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Minimum : 14°C
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SUNSET
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News Digest

Pak Shells LoC In Poonch, Rajouri: Army

Jammu: Pakistani troops shelled forward areas along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch and Rajouri districts on Monday, prompting strong retaliation by the Indian Army, a defence spokesperson said. The shelling from across the border at Shahpur, Kirni and Qasba sectors in Poonch and Sunderbani in Rajouri was "unprovoked" and in violation of the ceasefire agreement between the two sides, according to the official. The Pakistani troops first initiated ceasefire violation around 2.30 pm in the three sectors of Poonch by shelling mortars and firing from small arms. **● P-02**

NC Slams Govt's Response To Covid-19

New Delhi: The National Conference Member of Parliament from Anantnag Hasnain Masoodi on Monday said the GOI's response to COVID-19 crises presented a grim tale of misstatement and ill-conceived decisions forcing millions in poverty and hunger. While speaking in Lok Sabha under rule 193 on COVID-19 pandemic in the country, Party's Member of Parliament from Anantnag Hasnain Masoodi said the at the very onset the country's retort to the emerging threat of COVID-19 presents a tale of mismanagement due to which the COVID19 **● P-02**

Electric Shock Injures PDD Worker

Srinagar: An employee of Power Development Department (PDD) received severe burn injuries after he received an electric shock while repairing a transformer and transmission lines in Seelo area of Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Sunday evening. 50-year-old daily wageer Ghulam Hassan Sheikh, son of Wali Muhammad of Seelo Sopore suffered serious burn injuries on his arm and leg when he was repairing a transformer in Seelo area of Sopore, officials said Monday. They said the daily wageer employee was immediately rushed to SDH Sopore for treatment with the help of locals. (KNO)

Minor Dies Of Strangulation

Srinagar: An 8-year old girl died after she got strangled in a home-made cradle in north Kashmir's vilgam area of Kupwara district on Monday. Anjum Ismael, daughter of Mohammad Ismael Mughal resident of Nowbug Vilgam fell unconscious while she was taking ride in home-made cradle, news agency KNS reported Monday. The girl was rushed to Public Health Centre (PHC) Vilgam where doctors declared her brought dead on arrival. A police officer confirmed the incident and said prima-facie the minor died of strangulation due to cradle ride while further **● P-02**

Two-Year-Old Falls Into Tub, Dies

Srinagar: A pall of gloom descended in Shumriyal village of Lolab in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Monday after a two year old kid died after falling into water tub. According to the reports, Owais Ahmad Majloof son of Nissar Ahmad Majloof Shumriyal died on Monday afternoon after falling into a tub. He was taken to nearby hospital by his family for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him brought dead. (KNS)

HC Quashes SFC Orders Disengaging Grading Assistants, Attendants

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Observing Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Monday quashed two orders passed by Managing Director J&K State Forest Corporation in February 2012 by virtue of which grading assistants and attendants were disengaged, two years after they were appointed. The court had already stayed both the orders in March 2012, as a consequence of which the appointees were continuing to discharge their duties in the Corporation. Allowing a petition filed by aggrieved persons, a bench of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey observed that the

principles of natural justice "appear to have been violated with impunity." "From the perusal of the pleadings placed on record by both the parties, it can be seen from a naked eye that no opportunity of being heard, as provided under the rules, appears to have been given to the petitioners before issuing the impugned orders of disengagement of (their) services which stood already regularized by the Corporation itself," court said. The petitioners, the court observed, have been simply thrown out by two orders of disengagement without following the due procedure of law, "with a premeditated design to divest them of **▶▶PAGE 02**

LADAKH FACE-OFF

Corps Commander Level Meet Fails To Defuse LAC Tension

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India on Monday pressed for an early and complete disengagement of Chinese troops from friction points in eastern Ladakh as their senior army commanders held a sixth round of talks that primarily focused on implementing a five-point bilateral agreement to ease the prolonged border standoff, government sources said.

The latest round of Corps commander-level talks that began at around 9 am in Moldo on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) across India's Chushul sector in eastern Ladakh went on for over 12 hours and was still underway at 9 pm, the sources said.

