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Today : 05:48 PM  
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Humidity : 44%  
Tommrow : 06:42 AM

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### News Digest

#### Indian Army Returns Soldier To China

Beijing: The Indian Army on Wednesday handed over a Chinese soldier who was apprehended in eastern Ladakh to China's People's Liberation Army (PLA), the Chinese Defence Ministry said. The Chinese soldier was apprehended by the Indian Army in the Demchok sector of eastern Ladakh on Monday. P-02

#### Grenade Attack In Sangam, No Injuries

Srinagar: Suspected militants on Wednesday evening hurled a Grenade towards security forces in Sangam area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district. Official sources told GNS that militants lobbed Grenade on 89 BN of CRPF in Sangam, however in this incident no loss of life or injury has been reported so far. Soon after the attack whole area has been cordoned off.

#### Govt Sets Up Winter Secretariat In Srinagar

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday accorded sanction to the establishment of Winter Secretariat at Srinagar. As per a GAD order, the Winter Secretariat at Srinagar would start function with effect from Nov 1, 2020 and the Administrative Secretaries shall remain available at the Winter Secretariat, Srinagar, as per a roster issued by the Government. Further, the Estates P-02

#### 2 Cops Held Over Inter-State Entry Racket

Jammu: A racket that facilitated illegal entry into Jammu and Kashmir of people from outside by taking money from them at the Lakhampur inter-state border terminal in the Union Territory's Kathua district has been unearthed and two police personnel, including an assistant sub-inspector (ASI), have been arrested, officials said on Wednesday. Acting on complaints about the police personnel on duty at Lakhampur allowing people P-02

#### Man Found Dead In Anantnag

Srinagar: A man was found dead on Wednesday under mysterious circumstances in Shangusara of south Kashmir's Anantnag district. Officials told the news agency KNO that panic gripped Ranipora village after the locals spotted the body of a man lying on the ground. "The locals immediately informed the police," they said, adding a team was rushed to the area and the body was taken away. They said the deceased was later identified as Muhammad Yaseen Kiyani, P-02

#### Ladakh Records One More Covid Death

Leh: The Union Territory of Ladakh has recorded one more death related to COVID-19, pushing the number of fatalities to 67, while 48 fresh cases took the tally to 5,695, officials said on Wednesday. One person, who recently tested positive for COVID-19, died in Leh, they said, adding that his death was the 29th in the district, while the rest 38 COVID-19 fatalities had taken place in Kargil district. Out of the 48 new cases, the officials said 42 people tested positive for COVID-19 in Leh and another six in Kargil district. P-02

## Govt Approves Scheme To Buy Kashmiri Apple

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: The Cabinet on Wednesday approved the extension of a scheme under which cooperative NAFED will procure 12 lakh tonne apple in Jammu and Kashmir during the current 2020-21 season. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) has also been allowed to use the government guarantee of Rs 2,500 crore for this operation. The losses, if any, will be shared between the Centre and Jammu and Kashmir government on a 50:50 basis. A decision in this regard was taken in the Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "The Union Cabinet approved the extension of Market Intervention



A NEW NARRATIVE: In a first, the centre and the J&K Govt is observing October 22 as a black day. A newly installed billboard in Srinagar marks the event. On this day in 1947 Pashtun tribal militia from Pakistan crossed over into Kashmir.

### Rs 25,000-Cr Roshni Scam

## Div Com Seeks Land Details On 'War Footing'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Over a week after High Court declared Roshni Act 'unconstitutional' and all allotments invalid, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Pandurang K Pole on Wednesday directed all the Deputy Com-

missioners (DCs) across the Valley to submit the details of state land as existed in 2001.

Chairing a meeting of DCs and other officials on Wednesday, Pole instructed DCs to submit comprehensive details of the identities of ministers, legislators, bureaucrats, police officers, government

employees, businessmen, influential persons and their relatives who have derived benefit under the Roshni Act, an official spokesperson said Wednesday.

