



Maximum : 28°C
Minimum : 17°C
Humidity : 74%

SUNSET
Today 06:54 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:06 AM

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News Digest

Govt Bans 118 More Mobile Apps

New Delhi- The government on Wednesday blocked 118 more mobile applications, including popular gaming app PUBG, terming them prejudicial to the sovereignty, integrity and defence of the nation. The banned apps include Baidu, Baidu Express Edition, Tencent Watchlist, FaceU, WeChat Reading and Tencent Weiyun, besides PUBG Mobile and PUBG Mobile Lite, according to an official statement. All these banned apps have Chinese links, sources said. The Centre had earlier banned a number of Chinese apps, including TikTok and UC Browser. "Government blocks 118 mobile apps which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity" **● P-02**

Release Mourners, Stop Which-Hunt: ASS

Budgam: Anjuman Sharie Shiayan Wednesday castigated authorities for detaining Shia mourners and booking them under Unlawful Activities Act. The spokesperson of the organization said that the brute force applied on the mourners has no justification in today's world. He said mourners were not only beaten up, but slapped with frivolous charges, while dozens are lying in the hospitals for the injuries inflicted on them by police. The spokesperson said that Anjuman Sharie will provide all legal aid to those who have been arrested for taking part in Muharram processions. **● P-02**

Four Militant Associates Held In Budgam

Budgam: Budgam Police on Wednesday morning claimed to have arrested four militant associates of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) during Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) in Beerwah area of the district. Officials said that a joint team of Budgam Police and Army's 53 RR arrested four militant associates of LeT during CASO in Pethkoot area of Beerwah Budgam. "On a credible input, Budgam police along with 53 RR arrested four militant associates identified as Shakil Ahmad Wani, son of Ghulam Ahmad Wani," **● P-02**

45-Yr-Old Man Drowns In Wullar Lake

Bandipora: A 45-year-old man drowned after he slipped into Wullar Lake while he was grazing sheep in Zalwan area of Nasou in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Wednesday evening. Police said that a man identified as Hussain Ahmad Khatana, son of Makhna Khatana of Tanghat Pathkoot slipped into Wullar Lake near Zalwan area of Nassou. Soon after the incident, the local volunteers and police have launched a search operation to trace out the man. The searches were going on when the report was last filed.

Man Traveling On Fake ID Held At Airport

Budgam: A non-local was detained by police at Srinagar Airport for travelling on a fake Identity Card. KNT reported that a person from Bijnore, Uttar Pradesh was intending to board a 'Go Air' G8-204 flight from Srinagar to Delhi on a fake Identity Card. The man, a painter by profession was identified as Muhammad Nasir son of Sabir Ahmed. Sources said on 'Boarding Gate' security men found his name doesn't match with his ID. His ID revealed his name as Muhammad Nasir. Accordingly, he was **● P-02**

Urdu's 131-Year Reign In Kashmir Ends

Kashmiri, Dogri, Hindi Added As Official Languages In J&K

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: In a significant move the Union cabinet on Wednesday announced that Jammu and Kashmir will now have five official languages, ending Urdu's 131-year reign as the only official language of the ethnically diverse and politically fraught region.

As of now, the official language of Jammu and Kashmir is Urdu and Kashmiri is recognised as a regional language.

Announcing the decision at a news briefing, Union Minister Prakash Javadekar said the

Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020 will be introduced in Parliament in the upcoming Monsoon Session.

"Union Cabinet has approved the introduction in Parliament the Jammu & Kashmir Official Languages Bill 2020 in which 5 languages Urdu, Kashmiri, Dogri, Hindi & English will be official languages," Union Minister Prakash Javadekar told reporters.

This, he said, has been done based on public demand. Javadekar didn't share more details about the bill.

The Bill received the Cabinet nod on Wednesday at a meeting

presided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The bill is expected to be tabled in Parliament during the coming session. The Monsoon session of Parliament is slated to begin from September 14.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh said the government has accepted the long pending demand of the region for the inclusion of Dogri, Hindi and Kashmiri as official languages in J-K.

"It is not only a fulfilment of a long-pending public demand of the region but also in keeping with the spirit of equality which was ushered in after **►PAGE 02**

UNION CABINET HAS APPROVED THE INTRODUCTION in Parliament the Jammu & Kashmir Official Languages Bill 2020 in which 5 languages Urdu, Kashmiri, Dogri, Hindi & English will be official languages,"

New Official Languages Will Ensure Ease Of Governance: Jitendra

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Jitendra Singh Wednesday said the Cabinet's approval to a bill that adds Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi as official languages in Jammu and Kashmir will end the grievances of discrimination on the basis of language.

