



Maximum : 32°C
Minimum : 18°C
Humidity : 53%

SUNSET
Today 07:29 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:44 AM

OBSERVER

23rd year OF PUBLICATION

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News Digest

KU Postpones MBBS Exams

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir University on Monday announced that the MBBS examinations will be postponed till further notice. According to the varsity, the fresh dates for the deferred examinations will be notified separately, later. "It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that the MBBS examinations (Regular/Supplementary) for which dates have been already issued by the University of Kashmir have been postponed till further notice," the notification stated.

'Abducted' Soldier Remains Untraced

Srinagar: A search operation was launched on Monday to trace a Territorial Army (TA) jawan who is suspected to have been abducted by militants in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district, an Army spokesperson said here. Rifleman Shakir Manzoor of 162 Battalion (TA) went missing on Sunday and his vehicle was found abandoned and burnt in south Kashmir's Kulgam, he said. It is suspected that the soldier, a resident of neighbouring Shopian district, has been abducted by militants, the spokesperson said. The Army has launched an operation to trace him, he added.

Minor Dies After Car Falls Into Gorge

Banihal: A four-year-old boy was killed and four others, including his mother and minor brother, were injured as the vehicle they were travelling in skidded off the road and rolled down into a river in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district on Monday, officials said. The Bolero vehicle was going to Rajgarh in Ramban district from Dassa in Doda when it rolled down into the 150-feet-deep river resulting in boy's death and injuries to four other passengers, they said. Police officials identified the dead as Pritam Singh, son of Balwant Singh of Hiller, Rajgarh in P-02

Boy Drowns In Poonch River

Srinagar: A minor boy died of drowning on Monday in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. 12-year-old Murtaza Ahmed Malik was taking bath in a river in Sailan area of the district on Monday afternoon when he drowned, officials said. The locals swung into action and retrieved the boy in unconscious state before taking him to the sub-district hospital Surankote. However, the doctors there declared him brought dead on arrival. His body was handed over to his family after legal formalities, a police officer told GNS.

Bear Caught In Tangmarg

Srinagar: The officials of the wildlife department on Monday caught a bear in Tangmarg area of Baramulla district. According to reports, the locals spotted a bear in the village and instantly informed the wildlife department to prevent any incident of man-animal conflict. A team of wildlife officials reached the spot and caught the wild beast before whisking him away. The bear, reports said had attacked and injured at least nine persons in several villages of Tangmarg in recent days. (KNS)

Curfew In Srinagar Ahead Of August 5 Anniversary

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Authorities in Srinagar on Monday clamped curfew in the city in view of what they called "specific inputs" about protests on August 5, the first anniversary of the revocation of J&K's special status and its division into two union territories.

Srinagar District Magistrate Shahid Iqbal Choudhary said in an order that the curfew will come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in effect on August 4 and August 5.

Earlier strict restrictions on public movement were imposed in the Kashmir valley on Monday, with officials saying that the curbs have been enforced as part of efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Police and paramilitary forces sealed most of the roads and market places to enforce the lockdown.

Quoting Srinagar Senior Superintendent of Police District Magistrate said, "a series of inputs have been received suggesting that separatist and Pakistan-sponsored groups are planning to observe August 5 as Black Day and violent action or protests are not ruled out."

"There are specific inputs about violent protests endangering public life and property," the DM's order said. Choudhary said any mass gathering would also be detrimental to efforts related to the containment of COVID-19.

The SSP report further suggests that in view of restrictions aimed at COVID-19 containment already in place, the movement and assembly of people have been prohibited, the DM said.

Thus, any such mass gathering would be detrimental P-02



CURFEW WAS CLAMPED on Srinagar city two days ahead of August 5 anniversary. KO photo Abid Bhat

Top Security Brass Discuss Measures

SRINAGAR: Top officers of army, police and civil administration on Monday held a meeting to discuss the security measures to be put in place on the first anniversary of the revocation of special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

The core group meeting was co-chaired by General Officer Commanding, Chinar Corps, Lt Gen BS Raju and Director General of Police Jammu & Kashmir, Dilbag Singh to review the security situation and ensure readiness to meet anticipated security challenges, an army spokesperson said in a handout



issued this evening. Officials of civil administration, intelligence agencies and besides Divisional Commissioner also attended the meeting.

