The traditional "pratham pooja" (first prayer) for the annual pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas was held here last P-02

SC Serves Notice To Centre, J&K On Soz's Detention

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Monday sought response from the Centre and the Jammu and Kashmir administration on a plea of former Union minister and senior Congress leader Saifuddin Soz's wife challenging his house arrest since August 5 last year.

A bench headed by Justices Arun Mishra issued notices to the Centre and the J-K administration asking them to respond by second week of July to the plea of Mumtazunnisa Soz, wife of the octogenarian leader. Mumtazunnisa has also sought the production of veteran leader before the court and the quashing of the house arrest order. P-02

Kashmir Records 5 Covid-19 Deaths, Toll In J&K 46

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded five more COVID-19 deaths, including that of a CRPF trooper, taking the total number of fatalities in the Union Territory to 46, officials said on Monday.

The 40-year-old (Central Reserve Police Force) CRPF trooper, who was posted in Anantnag district in South Kashmir, was admitted at SKIMS Hospital here on Thursday with acute respiratory distress syndrome, they said.

The officials said the sample of the trooper, who hailed from Uttar Pradesh, was tested on Friday and it came out positive for coronavirus.

His condition became critical and he passed away on late Sunday night due to cardiopulmonary arrest, the officials said.

This is the first COVID-related death of a trooper in Jammu and Kashmir. In another death on Monday, a 35-year-old man P-02

198 More Test Covid-19 Positive

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- 198 more people tested positive for COVID-19 in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, taking the number of cases in J&K to 4,285, officials said.

"198 new COVID-19 cases were detected in J&K. While 165 of them are from P-02

SKIMS Discharges 18 More After Recovery

SRINAGAR: Eighteen more COVID-19 patients today discharged from SKIMS Medical College Hospital Bemia after their successive tests turned negative.

These patients were admitted in hospital for treatment after testing positive more than two weeks back at various referral centers. P-02

'Durbar' To Reopen In Srinagar On July 6

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The 'Durbar Move' offices will formally reopen here on July 6 even as Civil Secretariat shall continue to remain functional both at Jammu and Srinagar and the move employees shall work on "as is where is" basis, the government has said.

"This arrangement is a peculiar one which is being adopted this year only keeping in view the circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic," government said in an order. "The Durbar Move offices for

the Summer Session-2020 shall formally open at Srinagar on 6th July, 2020 (Monday) at 9:30 a.m.," reads an order issued here by the government.

This is for the first time in 148 years that the government has "halted" the traditional administrative tradition of Durbar Move.

The offices observing five days week shall close at Jammu on 26th June (Friday) after the office hours and the offices observing six days week shall close on 27th June, 2020 (Saturday) after the office hours to facilitate packing of records P-02

Kargil Leader: 'China Is Strengthening Its Existence, Influence In J&K'

Auqib Javed

THE rugged region where the two South Asian nuclear-armed neighbours played the 1999 explosive summer war – forcing natives to take cover in trenches for weeks amid raining shells – is currently reliving the bitter war memories, as the ongoing Sino-India standoff dominates the discourse.

Even as the guards have been reportedly lowered at Line of Actual Control (LAC), apprehensions in the Muslim-majority Kargil region remain that the complexity of the situation might prolong the military faceoff. One man, however, is seeing the

'great game' in Beijing's fiercest storm-trooping of Ladakh's pasturelands. He makes no bones about India's defense dearth at the strategic points under the jackboots of Dragon.

As an influential leader from Kargil, Asgar Ali Karbalai, a former lawmaker of the erstwhile state of J&K, has closely witnessed the shifting sands of the cold desert over the years.

In an exclusive chat with Kashmir Observer's Special Correspondent, Karbalai talks about the genesis of the fresh faceoff, stressing why New Delhi stands on a sticky wicket in Ladakh today.

What're the apprehensions of the people of Ladakh amid ongoing Sino-India standoff? There're obviously some serious

concerns in Ladakh today. We've witnessed the 1999 Kargil War and we know the consequences of an armed conflict.

And therefore, people don't want any escalation at LAC.

But what according to you was Beijing's method behind the latest Ladakh intrusion?

We've to understand that China has invested billions of dollars in Pakistan for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The CPEC passes through Gilgit-Baltistan, bordering with the entire Ladakh region of Indian territory.

So through Gilgit-Baltistan, China, in order to connect the economic corridor with Arabian Sea, made an international highway known as



Karakoram Highway (KKH).

Not only that, they've a lot of mega projects in Gilgit-Baltistan, and many of them have been already completed. Besides, China has borders from Zojila to Bandipora's Gurez area.

Gurez in-turn has borders with Drass in Indian side, and with Astore in Gilgit-Baltistan.

So, China exists in all the areas of Gilgit-Baltistan that has borders with India.

In the backdrop of the ongoing LAC faceoff, China is only strengthening their existence and influence in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir including Ladakh.

But has China already occupied strategic points in Ladakh?

Yes, the occupied Galwan Nalla is strategically important, for its proximity with KKH and CPEC.

Since these areas have strategic and economic importance for China, they'll surely try to protect their interests and expand their existence.

But while they've been doing it [incursion] since years now, what's India doing?

KKH is a 60 year old project. And all these years, New Delhi couldn't even build an all-weather road for Ladakh.

As a result, this region remains cut-off from the rest of the world for six months.

Since the LAC standoff started, even the national media says that government has sent heavy deployments, but for that you need connectivity and infrastructure.

The question is, what'll you do if war breaks out? How'll you provide heavy arms and ammunition to the troops? How'll you compete with them, when the dragon is already on your top?

They're on top of Zojila, Astore, Pangong and Galwan Valley, where they've built a top-class infrastructure.

Does that mean Ladakh will easily fall, if China attacks?

See, we've only one Airport in Ladakh. You've a runway in Kargil but the airport is not functional. If you see in the Himachal side, the area also remains cut-off for over six months. The main lifeline for Ladakh is Zojila, which is under construction for years now. These are some practical issues that the Government of India needs to address sincerely.

Unfortunately, India is yet to understand the strategic and economic importance of Ladakh. So, yes, I believe that if P-02