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the bill under which Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi, apart from the existing Urdu and



English, will be the official languages in Jammu and Kashmir. It was an anomaly that the

three languages -- Dogri, Hindi and Kashmiri -- which are spoken by nearly 70 per cent of the population of Jammu and Kashmir were not approved for use in official business.

"The Cabinet decision today will not only bring ease of governance, but also ease of citizen participation in governance in the newly created Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir," **►PAGE 02**

Covid-19 Claims 14 More Lives, J&K Toll 734

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported 14 more covid-19 related deaths in last 24 hours, taking the fatality count due to the pestilence to 733 in J&K.

Official sources said that among the deaths, nine were reported from Kashmir Valley and five from Jammu division including three from winter capital of the J&K and one each from Kathua and Udhampur.

Regarding the victims from Valley, they said, three were residents of Srinagar, two from Kulgam while one each were from

Pulwama, Anantnag, Kupwara and Ganderbal.

They said a 65-year-old woman from Lalbazar Srinagar who was admitted on August 30 died this evening at SKIMS Soura.

They said a 65-year-old from Wandhama Ganderbal died a week after he was admitted to SKIMS Soura. His age mate from Mittergam Pulwama, who was admitted on August 27 died last night at the tertiary care hospital.

Also, a 65-year-old **►PAGE 02**

2 Doctors Among 641 New Covid-19 Cases
Two doctors and fifty-six travellers were among 641 new novel coronavirus cases reported in Jammu and Kashmir in last 24 hours, taking the overall tally of the Covid-19 infected to 38864 in J&K. Among the fresh cases, sources said 274 were from **● P-02**

HC: Let JeI Chief Watch' Daughter's Marriage Online

Rejects Wife's Plea To Allow Him Attend Ceremony After Govt's Statement

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Wednesday rejected an application by the wife of Jama'at-e-Islami J&K chief Abdul Hameed Ganaie, seeking his release on parole to attend the marriage ceremony of their daughter on September 3.

However, a bench of Justice Tashi Rabstan directed jail authorities in Kathua, where he is lodged under Public Safety Act since August 5 last year, that arrangements be made for him to watch the marriage ceremony

of his daughter on September 3 "through virtual mode."

The court's rejection of the application followed government's opposition against the release.

Senior Additional Advocate General BA.Dar submitted before court that a representation was submitted by Mrs Lateefa Bano to the Government for release of her husband on the parole which was "not considered".

The Senior AAG produced a copy of the communication bearing (no.CID/BR/H-02/2019/BUD/1476) dated 31st **►PAGE 02**

Heavy Shelling Rattles Gurez Valley

4 Houses, School Damaged In Cross LOC Shelling

SRINAGAR: At least six structures, including four residential houses, a government high school and a madrasa were damaged in heavy overnight shelling from across the Line of Control in Bagtore area of Gurez in north Kashmir's Bandipora district.

Reports reaching here said that Indian and Pakistani troops traded heavy fire and many mortar shells fired by Pakistani side landed in Tarabal area hitting four residential houses, government high school and a madrasa.

However, he also said that no casualties or injury were report-

Army Officer Killed In Pak Firing

A Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) of the Indian Army was killed on Wednesday, amid ceasefire violations along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Lt Col Devender Anand, PRO (Defence) Jammu, confirmed the killing of the JCO. The officer was posted at a forward location in Tarkundi area and had suffered fatal injuries. Pakistan had reportedly resorted to firing and shelling from across the LoC and the army had retaliated strongly, defence sources said. This was the second such **● P-02**

ed during the shelling. Police said the Pakistani forces violated the ceasefire along the LoC last evening and targeted forward

defence locations in Tarabal area. They added that the Indian Army has given a "strong and befitting" response to the ceasefire violation.

India Calls For Removing J&K Issue From UN

LAST MONTH, AS INDIA MARKED THE first anniversary of ending the special status to Jammu and Kashmir, Beijing again called for a discussion on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in the Security Council under "Any Other Business".

United Nations: India at the UN has called for permanently removing the issue of Jammu and Kashmir under the "outdated agenda item" of the "India-Pakistan question" from the Security Council's agenda, saying such "irrational exuberance" has no takers in a dignified world.

