



Maximum : 21°C
Minimum : 09°C
Humidity : 44%

SUNSET
Today 05:46 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:43 AM



News Digest

India, Pak Troops Trade Fire Along LoC

Srinagar: India and Pakistan troops Friday exchanged heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu region. Army's Jammu based PRO Devander Anand said that Pakistani troops violated ceasefire along the LoC in Qasba and Kirni sectors of Poonch district. **▶P-02**

Nabbed PLA Soldier Was Carrying Sleeping Bag

New Delhi: The Chinese Army soldier who was apprehended by Indian troops near the Demchok area was found to be carrying a sleeping bag, storage device and a mobile phone. The soldier named Corporal Wang Ya Long had strayed across the Line of Actual Control into Indian territory in the Demchok area in eastern Ladakh and was apprehended by the Army on **▶P-02**

Forest Fire Triggers Mine Blasts Along LoC

Jammu: A forest fire triggered several mine blasts along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Friday, officials said. The fire broke out in Balakot sector and spread to few adjoining areas, they said. Some anti-personnel mines exploded due to the fire, triggering panic among the residents, the officials said. The blaze was brought under control by Army and forest department personnel within a few hours, they said.

LG Pays Obeisance At Vaishnodevi Temple

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday visited the holy cave temple of Mata Vaishnodevi in Jammu's Reasi district and paid obeisance at the sanctum sanctorum on Durgaashtami. He prayed for peace, progress and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir, an official spokesperson said. Sinha reviewed measures taken by the temple board for facilitation of the pilgrims and took stock of the ongoing **▶P-02**

Protest In Chadura Over Erratic Power Supply

Budgam: Residents of Chadura area in Budgam district on Friday staged a protest against the Power Development Department (PDD) over unscheduled power cuts. The villagers of Sogam, Repora, Yarikalan, Repora, Panzan and Durbhgh hit the streets and staged a protest against the PDD alleging that the electricity was not being provided to them as per the schedule, news agency KNO reported. Angry protesters, the report said blocked Chadura-Char-e-Sharif road for **▶P-02**

Employees Retirement Order Draconian: CPI (M)

Srinagar: The administration's recent notification under SRO 324 to acquire powers to retire government employees at the age of 48 years or after completing 22 years of service is draconian and is against the interests of the lakhs of employees working in the region, CPI (M) said on Friday. "The notification/SRO aims to keep the employees under pressure which is bound to cause insecurity among them. It would serve as a tool to the government and bureaucrats to suppress their subordinates," CPI (M) **▶P-02**

We Are 'Incompatible' With Today's India: Mehbooba Mufti

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti on Friday described the "struggle for the restoration of Article 370" and "resolution of Kashmir issue" as a long-drawn fight and pledged that she will not raise any flag till the flag of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir is returned

In her first media interaction in over 14 months after the abrogation of Article 370 in August last year and her subsequent detention, former Chief Minister lashed out at the BJP for desecrating the Constitution and "looting" the dignity of the people by revoking its special status.

"We had acceded to a liberal, democratic, secular India. Let me tell them we are not comfortable, we are incompatible with today's India where minorities and Dalits are not safe and where they tried to disrespect us by looting our dignity. They will have to think, if not today, then tomorrow, that this country will run on India's Constitution and not on the BJP's manifesto," she said.

The PDP chief said the BJP-led government had **▶PAGE 02**



KO PHOTO ABID BHAT

'Won't Raise Tricolour Till J&K's Flag Is Returned'

Former Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President, Mehbooba Mufti pledged on Friday that she will not raise any flag till the flag of erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir is returned. In her first media interaction in over 14 months after the abrogation of provisions of Article 370 in August last year and her subsequent detention, Mufti said personally she was not interested in contesting polls till the erstwhile **▶P-02**

'People's Alliance' To Meet Today

The 'People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration', an amalgam of mainstream leaders striving for restoration of the Article 370 and statehood will hold its next meeting on Saturday at People's **▶P-02**

J&K To Have 1100 MBBS Seats In Medical Colleges

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government announced on Friday over 100 percent increase in medical seats in the medical colleges of the Union Territory for the current academic session 2020-21.

According to an official spokesperson, the total number of MBBS seats in Government Medical Colleges in J&K has increased from 500 for 2018-19 to 1100 seats for the current academic session 2020-21. He said that 50 % of the seats shall be made available to female aspirants as per MBBS admission policy of the UT.

"In this regard, Health & Medical Education Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir got Letter of Permission (LoP) from National Medical Commission, New Delhi for GMC Doda to admit 100 MBBS students for the current academic session 2020-2021 while GMC Anantnag and GMC Baramulla have also got permission to admit second batch of 100 students," the official spokesperson said.

He said it was worthwhile to mention that GMC Rajouri and GMC Kathua have already got permission for second batch with intake of 115 and 100 seats respectively whereby **▶PAGE 02**

10 More Covid-19 Deaths In J&K

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Ten more people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, taking the number of fatalities since the outbreak of pandemic in the Union Territory to 1428.

According to the officials, Kashmir valley witnessed six more Covid-19 deaths, while four more people died of the virus in Jammu division. Among the six victims from the Valley, three were residents of Srinagar, two from Anantnag and one from Baramulla district

Among others, the officials said victims include a 60-year-old man from Old town Baramulla who died at SKIMS Soura; a 75-year-old from Noorbagh Srinagar who also died at the tertiary care hospital, sixteen days after he was admitted there; a 70-year-old man from HMT Narabal, who passed away at SMHS hospital where he was admitted with bilateral community acquired pneumonia on October 14 and a 54-year-old man from Maisuma Srinagar who passed away nearly a week after being admitted to **▶PAGE 02**

6 Minors, 3 Doctors Among 586 New Cases

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Friday 586 fresh cases of coronavirus, including six minors and three doctors, taking the total number of people infected across the Union territory to 90752. While Kashmir valley detected 380 new cases of Covid-19, the remaining 206 were confirmed positive **▶P-02**

KU Considering Admission Of 'Left Out' Students To PG Courses

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The authorities at the Kashmir University on Friday said that they were considering the admission process of hundreds of left out students, who had applied for various post-graduate courses 'without completing' the requisite formalities.

