



Maximum : 33°C
Minimum : 20°C
Humidity : 52%

SUNSET
Today 07:26 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:47 AM



News Digest

Jawan Found Dead In Reasi

Jammu: A 32-year-old security force jawan was found shot dead at a security camp at Poni in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir under mysterious circumstances, sources said on Thursday. The incident occurred on Wednesday night when other jawans heard a gunshot sound and rushed towards its direction where they found a jawan lying in a pool of blood with a revolver lying nearby, they said. He was shifted to hospital, **● P-02**

Geelani Not Covid-19 Positive: Family

Srinagar: The family members of former chairman of Hurriyat Conference (G), Syed Ali Geelani on Thursday rubbished media reports claiming that the ailing leader has tested positive for coronavirus. "My father has not tested positive for COVID-19. He is absolutely fine by the grace of Allah," Geelani's son, Syed Naseem said. Earlier, some media reports suggested Geelani had tested positive for the deadly virus. **● P-02**

Pak Fired Shell Diffused In Poonch

Jammu: Security forces destroyed a live mortar shell fired by the Pakistan Army, targeting a village along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Thursday, sources said. The villagers informed the security forces about the live shell in the Mankote forward area in Mendhar sector, they said. Troops rushed to the spot **● P-02**

Minor's Body Fished Out From Jhelum

Srinagar: Rescue team of Police army on Thursday recovered body of a boy from river Jhelum in Baramulla district, a day after he drowned while bathing. Body of 10-year-old Muhammad Momeen, of Ravathpora, Sillkote in Uri was recovered from the river on Thursday after hectic efforts by the rescue team of police, army and SDRF, officials said. The body was handed over to **● P-02**

Pak Shelling Along LoC in Poonch

Jammu: Pakistani troops violated ceasefire on Thursday by heavily shelling forward areas in two sectors along the LoC in Poonch district, prompting the Indian Army to retaliate, officials said. A few structures were damaged in the shelling, they said. At about 2000 hours, the Pakistan Army fired with small arms and shelled mortars in Balakote and Mendhar sectors along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, a defence spokesman said. **● P-02**

BSF Man Sacked Over Smuggling

Chandigarh: A BSF constable, who was arrested by the Punjab Police in a cross-border drugs and weapons smuggling case, has been dismissed from service, said an official statement of the BSF on Thursday. Border Security Force Constable Rajendra Prasad was held along with two others by the Punjab Police on July 28 from his native place at Sriganganagar in Rajasthan. "As per the Punjab Police investigation report, Constable Rajendra Prasad **● P-02**

Senior BJP Leader Manoj Sinha Is New LG Of J&K

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Manoj Sinha, former union minister and senior BJP leader from Uttar Pradesh, was on Thursday appointed as the new Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. He is the first political leader to take charge as the LG of the union territory.

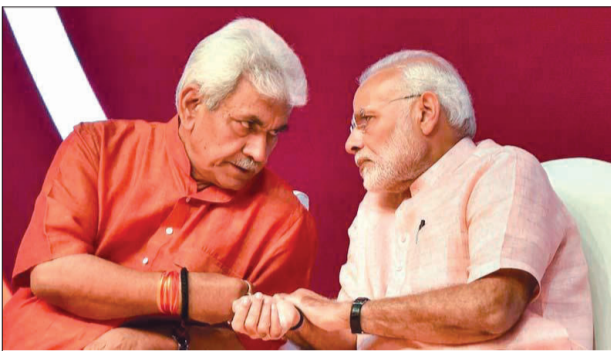
The 61-year-old, who is known for his massive connect with the people of rural areas, comes in place of former IAS officer Girish Chandra Murmu who hurriedly tendered his resignation on Wednesday night.

Sinha arrived here in a state plane and was likely to be administered the oath of office and secrecy on Friday by Jammu and Kashmir Chief Justice Gita Mittal at the Raj Bhavan, located on the foothills of the Zaberwan range.

He was received by Advisors to the previous LG including Farooq Khan, Chief Secretary BVR Subrahmanyam and top brass of the police and civil administration. A guard of honour was accorded to him at the airport.

Later he held an informal meeting with the four advisors, the Chief Secretary and senior police officials.

Among the priorities in hand for Sinha would be to end factionalism within the bureaucracy in the union territory, with **►PAGE 02**



LG Designate Manoj Sinha with PM Modi. File Pic

Oath Ceremony Likely Today

Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor designate Manoj Sinha arrived here on Thursday following his appointment to the Raj Bhawan, officials said. Sinha was received at the airport by Chief Secretary B V R Subrahmanyam and Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh, **● P-02**

'Strange Coincidence' Says Omar

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Thursday saw a "strange coincidence" in the resignation of Girish Chandra Murmu, saying the last Jammu and Kashmir governor and its first Lieutenant Governor have been "removed" from Raj Bhavan when they least expected it. **● P-02**

GC Murmu Appointed New CAG

The government on Thursday appointed former Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Girish Chandra Murmu as the new Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India. "...the President has been pleased to appoint Shri Girish Chandra Murmu to be the Comptroller and Auditor General of **● P-02**

Bureaucratic Tussle, Talk On Polls, 4G

What Led To Sudden Exit Of GC Murmu?

