

Maximum : 28°C  
Minimum : 18°C  
Humidity : 73%  
SUNSET  
Today 06:57 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 06:04 AMContact: -0194-2502327  
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## News Digest

4.3 Magnitude  
Earthquake Hits Leh

LEH: An earthquake of magnitude 4.3 on the Richter scale occurred at 342 km of east-north-east of Leh, Ladakh on Monday, according to the National Centre for Seismology (NCS). The earthquake occurred at 7:13 pm today. "Earthquake of magnitude: 4.3, occurred on 31-08-2020, 19:13:29 IST, Latitude: 35.31 and Longitude: 81.05, Depth: 230 Km, Location: 342 km ENE of Leh, Ladakh, India," the NCS said.

8 People Missing After  
Mishap In Ramban

Banihal/Jammu: Eight people have gone missing when their vehicle skidded off a highway and fell into the Chenab river in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district on Monday, officials said. The tempo, which was going to Ramban from Udhampur with around nine passengers on board, skidded off the highway rolled down a cliff into the Chenab river near Ramban, they said. Police and Quick Response Teams launched a rescue operations and saved one passenger. According to them, the other passengers could not be traced. "One person was rescued while eight to nine others are missing," SSP Ramban Haseeb Ur Rahman said.

LG Condoles  
Mukherjee's Demise

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday conveyed his heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of Former President of India and Bharat Ratna, Pranab Mukherjee, who passed away today at an army hospital in New Delhi. Describing him as a statesman par excellence and a wonderful human being, the LG observed that the former President will always be remembered as an astute administrator who created benchmarks with ● P-02

PDP Pleads To Meet  
Mehbooba

Srinagar: Four senior Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leaders on Monday asked authorities to allow them to meet the party's incarcerated president and former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti, who was jailed under the Public Safety Act following the abrogation of Article 370 last year. In a letter to District Magistrate, Srinagar, Shahid Iqbal Chaudhary, the PDP leaders said that Mehbooba ● P-02

Arms Recovered  
In Uri: Police

Srinagar: State forces on Monday recovered cache of arms and ammunition in Dudran forest area of Uri in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, officials said. Two AK-47 rifles along with as many magazines, 74 AK rounds, a pistol with 38 rounds, 10 hand grenades, two wireless sets and a pouch were recovered from Dudran forest area of the border town Uri, a police official said. He ● P-02

Mortar Shell Defused  
In Rajouri

Jammu: Government forces on Monday defused a live mortar shell and averted a tragedy in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said. A suspected object was found by some labourers who were digging a trench in Nowshera area and they informed the police, the officials said. Police and army identified it as a live mortar shell and the bomb disposal squad defused it safely, they said.

In 7 Months, 8 Security Men  
Among 23 Killed In Pak Firing: RTI

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: At least 23 people, including eight security personnel have been killed, and over 100 injured in firing by Pakistani troops in Jammu and Kashmir during the first seven months of this year, an RTI query has revealed.

The RTI application filed by activist Raman Sharma also found that in the past two years and seven months, 8,571 ceasefire violations have taken place with the casualty figures being 119 dead (including 56 security personnel) and 608 injured, 300 of them security personnel.

As per the data, Pakistani troops have violated ceasefire 13.89 times per day in the past seven month till July.

"Till July 2020 (this year), 2,952 ceasefire violations were done by Pakistan troops in which 15 civilians, 8 security force personnel were killed and 62 security force personnel and 38 civilians were injured, Director Ministry of Home Affairs, Sulekha, said in the reply to the Right to Information query.

During the last three years, people living near the International Border and the Line of Control areas of Jammu and Kashmir have witnessed on an average at least nine ceasefire violations by Pakistan daily, causing loss of lives and property.

In 2018, there were 2,140 ceasefire violations (nearly six a day) in which 59 persons including ● PAGE 02

China Tries To Cross  
LAC In Ladakh Again

Army Says Chinese Bid To Change Status Quo 'Unilaterally' Foiled

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: In a fresh confrontation in eastern Ladakh, the Chinese army carried out "provocative military movements" to "unilaterally" change the status quo on the southern bank of Pangong Tso lake on the intervening night of August 29 and 30 but the attempt was thwarted by the Indian troops, the Army said here on Monday.

Army Spokesperson Col Aman Anand said troops from China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) "violated" the consensus arrived at during military and diplomatic engagements on the ongoing stand-off in eastern Ladakh, and carried out provocative military movements to change the status quo.

Government sources said a sizeable number of Chinese troops were moving towards the southern bank of Pangong Tso lake in an attempt to occupy the area but the Indian Army quickly made significant deployment to foil the bid.