"The Core Group reviewed the security situation in Kashmir and the progress on handling the COVID challenges facing the UT. Special emphasis was given to ensure extensive security for the upcoming one year anniversary of abrogation of Article 370 including discussions on administrative measures," the army spokesperson said.

He said the meeting also discussed recent increased infiltration attempts and CFVs along the LoC while the defence officials shared that the surveillance grid and counter infiltration grid in sensitive areas has been reinforced, which has led to early detection and foiling of infiltration attempts in last few weeks. P-02

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August 5 Move Won't Change Kashmir's Status: Hurriyat

The Hurriyat Conference led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Monday said that the government of India's "muscular and brutal" August 5 move will not change the ground reality and that the Kashmir issues needs to be resolved in accordance to the wishes and aspirations of the people. P-02

August 5 'Darkest Day' In History Of J&K, Indian Democracy: Cong

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee on Monday termed the August 5 move by Modi government as the "darkest day in the history of Jammu and Kashmir and Indian democracy" and said that one year down the line the region has been pushed into a quagmire by the BJP government P-02

My House Locked From Inside Too: Soz

SRINAGAR: Senior Congress leader Saifuddin Soz on Monday claimed he continued to be under house detention, and that the main gate of his residence has now been locked from inside as well.

The former Union minister urged the country's judicial system to take notice of the situation.

I have already explained my position that I continue to be under house arrest. The Supreme Court was told by the Government on July 30 that I was a free man. I had categorically stated that the Government had made a false statement before the Supreme Court and outside too, he said in a statement here.

I had rebutted the false statement that very day and subsequently also, but the Government continued to spread the P-02

India Deploys More Troops, Tank Regiments Along LAC In Ladakh

Agencies

NEW DELHI: In response to China's deployment of more than 17,000 troops and armoured vehicles opposite Daulat Beg Oldi (DBO) and Depsang plains in Ladakh, India has made heavy deployment of troops and tank regiments in the area to counter any misadventure by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) there.



"We have done a very heavy deployment of troops and tanks in the DBO and Depsang plains area including the T-90 P-02

WE HAVE DONE A VERY HEAVY DEPLOYMENT OF TROOPS and tanks in the DBO and Depsang plains area including the T-90 regiments which are part of an armoured division,"

13 More Covid-19 Deaths In J&K, Toll Reaches 409

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least 13 more people, including six city residents died of coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, taking the total number of fatalities due to virus in the Union Territory to 409.

While Jammu province reported two new deaths due to Covid-19, in Valley eleven people succumbed to the deadly disease, officials said. In Valley, six of the victims were Srinagar residents, while two from Anantnag and one each from Ganderbal, Baramulla and Pulwama districts.

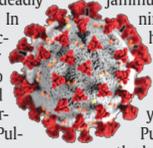
SK institute of medical sciences reported three deaths, including that of a 85-year-old man from Safakadal, 62-year-old from

Nawab Bazar here and a 75-year-old from Pulwama district.

At SMHS hospital, a 68-year-old from downtown Srinagar died this evening. "He was suffering from Pneumonia and was put on ventilator," a doctor at the hospital said.

Regarding two deaths at Jammu, officials said, one of them, a 60-year-old man from Simbal Morh in Miran Sahib area of Jammu tested positive last evening, nearly 24 hours after his death in the Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu. The other, they said, was 82-year-old woman from R S Pura who was admitted to the hospital on July 28.

Meanwhile, two persons from Anantnag died due to virus and included a 65-year-old man from Safakadal, 62-year-old from



60 Travellers Among 590 More Test Positive

Coronavirus on Monday crossed 22000 mark in Jammu and Kashmir as 590 more people, including sixty travellers tested Covid-19 positive raising the number of infected people across the Union Territory to 22006. While 433 new cases were reported from the Valley, remaining 157 were confirmed by the officials in the Jammu region. In Valley, Srinagar reported 180 fresh cases, Baramulla 23, P-02

WHO Says No 'Silver Bullet' To Defeat Covid-19

Agencies

GENEVA: The World Health Organization warned Monday that there might never be a "silver bullet" for the new coronavirus, despite the rush to discover effective vaccines.