He said that the Div Com instructed the concerned to ensure no laxity and ensure implementation of Hon'ble High P-02

### RSF 'Shocked' Over Sealing Of KT Office

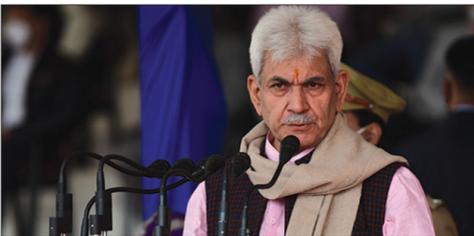
SRINAGAR: International media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF) on Wednesday expressed shock over the expulsion of Kashmir Times journalists and sealing of their office alleging that the Jammu and Kashmir administration no longer even bothers to provide a "legal facade to the actions it takes to attack the free press". "The arbitrary way the Kashmir Times' journalists were expelled from their office is extremely shocking," said Daniel Bastard, the head of RSF's Asia-Pacific desk in a statement issued P-02

## Cabinet Approves Adoption Of J&K Panchayati Raj Act

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the adoption of the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, a government spokesperson said.

Briefing the press after a Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union minister Prakash Javadekar said the move will help establish all the three tiers of grassroots-level democracy in Jammu and Kashmir like in other parts of the country. The three-tier system P-02



'Watershed Moment' In J&K's History: LG Terming the Union Cabinet's approval of adaptation of Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 as a 'watershed moment' in the history of Jammu P-02

## 14 Cops, 26 Security Men Killed In 2 Months: DGP

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh on Wednesday vowed to give a befitting response to militants for the targeted killing of police officials when they are home off-duty.

The DGP was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a function on the occasion of Police

Commemoration Day at Zewan in the outskirts of the city here.

"This is the action that demonstrates the nefarious intentions of the enemy. In a situation when an official goes home to meet his family after fulfilling his responsibilities, he is targeted. We will give a befitting reply to it, but it is a nefarious action," Singh told reporters.

He was responding to a question on whether policemen going on holi-

days were soft targets for militants. Singh said people have condemned such killings and expressed sympathies with the police force.

He said when they went to the house of the inspector who was killed in Anantnag district on Monday, a huge number of people sympathised with the police and cursed the perpetrators.

"I think their actions will result in their end," the DGP added. P-02

**THIS IS THE ACTION THAT DEMONSTRATES THE NEFARIOUS intentions of the enemy. In a situation when an official goes home to meet his family after fulfilling his responsibilities, he is targeted. We will give a befitting reply to it, but it is a nefarious action.**

## JKCA Scam: Dr Farooq Faces 5 Hour Grilling By ED

84 Year Old NC Patron Quizzed For Second Time In 3 Days, Party Outraged

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah, who turned 84 on Wednesday, was questioned by the Enforcement Directorate for five hours in connection with a multi-crore scam in the JK Cricket Association during 2002-11.

The National Conference president drove off after his questioning, for the second time in three days, at the ED office in Rajbagh here without talking to reporters waiting outside, unlike on Monday when he had asserted that he was prepared to answer all questions and was not worried about the case.

He was questioned for over six hours on Monday.

Abdullah's National Conference (NC) criticised the government over his questioning, and said it was "yet another attempt to brow-beat" the opposition.

ED officials said on condition of anonymity that Abdullah had been called again on Wednesday to obtain some clarifications. He was questioned for the first time in July last year in Chandigarh after the agency had registered a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act in 2018.

The officials said Abdullah's statement was recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and he was asked about the procedures followed and



### LG Ducks Question On Farooq's Quizzing

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha on Wednesday refused to comment on the fresh Enforcement Directorate (ED) summons to National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah, but said institutions have a right to act according to the Constitution and laws. P-02

decisions taken when he was the president of the cricket body, the time when the alleged scam is said to have taken place.

The agency is expected to file a fresh charge sheet in the case soon, they said.

As Abdullah went for his second round of questioning, his son and former chief minister Omar Abdullah expressed his displeasure and tweeted the party statement on his father's summons with the comment: "This on a day when my father turns 84!"