The sources said there was no



AN ARMY CONVOY heading towards Ladakh on Monday as tensions between India and China continues to rise. KO Photo Abid Bhat

physical clash between the troops of the two sides during China's attempt to open a new front.

The two sides were engaged in a confrontation on the northern bank of Pangong Tso lake but it

was for the first time such an incident occurred on the southern bank, they said. ● PAGE 02

China Threatens To Escalate Border  
Tensions With India

THE Xi Jinping regime on Monday evening threatened that China-India border tensions will "surely escalate this time," since India had "crossed the LAC and purposely launched provocations."

The statement issued in Chinese state-run Global Times came after India on Monday morning revealed that it had pre-emptively thwarted Chinese intentions to unilaterally change the status quo on the southern bank of Pangong Tso in ● P-02

## Leh Highway Closed For Civilian Traffic

THE authorities on Monday closed Srinagar-Leh Highway for civilian traffic to allow army convoys to ply on the strategic road following escalation in tension between India and Chinese troops in Eastern Ladakh. The civilian vehicles on way to Ladakh were stopped at Manigam and Sumbal-Sonawari area early Monday morning, a local news agency KNT reported. Quoting an official, the report said that no vehicle was being allowed to move ahead of Sonamarg. The Srinagar-Leh Highway, however, will remain open ● P-02

## Army Officer Dies Loading Combat Vehicle

AN Indian Army officer died in Ladakh on Sunday in an accident that took place during the loading of an infantry combat vehicle, Army sources said. Capt Dikshant Thapa died on the spot, they said. The sources said while the infantry combat vehicle was being loaded, a civil truck rammed into the trailer due to which it toppled. The infantry combat vehicle toppled from the trailer on Thapa and he succumbed to his injuries, they said. The incident took place near Karu in Ladakh, the sources said..

LG Mathur Discusses Situation  
With MoS Home

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh R K Mathur on Monday met Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy, amidst fresh tension between the Indian Army and China's PLA. The details of the meeting were not known immediately but sources said the prevailing situation along the Line of Actual Control was discussed. The meeting came hours after the Indian Army said it thwarted "provocative" military movements by Chinese troops on the intervening night of August ● P-02

Highway Blocked Again,  
100's Of Vehicles Stranded

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU- Landslides and mudslides triggered by heavy rains blocked the 270-km-long Srinagar-Jammu national highway at several places in Ramban district on Monday, officials said.

Over 300 vehicles were stranded at several places on the highway, the only all-weather road connecting Kashmir valley with the rest of the country.

The men and machines of the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and Border Roads Organisation (BRO) have started clearance of the landslides to restore the traffic on the highway, they said.

However, the Srinagar-Kargil-



Leh road, which connects UTs of J-K and Ladakh, is open for traffic. The Mughal road, connecting Shopian district of Kashmir valley with Poonch district of Jammu region, is through for vehicles carrying essentials, mostly trucks and oil tankers, they said.

The traffic on inter-district Kishtwar-Paddar road has been restored on Monday after clearance of landslides, which blocked the road 3 days ago, they said. ● PAGE 02

CBI Raids JMC  
To Probe Graft  
Complaints

NEW DELHI- In a crackdown on grassroots level corruption, the CBI on Monday carried out surprise checks at the Jammu Municipal Corporation after receiving complaints of rampant corruption in the award of tenders and other public services, officials said.

The checks were conducted in coordination with the vigilance officer of the civic body to verify the allegations, they said.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) teams are checking various points of public dealing in the Jammu Municipal Corporation from where the complaints of bribery were received, ● P-02

Omar Says, Use Of Force  
On Muharram Procession  
Against All Norms

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah on Monday condemned the use of force on Shia mourners during an Ashura procession, saying the unprecedented crackdown goes against all norms in a civilised society.

Our unequivocal condemnation of the completely unwarranted use of force, including pellets, against Muharram mourners. This unprecedented crack down goes against all norms that a civilised



society would expect, Omar wrote on Twitter.

The NC leader was reacting to the use of force on the Shia mourners in some parts of the city here on Sunday. Police fired tear smoke shells and pellets on the mourners leading to ● PAGE 02

8 More Die Of Covid-19  
In J&K, Toll 705

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least eight more people, including an army porter succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, raising the number of fatalities due to Covid-19 in the Union Territory to 705.

While four deaths were reported from Kashmir valley, the remaining four were confirmed by officials from the Jammu division.

In Jammu, a 46-year-old woman from Bakshi Nagar, at present Raj Pura Magotri-an, died a day after she was admitted to the Government Medical College hospital Jammu.