It is learnt that the Indian delegation insisted on a time-bound implementation of the agreement finalised during the extensive talks between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Moscow on September 10 on the sidelines of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation(SCO) meet. The Indian delegation is head-



Image for representation

Army To Use Double-Humped Camel For Patrolling

The famed double-humped camels of Ladakh are soon going to be inducted in the Indian Army to help troops patrol the India-China border in Eastern Ladakh. The Defence Research and Development Organisation **● P-02**

ed by Lt Gen Harinder Singh, the commander of the Leh-based 14 Corps of the Indian Army. For the first time, the Indian team for the military talks also included a senior official from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). MEA Joint Secretary Naveen Srivastava, who has been engaged in diplomatic talks with **▶▶PAGE 02**

Journalist Summoned Over Story, Beaten In Police Station

Swati Joshi

SRINAGAR: Auqib Javeed, a young journalist has accused the cyber police in Kashmir of assaulting and harassing him over a story he had filed about alleged intimidation of social media users critical of the government by the police.

The story titled, 'The real cyber-bully: Police in Kashmir question Twitter Users' which appeared in 'Article 14' a New Delhi based web portal mentions about the actions taken by Cyber Cell of J&K Police against many social media users for their posts on Article 370, Internet ban and an alleged extrajudicial killing in Kashmir".



File Photo

Auqib, an accredited journalist with Kashmir Observer, was verbally summoned by the Cyber Police station on September 18. According to his account of the

incident which was published by the "Article 14", Javeed states that since he was satisfied by his balanced and fair work, he informed about the incident to his colleagues at the Kashmir Press Club, where he is an executive member besides the editors of "Article 14". He was accompanied by two fellow journalists to the police station. In the account, Javeed alleges that he was slapped twice by a masked cop outside the room of Superintendent of Police of the Cyber Wing, Tahir Ashraf Bhatti. "As we entered the Cargo Centre, our phones were taken. We were frisked and allowed in... I was now anxious. **▶▶PAGE 02**

KEG Anguished At Abuse, Intimidation Of Journalist

Kashmir Editors Guild has expressed anguish and pain over the reported abuse of journalist Auqib Javed by the police, managing the cyber cell in Srinagar. Auqib, an accredited journalist, had been summoned **● P-02**

KPC Demands LG's Intervention

The Kashmir Press Club also issued a statement condemning the behavior of the police towards Auqib. As per his account which has been published today the young journalist was slapped by a 'masked' policeman. **● P-02**

Centre Tells Apex Court

'Print Media Rarely Crosses Line, Digital Media Uncontrolled'

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The print and electronic media rarely cross the line by the very nature of their composition but the digital media is completely uncontrolled and remains unregulated by and large, the Centre has told the Supreme Court.

The government said if the apex court considers it necessary to lay down guidelines for mainstream electronic and print media, it is the need of the hour that the exercise should start first with web based digital media.

In a fresh affidavit filed by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said the top court may leave wider issues to be decided the central govern-



Image for representation

ment and the competent legislature or start the exercise with digital media.

The affidavit was filed in a pending matter in which the apex court is hearing a petition which has raised

grievance over Sudarshan TV's Bindas Bol' programme whose promo had claimed that channel would show the 'big expose on conspiracy to infiltrate Muslims in government service'.

The Centre had last week filed a short affidavit in the matter and said that if the Supreme Court decides on the issue of media regulation then such an exercise should be undertaken with the digital media first as it has faster reach and information has the potential to go viral due to applications like WhatsApp, Twitter and Facebook.

The fresh affidavit further said: By the very nature of its composition, the print and electronic media would rarely cross the line which may need intervention of this courts frequently. As against that, by its very nature the web based digital media, by and large, remains unregulated.

It said as against the limitation in case of print media and mainstream electronic media, **▶▶PAGE 02**

Covid-19 Claims 21 More Lives, J&K Toll 1026

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least twenty one people, including a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personal succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, taking the number of fatalities due to the deadly infection in the Union Territory to 1026.

While fourteen people died of coronavirus in Jammu division, seven others succumbed to the infection in Kashmir valley, officials said Monday.

Among those who died in Valley due to Covid-19 included a

75-year-old woman from Chanapora Srinagar who breathed her last at SKIMS Soura, a week after she was admitted to the tertiary care hospital, officials said.