On Wednesday, a group of students had told Kashmir Observer that the University has withheld results of over 300 students, who appeared in PG entrance tests in September. They further alleged that the

Class 10, 12 Exams To Start From November 9

The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (BOSE) Friday said that the annual examinations for 10th and 12th standard of Kashmir division and winter zones of Jammu division will commence **▶P-02**

University had released a list of selected students on October 7 but it was full of discrepancies. They had also alleged being left out in the admission process without any reason.

However, Registrar KU, Prof Nisar Ahmad told Kashmir Ob-

server on Friday that the students were at fault as they had not completed requisite formalities to obtain admission in the University.

"The students don't admit their mistake. The minimum eligibility to take admission in any post-graduate **▶PAGE 02**

HC Seeks Measures Being Taken On School Reopening SOPs

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has directed Education Department to inform it about the measures being taken to ensure compliance with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and the Covid guidelines on the issue of re-opening of Schools at this stage.

Hearing a plea, seeking directions to the government to continue with the virtual mode teaching process to the students' community, a division bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Puneet Gupta issued a notice to Principal Secretary to Government, School Education Department and others for a response to be filed

"positively" within a week.

"In view of the seriousness of the issue as stated in the application, the reply shall be positively filed within one week from today," the court said and posted the application for further consideration on November 12.

"N. H. Shah, learned Sr. AAG, who is representing the Education Department shall inform this Court about the measures being taken to ensure compliance with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and the Covid guidelines on the issue of reopening of Schools at this stage," the court said.

In her plea, the applicant—Azra Ismail—submitted that the Government of India as well as the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh **▶PAGE 02**

5 Killed, 8 Injured In Separate Accidents

JAMMU: At least five people were killed and eight others injured on Friday in two separate accidents in Doda and Poonch districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Three persons died and eight others were injured when a vehicle they were travelling in met with an accident in Doda district on Friday afternoon, official sources said.

Around 1430 hours, a Tata Sumo (JK06-5717) on way from Khillani to Hambal (Deni) rolled down into a gorge at Domail near Hambal Marmat. Three persons including the driver, Jahangir Hussain son of Syedullah of Dadni Marmat, died on the spot and eight other travellers were injured who were hospitalized later, reported news **▶P-02**

ONLINE CHEATING CASE J&K Govt Summons FB India Head

JAMMU- The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday summoned the Facebook India managing director and other officials to appear before the adjudicating officer on November 12 in connection with a complaint of an alleged online cheating case.

Orders for appearance in person against Ajit Mohan, MD of Facebook India, and other respondents have been issued by adjudicating officer Simrandeep Singh, who is the Secretary to J&K government's Department of Information Technology.

Taking cognisance **▶P-02**

Pak To Remain In FATF 'Grey' List Till Feb 2021

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Pakistan will remain in FATF's 'grey' list till February 2021 as it has failed to fulfil six key obligations of the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog that include failure to take action against two of India's most wanted militants Maulana Masood Azhar and Hafiz Saeed, officials said on Friday.

The virtual plenary of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), held in the last three days, concluded that Pakistan will continue in its 'grey' list.

The decision has been taken after a thorough review of Pakistan's performance in fulfilling the global commitments and standards on the fight against money laundering and

terror financing.

"Pakistan remains in the increased monitoring list or the grey list," FATF president Marcus Pleyer said at a virtual press conference from Paris.

Pakistan failed to fulfil six of the 27 mandates so far as a result of which the country continues to be in the grey list of the FATF.

"Pakistan failed to fulfil six of the 27 mandates given to check terror funding," Pleyer said.

The FATF chief said Islamabad must impose sanction and prosecute those involved in terror financing.

"Pakistan needs to do more on checking terror funding, it can't stop now," he said.

Sources said the tasks in which Pakistan failed to fulfil **▶PAGE 02**

In FOCUS Amid New White House Contest, Kashmir As Old Question Is Back

Salika Rashid

Last time when the first black man walked as a president in White House, parts of Kashmir erupted with joy powered by rattling crackers.

In Barack Obama's advent, the oldest political dispute registered with United Nations apparently headed for closure. The 'erudite' US president had vowed to settle the seven-decade long issue during his tenure. But he ended up vacating the White House citadel to a honcho turned politician, without ruffling any feathers on the lingering issue.

Now, as the famous American poll



buzz is back, analysts and pundits are predicting that in case Donald Trump gets routed by his opponent,

Joe Biden, in upcoming US elections, the Kashmir issue might see a new posturing, given the global super-

power sway held by America.

Notably, exhibiting its hegemonic and emancipatory power

right after the end of the Second World War, the United States of America took on its shoulder the responsibility of steering the third world countries. And with Kashmir witnessing a disgruntled regime change after the bloodcurdling fall of 1947, the "global policeman" got actively involved in Kashmir.

The Cold War Era

In late 1940s, as the first Indian Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru took the issue of Kashmir to United Nations to gain legitimacy over its claim, the South Asian region acquired world attention making it multilateral issue.

It is interesting to note **▶PAGE 02**