"She was suffering from hypertension, type 2 diabetes mellitus, hypothyroid bilateral CAP with respiratory distress," a doctor at GMC said, adding, "she died at 12.40 a.m." The doctor said a 65-year-old woman from Gangyal who was admitted on August 28 died at GMC hospital Jammu.

She was diagnosed with type

2 diabetes mellitus, Hypothyroid and community acquired pneumonia (CAP) with respiratory distress, a doctor at the hospital said.

A 45-year-old woman from sector no. 7 Upper Ploura Janipur who was suffering from "hypertension, type 2 diabetes mellitus with bilateral infiltrates" died at 8.10 a.m. today at the hospital, the doctor said.

A 38-year-old man from Mir Pur Khour died 13 days after he was admitted to the hospital with "Type 2 diabetes mellitus, acute on CKD, pleural effusion pyrexia with Covid-19 positive.

Among the four deaths reported from Valley included a 25-year-old army porter from Macchil Kupwara.

He died at army hospital where he had a surgery some days back, news agency GNS reported. He had tested positive subsequently, the report said.

Late last night, they said, an elderly person from Kralgund ● PAGE 02

Newborn, 67 Travellers Among  
535 New Cases

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Monday 535 new cases of coronavirus, including 67 travellers, a new born baby and over a dozen security personnel, taking the total number of people infected by virus in the Union Territory to 37698. Officials said Kashmir valley reported 290 fresh cases of Covid-19, while remaining 245 were reported from Jammu division. Among the cases include four CRPF, two-month baby, three persons from BB Cantt, as many from DPL, four BSF, a JK Bank Employee, two Employees ● P-02

Ex President Pranab  
Mukherjee Passes Away At 84

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Former president Pranab Mukherjee died on Monday in an army hospital here, his son Abhijit said. He was 84.

Mukherjee was admitted to hospital on August 10 and a health bulletin this morning said he was in a deep coma and on ventilator support.

"With a Heavy Heart, this is to inform you that my father Shri Pranab Mukherjee has just passed away in spite of the best efforts of Doctors of RR Hospital and prayers ● PAGE 02

J&K Govt Announces  
7-Day Mourning

Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday announced seven-day mourning, as a mark of respect to Former President of India, Pranab Mukherjee who passed away in New Delhi. The seven day mourning will be held from August 31 to September 6, an official spokesperson said. ● P-02

7 Injured In Twin Grenade  
Attacks In Baramulla

SRINAGAR: At least seven civilians were injured on Monday in twin grenade attacks in north Kashmir's Baramulla and Sopore towns.

Suspected militants on Monday afternoon lobbed a grenade towards an army convoy when it was passing through Azad Gunj bridge, a police official said Monday. The grenade, however missed the intended target and exploded on the roadside with a bang.

In the grenade blast, the police official said seven civilians were injured. All of the injured were removed to the nearby district hospital for treatment. Their condition is said to be stable.

Soon after the attack, contingent of SOG of police and army reached the spot and launched a search operation.

"Police continues to work to establish the full circumstances of this terror crime incident. ● P-02

## Syrups To Stomach Pills: 5 Drugs Kashmir Consumed 'Most' In Lockdown

Swati Joshi

WHEN US President Donald Trump proclaimed that Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) might be the cure for COVID-19, Faizan Ahmad swiftly stockpiled what was touted as the "wonder drug".

In a time of despair, the announcement by Trump regarding HCQ gave the lockdown-laden populace including Ahmad some hope.

Soon the sale of HCQ skyrocketed, even when there was a little evidence about the effectiveness of the drug. In many health centres of the valley, angry attendants

roughed up medicos for not making the medicine available for their ailing family members gasping for breath. It prompted the administration to stockpile the drug and make it available free of cost.

"In the initial days, the sale of Hydroxychloroquine increased but then it halted," said Ahmad, a worker from North Point, a pharmaceutical products wholesaler in Srinagar. "I still have the stock left with me."

According to the data compiled by AWACS, a market research wing of the All India Organization of Chemists and Druggists (AIOCD),



India sold over Rs 22 crore HCQ tablets in the first three months when the pandemic hit the country (March, April, and May) against 24 crores in 2019.

However, with the announcement of lockdown on March 24 and closure of Out Patient's Department (OPD), anxious people started stockpiling drugs anticipating shortages. Kashmir Observer talked to 15 pharmacies located in Srinagar, Ganderbal, Baramulla, and Budgam to know about the drugs which are in demand in the valley since March when the lockdown was implemented. ● PAGE 02