The WHO urged governments and citizens to focus on doing the known basics, such as testing, contact tracing, maintaining physical distance and wearing a mask in order to suppress the pandemic, which has upended normal life around the globe and triggered a devastating economic crisis.

"We all hope to have a number of effective vaccines that can help prevent people from infection," WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual press conference.

"However, there's no silver bullet at the moment -- and there might never be."

"For now, stopping outbreaks comes down to the basics of public health and disease control. "Do it all," he urged.

The novel coronavirus has killed nearly 690,000 people and infected at least 18.1 million since the P-02



World Health Organization

Pakistan Foreign, Defence Ministers Visit LoC

Press Trust Of India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Defence Minister Pervez Khattak on Monday visited the Line of Control (LoC) where they were briefed by the Army about the latest situation, according to officials.

The two ministers, accompanied by the Prime Minister's Special Assistant on National Security Moeed Yusuf, visited the Chiri Kot Sector.

In a video message released before his LoC visit, Qureshi said he was visiting the LoC along with the Defence Minister to express solidarity with the Kashmiri people.

The two ministers visited the Chiri Kot Sector where they were briefed by the Army about the latest situation of the LoC, officials said. P-02

Pak Names 'Kashmir Highway' After Srinagar

In a move that could upset India, Pakistan renamed 'Kashmir Highway' in its capital Islamabad as Srinagar Highway to pay 'tributes to the struggle' of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, Dawn Reported Monday. Pakistan's Minister for Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed unveiled the P-02

Kot Sector where they were briefed by the Army about the latest situation of the LoC, officials said. P-02

After Amit Shah, Karnataka CM Tests Covid-19 Positive

Press Trust Of India

BENGALURU: Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa on Sunday said he has tested positive for COVID-19.

"I have tested positive for coronavirus. Whilst I am fine, I am being hospitalised as a precaution on the recommendation of doctors. I request those who have come in contact with me recently to be observant and exercise self quarantine," the veteran BJP leader wrote on Twitter.

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Article 370: A Year On, How Internet Restriction Affected Kashmiri Youth

Hameeda Syed

LAST Fall when Masrat Amin, 22, stepped outside of Indira Gandhi International Airport, she saw a few faces like her grimacing at the tapping sounds of smartphones and caller tunes were the first thing that made her blink twice and register a thought that she hadn't registered for a while.

"Everything was normal here," Masrat recounts the day she landed in Delhi for studies after spending weeks under internet blockade back home in Kashmir.

"Life was going on," she continues. "New Delhi bustled with life and fervour, but Srinagar was silent. The feeling was so alien and overwhelming that I lapsed into

disassociating from my surroundings. I could hear my relatives exclaiming in my presence and wrapping their arms around me, but I couldn't feel myself being there."

She felt like she had left a part of herself somewhere hidden behind the snow-clad mountains, and its absence made her realise how hollow she was without it.

"Nothing was normal anymore," she recalls the distressed time in her flat in Delhi. "And nobody could see it."

In the morning of August 5, 2019, weeks after Kashmiris could feel an inevitable turning of events brewing close, Article 370 of the Constitution which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir was abrogated by the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

During that time, Kashmiris witnessed the longest communication blackout in the region, with no access to cellular networks or the internet. Five months later, the internet was restored with restrictions. Only a few sites could be accessed with 2G connectivity. The government is yet to provide the erst-



while 4G connection, the refusal of which has made life tough for people living in the valley.

Now, completing a year since the abrogation move and a few months since the pandemic has gripped the world awake, the restrictions to the internet in Kashmir has been un-

derlined more than ever before.

Social media site Twitter is one of the many platforms that Kashmiri youth use to propel and gesticulate their thoughts amid these restrictions. On observation, the site provides a means through which they can profess their opinions and discuss the ongoing situation in Kashmir, which has been turned into a union territory after its abrogation.

For instance, former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's latest interview drew raging flak from K-Twitter.

The platform has given a space to vibrant, niche voices with an informed and progressive outlook towards the Kashmir situation.

Speaking to a few of those voices coming from the younger generation, the connection between the internet and the P-02