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Today 05:45 PM
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News Digest

Drone Shot Down Along LoC: Army

Srinagar: A surveillance drone of Chinese make was on Saturday shot down by Army troops shortly after it crossed into this side of the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said. The DJI Mavic 2 Pro drone, fitted with cameras, was spotted hovering in air by the alert troops in Keran sector and subsequently shot down, the officials said. They said the drone was seized and further investigation is on. There has been a spurt in the use of drones from Pakistani side over the past few months. **● P-02**

Massive Forest Fire Rages In Bandipora

Srinagar: A massive fire broke out in a forest near Khayar village of north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Saturday evening. Officials said that the fire broke out in compartment number 22 of Khuihama forest range during which dozens of trees got destroyed. "The fire later spread to the adjoining compartments of the forest area," they said. Locals said that massive fire has caused extensive damage to the forest area, adding that the massive fire broke out and has spread to a vast area as the concerned officials failed to. **● P-02**

Biker Killed In Kulgam Mishap

Srinagar: A bike-rider was killed while his pillion rider sustained injuries on Saturday after the motorcycle they were travelling on met with an accident in Damhal Hanjipora in south Kashmir's Kulgam district. A police officer said that a motorcycle bearing registration number JK02BF-7299 met collided with a tipper bearing registration number JK01H-1255 at Manzagam road, leaving the biker dead on the spot and his pillion rider wounded. The officer identified the deceased as Muheeb Ahmad Shah, son of Mukhtar Ahmad Shah from Manzagam Kulgam while as the injured. **● P-02**

Drugs Racket Busted In Jammu, 7 Held: Police

Jammu: Seven people, including two who were accused in the 2005 Delhi blast case, were arrested in connection with the seizure of 62 kg of heroin and opium last month near the Indo-Pak border here, police said on Saturday. The seizure was made on the intervening night of September 19 and 20 by a joint team of the Jammu Police and the Border Security Force (BSF) near the Budhwar Post, Inspector General (IG) of Police, Jammu Zone, Mukesh Singh, told reporters here. With these arrests an international drugs racket has been busted, police claimed and. **● P-02**

Ladakh Records 28 New Covid-19 Cases

Leh: With 28 fresh cases, the COVID-19 tally of the Union Territory of Ladakh has shot up to 5,840, an official bulletin said on Saturday. Ladakh has so far recorded 68 deaths due to COVID-19, while the number of cured patients has gone up to 4,984 with 82 people being discharged from various hospitals in the last 24 hours, the bulletin released by the Directorate of Health Services said. Of the new cases, 18 were reported from Leh district and 10 from Kargil district. The bulletin said 72 patients were discharged in Leh and 10 in Kargil, bringing down the number of active COVID-19 cases in the Union Territory to 788 -- 650 in Leh and 138 in Kargil. **● P-02**

‘Peoples Alliance’ Raises J&K Flag To Fight For Special Status

Conglomerate Names Dr Farooq Chairman, Mehbooba Deputy



KO Photo Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Seven mainstream parties of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday gave a formal shape to their recently cobbled alliance for the restoration of Article 370, electing National Conference's Farooq Abdullah as its chairman and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti as vice-chairperson, and asserted that theirs was "not an anti-national" grouping

CPM leader M Y Tarigami was elected as the convenor while Lok Sabha member from South Kashmir Hasnain Masoodi would be the coordinator of the conglomerate known as Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD). Sajad Gani Lone of People's Conference would be the spokesman for the amalgam.

After a meeting held at Mehbooba's house, Abdullah, who turned 84 earlier this week, said

the alliance is fighting for the restoration of special status to Jammu and Kashmir and is an "anti-BJP platform" and not an anti-national amalgam.

"I want to tell you that this is false propaganda by the BJP that the PAGD is anti-national. I want

BJP Seeks Mehbooba's Arrest

The Jammu and Kashmir BJP has demanded PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's arrest for her "seditious" remarks, wherein she said she would only hold the tricolour when the flag of the erstwhile state is restored.

The BJP said "no power on earth" can either hoist the state flag again or restore Article 370 of

the Constitution, which granted a special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing reporters on Friday for the first time since her release from a 14-month detention following the abrogation of Article 370 in August last year, Mufti said she will only hold the national flag after the flag of Jammu and Kashmir is **▶ PAGE 02**

Right Wing Activists 'Attack' PDP Office In Jammu

SRINAGAR: Right wing activists on Saturday allegedly attacked the office of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Jammu city, a day after the party President and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti vowed not to raise tricolour till the flag of Jammu and Kashmir is returned.

Former PDP legislator and party spokesperson Firdous Tak told Kashmir Observer that he was seated in his party office with his colleagues when a mob of right

THESE GOONS tried to scale wall and raise Indian flag. When we went out to check the situation, they abused us and threatened to burn our office to ground."

wing activists came in charging. He said the security deployment pushed the right wing activists behind the gate to repulse the attack.