In a veiled attack on Pakistan, India said that there is a delegation that repeatedly attempts to rebrand itself as contributing to international peace, but unfortunately fails to recognise that it is globally known for being the fountainhead of international terror and the hub for terror syndicates.

During a virtual informal meeting of the plenary on the annual report of the Security Council, Pakistan's UN envoy Munir Akram had raked up the issue of Jammu and Kashmir and said that the Security Council has also been found lacking in implementing its own resolutions and decisions on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

He added that the Council has met thrice during the last one year to consider the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.



UN Security Council

India, without naming Pakistan, said in a statement on Monday that "there is a delegation that repeatedly attempts to rebrand itself as contributing to international peace, but unfortunately fails to recognise that it is globally known for being the fountainhead of international terror and the hub for terror syndicates."

"This delegation keeps pushing for discussions on an outdated agenda item in the Council, which for all matter needs to be removed from the Council's agenda permanently. Such irrational exuberance has no takers in a dignified world," India said on the 'Report of the Security Council for 2019'.

An August 3, 2020 **►PAGE 02**

Rifle Snatcher Declared Mentally 'Unsound', Let Off

SRINAGAR: The youth who was apprehended after he allegedly tried to snatch the service rifle of a CRPF jawan in Nowhatta area of Srinagar city has been bailed out by court on the grounds that he is mentally unsound. The youth was released on Wednesday.

Reports said the family through their counsel produced medical records of the youth declaring him 'mentally unsound' after which he was bailed out.

Pertinently, a young man tried to snatch the service rifle of Head Constable Simrandar Singh of 21 Battalion D-Company CRPF in Nowhatta area on 28th of August. The youth was later identified as 28 year old **● P-02**

In FOCUS

Swati Joshi

IT'S a "bumpy ride" for teenager Basit Bashir to reach his examination centre, 70 kilometres away from his hometown Kulgam, in Srinagar's Rajbagh area.

Starting early morning journey from restive south Kashmir region—dotted with military installations, patrolling parties and checkpoints—is nothing short of a highway horror for him and his student tribe, he says.

"One cannot rely on public transport for such a crucial drive," Basit says. "And being a Kashmiri student appearing for exams, we've to be al-

ways ready for the times ahead of us."

Like thousands of the lockdown-weary students, this Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) and National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) aspirant has been pleading hard for the postponement of the exams for long now.

But despite the protest by some students and opposition parties, the JEE Main exam for admission to engineering colleges started on Tuesday.

As precautionary measure, temperature of the students was checked before allowing them enter for the examination center.

JEE and NEET exams have been postponed twice because of the CO-

VID-19 pandemic. While JEE Main was scheduled from April 7 to April 11 and then from July 18 to July 23, NEET was scheduled for May 3 and then for July 26.

Currently, JEE and NEET are scheduled from September 1 to 6 and September 13 respectively.

As on September 1, Jammu and Kashmir had reported 7980 active Covid cases with 703 deaths. The Valley was trying to come out of a political lockdown since last August following abrogation of Article 370, before the pandemic hit and curtailed its education calendar.

The Internet which plays a sig-



nificant role in the preparation of competitive exams was reduced to

2G in Kashmir.

"The concept which I can under-

stand within half an hour from videos take around 2-3 hours with a slow internet connection," Basit says.

"Being anxious, I'm not able to focus like earlier," the aspirant continues. "In the current scenario the exams should be postponed."

Netizens, especially students, have also thrown their weight behind the JEE-NEET aspirants by trending hashtags like #ManKiNa-hiStudentsKiBaat, #StudentsDislikePMMModi, #PostponeJEEAndNEET.

Despite the fact that the JEE is already being conducted, Zullkar Nain, a NEET aspirant from An-

antnag, feels the exams should've been postponed.

On being asked about his preparation for the exam, he says, "Kashmir is unable to access 4G internet from last one year. So, obviously, my preparation isn't at par with the rest of students all over India."

Students recently showed their rage against the exam decision by massively disliking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Man Ki Baat'.

The recent episode of the radio program received 986k dislikes.

Amid raging reactions, Subramanian Swamy, a Rajya Sabha member, objected New Delhi's decision to conduct JEE and NEET.

In one of his tweets, Swamy said that he would try to talk to the Prime Minister and **►PAGE 02**