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The 'unceremonious' exit of Girish Chandra Murmu, the first Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu and Kashmir, has come as a surprise here with many observers linking his ouster to the remarks he made recently.

Till Wednesday afternoon there was no such talk in the J&K secretariat. It was business as usual at the Raj Bhawan as well as Murmu met a number of people as per schedule, including GOC-in Chief of the



Northern Command.

Later in the evening a few scheduled meetings were how-

ever cancelled at the last minute. With the sun set the news about Murmu's resignation started doing rounds on social media.

The resignation of Murmu, a 1985 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Gujarat cadre comes days after the Election Commission took an exception to his comments to the media on the timing of Assembly elections in Jammu & Kashmir. In a strongly-worded statement, the EC said all decisions on the conduct and timing of elections are its "sole remit". In an interview **►PAGE 02**

Many Positive Changes Reflect Normalcy Return To JK: MEA

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Several positive changes have taken place in terms of development in Jammu and Kashmir in the last one year which reflect return to "complete normalcy", the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday.

The assertion came after the Chairman and Ranking Member of the US House Committee on Foreign Affairs in a letter to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar expressed concern over the situation in Jammu and Kashmir one year after Article 370 was abrogated and the state was bifurcated into Union territories.

Asked about the reference to

Jammu and Kashmir in the letter, MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said, "Regarding the specific issue, there have been several positive changes in the UT of J and K over the past one year, be it in terms of ensuring good governance or socio economic development or justice to the disadvantaged sections of the population."

Elections have been held to block development councils in October 2019, the first ever 'Khelo India' winter games were held in March 2020, schools have re-opened, new educational facilities are being established, there are provisions of better healthcare with new health facilities coming up, **►PAGE 02**

'Dictatorship' In J&K For Past One Year: Priyanka

NEW DELHI: Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Thursday attacked the BJP government for treating her party leader Saifuddin Soz as a "prisoner", and alleged Jammu and Kashmir has been under a dictatorship for the past one year.

"Saifuddin Soz has played a big role in strengthening the process of Indian democracy. By treating him like a prisoner, the BJP is trampling democracy. Dictatorship is continuing in J&K for the last one year. I want to remind the government that India is a democratic republic," she said in a **● P-02**

BJP Sarpanch Shot Dead In Qazigund

SRINAGAR: Suspected militants on Thursday shot dead a BJP Sarpanch at Vessu village in Qazigund block of south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

Official sources said the militants fired upon the Sarpanch identified as Sajad Ahmad Khan-day near his residence at Vessu around 9:30 am, leaving him critically injured before fleeing.

Khanday was immediately rushed to a GMC Anantnag where he was declared brought dead, they said. This is the second attack of its kind in less than 48 hours as a BJP Panch Arif Ahmad was critically wounded after militants fired upon him at Akhran Qazigund on the evening of August 4. **● P-02**

India Asks China To Disengage Fully

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday said it expects China to work with it "sincerely" for "complete" disengagement and de-escalation in eastern Ladakh as decided by their Special Representatives last month even as Army Chief Gen MM Naravane reviewed the force's preparedness along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Arunachal sector.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava while replying to questions on the face-off in eastern Ladakh referred to decisions taken by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese **● P-02**

504 Separatists 'Signed Good Behaviour Bond': DGP

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: As many as 504 separatist leaders, who had been detained following the abrogation of Article 370 provisions a year ago, were released after they signed bond of "good behaviour", Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Dilbag Singh said on Thursday.

Singh also said out of the 350 separatist leaders and stone pelters who had been sent to jails in other states, only 50-60 continued to remain behind bars and the rest were released.

"A total of 504 separatist leaders belonging to Hurriyat Conference and Jamaat-e-Islami (JK) and others have

Covid-19 Claims 15 More Lives In J&K, Toll 443

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least fifteen more people, including a CRPF personal and a revenue official died due to Covid-19 in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, raising the total number of fatalities due to virus in the Union Territory to 443.

Deputy Commissioner Shopian Yasin Choudhary said that the 55-year-old Naib Tehsildar, Wachi lost his battle against Covid yesterday at SKIMS here.

Two of the deaths were reported from Kupwara and include a 75-year-old from Rawalpore Kralgund who admitted at SMSH Hospital Srinagar where he died while other— a 70-year-old from Bagath Mohalla Drugmulla who tested positive today and died near Pattan while he was being shifted to Srinagar

hospital on referral for further treatment by a local hospital, a senior official said.

Three deaths were reported from Pulwama district and include a 70-year-old from Monghama Tral was sampled on July 27 and tested positive subsequently, a 58-year-old woman from Gusoo and 60-year-old from Kadlbal Pampore.

Two of the victims belong to Jammu and one to Rajouri district who had died few days back at SKIMS Soura and was included in today's list.