They said four other persons also died at SKIMS Soura including a 65-year-old woman from Nehru Park, a 55-year-old woman from Larkipora Anantnag, a 35-year-old from Rainawari here and a 37-year-old CRPF trooper from 35 battalion Humhama.

Officials said that two other deaths from Valley occurred at SMHS hospital and includes a 65-year-old from Salam **▶▶PAGE 02**

THEY SAID FOUR OTHER PERSONS also died at SKIMS Soura including a 65-year-old woman from Nehru Park, a 55-year-old woman from Larkipora Anantnag, a 35-year-old from Rainawari here and a 37-year-old CRPF trooper from 35 battalion Humhama.

88 Security Men Among New 1036 Cases

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Monday 1036 new cases of coronavirus, including 88 army and CRPF personnel, three pregnant women and two employees of education department besides as many minors, taking the number of people infected by the virus to 65026. While 563 new cases were reported from Jammu division, **● P-02**

PDP Leaders Meet For First Time After Aug 5, 2019

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR- The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Monday held a meeting of its senior leaders here for the first time since Jammu and Kashmir's special status was revoked by the Centre in August last year, the party said. The meeting was chaired by party's vice president Abdul Rehman Veeri in the absence of party president Mehbooba Mufti, who is under detention, at the PDP headquarters here. The party held its first meeting post the release of party leaders who were detained in August last year when the Centre abrogated Article 370, a PDP spokesman said. The meeting was attended

by senior leaders of the party, including former ministers and legislators, he added.

Mufti, who is also a former chief minister, continues to remain in custody under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA). She is currently lodged at her 'Fairview' residence on Gupkar road, which has been turned into a sub-jail.

Mufti and most other mainstream leaders, including former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah, were taken into custody, and later booked under the PSA, on August 4 last year shortly before the Centre's move.

While the Abdullah father-son duo and most other mainstream leaders were gradually released from custody, the PDP

LG Sinha Calls For Speedy Implementation Of NEP

Observer News Service

JAMMU- Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday called for a speedy implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sinha inaugurated a brainstorming session on the implementation of the policy at University of Jammu here.

Terming education a blessing, the LG said with right approach and determined efforts a golden future for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir can be created.

Sinha said there are bright minds in the union territory and the new education policy



File Photo

will have a greater impact in Jammu and Kashmir.

The LG said it is his dream to make the union territory an oasis of talent with a skilled population and promised to work tirelessly to make it a reality".

He said the union territory administration and **▶▶PAGE 02**

Militancy Incidents Down By Half After Art 370 Revocation: Govt

Agencies

NEW DELHI: There has been a drastic decline in terrorist incidents in Jammu & Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370 from the erstwhile state on August 5 last year, the Ministry of Home Affairs informed Parliament on Monday comparing the last two years' data. The terrorist incidents from July 7, 2018 to August 4, 2019 (in 393 days) were 443 while the number from August 5, 2019 to August 31, 2020 (393 days) reduced to 206. Similarly, the number of stone pelting cases reduced from 703 to 310.

A total of 54 civilians were killed from July 7, 2018 to August 4, 2019 while the number went down to 45 from August 5, 2019 to August 31, 2020, Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy informed the Rajya Sabha in a written reply. As per the data shared by the minister, a total of 125 security personnel were killed in the 393 days before August 5 while the number reduced to 49 – almost one-third – during the same number of days after August 5. The government on August 5, last year scrapped Article 370 from Jammu & Kashmir which gave it special status and later bifurcated it into two Union Territories – Jammu & Kashmir with an Assembly and Ladakh without one. **▶▶PAGE 02**

Thin Attendance As Schools Reopen In Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: An extremely thin attendance was registered on Monday as the schools reopened after remaining closed since March owing to COVID-19 induced lockdown. "Schools are not for regular classes but consultation", Principal Secretary, School Education & Skill Development Dr Asgar Hassan Samoon said.

All educational institutions in the Kashmir valley were closed in March this year due lock down and restrictions imposed by the government due to COVID 19 pandemic.

Unlock 4 guidelines by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) allow schools to partially reopen from



KO Photo: Abdul Bhat

September 21, stating that students from Classes 9 to 12 will be allowed to visit teachers for a limited time to seek guidance. The guidelines said parent consent is mandatory,

and the relaxation does not apply to containment zones.

However, the reopening of schools evoked sharp reaction from political and social **▶▶PAGE 02**