NC spokesman Imran Nabi Dar issued a statement expressing anger and said these tactics are only aimed at "browbeating" opposition leaders who raise their voice against the BJP's "divisive politics".

The party criticised the government for what it called an "agenda of cornering any voices of dissent".

"How many times will BJP use CBI, ED, anti-corruption bureau and its other agencies to browbeat opposition? The plot has become predictable. Anyone who speaks P-02

## Coronavirus Claims 5 More Lives In J&K, Toll 1404

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least five more people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, taking the number of fatalities since the outbreak of pandemic in the Union Territory to 1404.

Kashmir valley reported four more deaths due to Covid-19 while one death due to virus was reported from the Jammu division, officials said.

Among the victims from Valley included a 48-year-old woman from Sopore, who died at SKIMS Soura, three days after she was admitted there. Besides her, officials said a 63-year-old man from HMT Srinagar

### 624 New Cases Include 21 Travelers

Jammu and Kashmir reported 624 new cases of coronavirus, including twenty-one travelers, taking the total number of people infected by the virus in the Union Territory 89582. While 396 new cases were detected in Kashmir valley, the remaining 228 came out P-02

and a 40-year-old man from Manasbal died at the tertiary care hospital, 15 days after he was admitted there. Also, officials said an P-02

### 4G Ban In J&K Extended Till Nov 12

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday extended ban on high speed 3G and 4G internet services in all but two districts of Jammu and Kashmir till November 12.

As per an order issued by Principal Secretary Home Department, the restrictions in high speed have been felt "absolutely necessary in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India."

"The Special Committee P-02

## Students Left Out In PG Selection List Seek KU VC's Intervention

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Hundreds of undergraduate students who had appeared in entrance examinations for integrated post-graduate courses have been left in lurch by Kashmir University after a selection list full of discrepancies was allegedly issued by the varsity.

A group of under graduate students told Kashmir Observer on Wednesday that the University has withheld results of over 300 students, who appeared in PG entrance tests in September. They said that

the University had released a list of selected students on October 7 but it was full of discrepancies.

The students alleged that many candidates figured in the selection list despite scoring low in the entrance tests

The students said on approaching Directorate of Admissions, Kashmir University, they were asked to give an application as there was some technical error in their application forms.

"After waiting for many days, we again approached the Directorate of admissions but were asked to submit an application to P-02

## HC Asks Govt To 'Immediately' Retrieve Gulmarg Land Under Illegal Occupation

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has directed authorities to take immediate steps for retrieval of public land which is under unauthorized occupation and encroachment in Gulmarg.

"Disposals of public property can be only by transparent and fair processes. Persons who are under expired leases have no right to continue to do so. The respondents (officials) shall take immediate steps for retrieval of public land which is under unauthorized occupation and encroachment," a division bench chief justice Gita Mittal and Justice Puneet Gupta said while hearing a PIL.



"Let an action taken report with regard to properties which continue to be in unauthorized occupation which are under the control of the Department of Tourism be placed before us positively before the next date of hearing," the court said. Referring to the law on the subject, the court observed that the demarcated approach for disposal of public property, in P-02

## Enraged Attendants Ransack Hospital in City Police Uses Lathi Charge And Teargas Shelling To Control Situation

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday used batons and fired tear smoke shells after death of a patient due to the alleged negligence of doctors at a private hospital here triggered violent protest by her relatives.

According to reports, protest broke out at the Shifa Hospital in uptown during the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday when a young woman identified as Dilshada of neighboring Batamalo locality died after doctors conducted a surgery on her for gallstones. The attendants of the patient, re-

ports said turned violent and vandalised hospital property and the vehicles parked outside the hospital alleging that the doctors' negligence caused death of the woman. The protesters alleged that the woman was operated despite having an infection. Quoting witnesses, a report says that the protestors went on rampage damaging the hospital property and forcing the medical and paramedical staff to flee.

The report says that police arrived at the spot and to prevent law and order situation from worsening, used batons and tear smoke shells to disperse the angry protestors. Meanwhile, hospital P-02