Regarding one of the victims from winter capital, sources said that a 44-year-old man from Jhullaka Mohalla who was suffering from multiple ailments and had **►PAGE 02**

Covid-19 Crosses 23K Mark With 499 New Cases

At least 91 travellers and 41 security personnel were among 499 new cases reported in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, as the total number of infected persons in the Union Territory crossed 23000 mark.

While 426 new cases were reported from Kashmir Valley including 34 from CRPF, two from BSF and six from BB Cantonment, remaining 73 were confirmed positive by officials in Jammu province. Giving district wise breakup, sources **● P-02**

Top US Lawmakers Voice Concern Over Kashmir Situation

SRINAGAR: Two powerful United States lawmakers have expressed concern over the prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir in the backdrop of abrogation of special status by the government of India in August last year.

"As champions of the US-India relationship, we have been delighted to see our countries' close cooperation on issues from defense to climate change. It is because of our support for the bilateral relationship that we note with concern that conditions in Jammu and Kashmir have not normalised one year after India's repeal of Article 370 and the establishment of **● P-02**

...BANK FRAUD CASE ED Raids NC Leader's Son Hilal Rather

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday launched multiple raids in four cities in connection with a money laundering case linked to an alleged bank fraud probe against Hilal Rather, son of National Conference (NC) leader Abdul Rahim Rather, officials said. They said the raids were carried out at 16 locations in Kashmir, Jammu, Delhi and Ludhiana.

The exercise has been undertaken to collect evidence, they said.

The central probe agency has filed a money laundering case against Hilal Rather and others, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), taking cognisance of a CBI FIR **● P-02**

Swati Joshi

RECENTLY #NayaKashmir was trending on Twitter to amplify how the abrogation of Article 370 has benefited Kashmir. A majority of the tweets claimed that the move by the Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has resulted in development in the valley but the ground reality is very different.

Article 370 was abrogated on August 5, 2019, by the Centre and since then the economy, tourism, travel and tourism in the valley have come to a grinding halt.

According to the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), the economy has suffered a loss of about Rs 40,000 crore since 2019.

The KCCI in its earlier report, released last year claimed that 4,96,000 jobs have been lost in 120 days since the abrogation of Article 370.

Economy One Year After Article 370: 'We Are Totally Paralyzed'

"The borrowers of financial institutions have lost their capacity to fulfill their commitments and a substantial number of accounts are likely to turn bankrupt, many business establishments have closed down or are contemplating closure," suggested the report.

According to KCCI, within four months after the abrogation of Article 370, the valley suffered a loss of Rs 17,878.18 crore.

Troubled Tourism

According to the Preliminary Economic Loss Assessment Report by the KCCI which took into account 10 districts for 120 days from August 5, 2019, to December 3, 2019, the tourism sector has incurred a loss of Rs 1056.3264 crores.

"I am jobless since August 2019,"



Kashmir Observer

said Ayoub Rather, owner of Premier tour and travels.

According to him, from 2015 to 2020, only 2018 was a good year for

tourism in the valley.

The travel agent's only source of livelihood was tourism which was affected badly, leaving him and his

family in a state of distress.

Rather was hoping for a good business during the spring season. "I received many bookings from November," said the travel agent, hoping he would be able to achieve his target for the current year and might cover the loss he faced in the last year.

Riyaz Ahmed who runs a homestay in Nigeen Lake compared the Kashmir of 2019 with the Stone Age. There was no income and he was burdened with loans.

"There are 15 members in my family," said Ahmed, adding, "how can I feed them when I have no source of income?"

Ahmed's family is associated with the tourism business for centuries but the prevailing conditions have forced him to think about

changing the trade.

Hoteliers, ponywalas, dhabawalas, restaurants, shopkeepers, guiding personnel, labours were completely shattered after the nullification of Article 370 and the coronavirus lockdown in the valley.

The imposition of the pandemic lockdown was aimed to prevent the spread of the virus but on the other hand, this industry has completely given up since last year.

"We are totally paralyzed," said Anwar Wangnoo, owner of Wangnoo Sheraton Group.

He claimed that the houseboats which used to host around one thousand people have received no guests in 10 months. "There is no fun to have a houseboat without tourism," said the owner.

The Wanganoo Sheraton group has a chain of houseboats and they deal with international clients.

"Since 2014 we are **►PAGE 02**

Author, Filmmaker Sadia Dehlvi Dies At 63

NEW DELHI: Noted Delhi-based writer and activist Sadia Dehlvi has passed away at her home on Wednesday after a prolonged battle with cancer. She was 63.

"Sad to hear about the tragic demise of Sadia Dehlvi, a well known cultural figure of Delhi, a dear friend and a wonderful human being. Rest in Peace," tweeted eminent historian Irfan Habib.

Ms Dehlvi, who hailed from the royal 'Shama' family, edited Bano, an Urdu women's journal. Her grandfather, Hafiz Yusuf Dehlvi, founded Shama in 1938, which is an iconic Urdu film and literary monthly. A well-known food connoisseur, she wrote a book on Delhi's culinary history in 2017, titled 'Jasmine & Jinn: Memories and Recipes of My Delhi'. **►PAGE 02**