"These goons tried to scale wall and raise Indian flag. When we went out to check the situation, they abused us and threatened to burn our office to ground," Tak said.

He alleged that no adequate security arrangements were put in place by the administration even as the right wing goons had posted videos on social media announcing to storm the PDP office.

When asked if today's alleged attack was a reaction to PDP President's tricolour remark, Tak said "These people have nothing to offer to the people of the country. Not only the general masses but even to their voters. So, they are raking up issues from one corner to another just to divert the attention of the people from the real issues. Any person who dissents with their views is **▶ PAGE 02**

SOZ: Can't Be Business As Usual Post 370

Leading support to former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, Congress leader and former Union Minister Saifuddin Soz on Saturday said Mehbooba's views on restoration of the flag of the erstwhile state of Jammu and

Kashmir reflects the wishes of the people.

"Mehbooba Mufti has reflected the feelings of an average Kashmiri by saying that she will not hold tricolour till the State's flag is restored with the status of the State," he said.

He said the question is as to what does the Union expect from the beleaguered people of Kashmir who are determined to continue their struggle for restoration of the special status.

"That the Modi government has internationalized the Kash-

mir issue once again is an obvious fact. It is not for nothing that world famous intellectuals like Noam Chomsky of America and Johan Galtung of Spain have raised their voice against the treatment meted out to Kashmir by the Modi **▶ PAGE 02**

J&K Reports 4 More Covid-19 Deaths

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least four more people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, taking the number of virus related fatalities across the Union Territory to 1432.

Three more people succumbed to the deadly infection in Jammu division while one death due to coronavirus was reported in the Kashmir valley, officials said. Among the three victims from Jammu region, two were residents of Jammu district and one Doda.

Among others the victims included a 40-year-old man from Satwari, an 82-year-old man

577 More Test Covid-19 Positive

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Saturday 577 fresh cases of coronavirus, including thirty travelers, taking the total number of people infected by the virus in the Union territory to 91329. According to the officials, 364 new cases of Covid-19 were detected in Kashmir valley on Saturday and 213 in Jammu division.

Giving the district wise details, officials said, **● P-02**

from Paloura Jammu. The victim from Valley was a resident of Anantnag, they said.

With these deaths, the fatality count has reached 956 in Valley and 476 in Jammu region.

Srinagar district with 345 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu

(248), Baramulla (138), Budgam (91), Pulwama (79), Kupwara (71), Anantnag (74), Kulgam (46), Bandipora (45), Rajouri (45), Doda (44), Shopian (35), Ganderbal (32), Kathua (30), Udhampur (28), Samba (25), Poonch (23), Kishtwar (14), Ramban (12), and Reasi (7). (With GNS inputs)

Govt Introduces 43 Central Laws In Ladakh UT

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Government of India on Friday issued an order for adaptation of state and central laws for the newly carved out Union Territory of Ladakh.

According to an order, as many as 86 laws enacted by legislature of the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir have been repealed while 56 such statutes have been made applicable with modifications.

As many as 43 central laws have been made applicable to the UT of Ladakh with certain modifications and substitutions, the order reveals.

This was the first such order issued for UT of Ladakh under section 96 of Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, which empowers Centre to amend J&K specific laws through an executive order.

"For the purpose of facilitating the application in relation to the successor Union Territories, of any law made before the appointed day, as detailed in Fifth Schedule, the Central Government may, before the expiration of one year from that day, by order, make such adaptations and modifications of the law, whether by way of repeal or amendment, as may be necessary or expedient, and thereupon **▶ PAGE 02**

ITBP To Have 47 New Outposts On LAC

Press Trust Of India

GREATER NOIDA (UP): The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), in developments that took place in the last few months, has broken the myth of some countries that they have a powerful army, Union minister G Kishan Reddy said on Saturday, in an indirect reference to the ongoing standoff between India and China in Ladakh.

The minister of state for home was addressing the troops of the mountain warfare-trained border force on the occasion of its 59th raising day here.

He did not take names but said

US Closely Monitoring LAC Row

The US is closely monitoring the border row between India and China and does not want the situation to escalate, a senior Trump administration official has said. The official told the reporters during a conference **● P-02**

while India believes in the philosophy of "vasudhaiva **▶ PAGE 02**

India, Pak Troops Trade Fire Along LoC, IB

JAMMU: India and Pakistani troops on Saturday traded heavy gunfire and mortar shells along the Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials said that Pakistani troops violated ceasefire by resorting to unprovoked firing and mortar shelling in three sectors along the LoC and IB in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday.

The Indian Army and the Border Security Force (BSF) retaliated effectively. **● P-02**

Child Pornography In Valley US Based NGO Raises Alarm

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Police has registered a case in connection with production, possession and transmission of child pornography by some persons in the valley, said a police spokesman.

The case was registered by the Cyber Police on the basis of 'Tipline Reports' received from the National Center For Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), a US-based non-profit organization.

Cyber Police Station Kashmir Zone, Srinagar has received a number of reports from the NCMEC against the individuals residing in the Kashmir valley who have published, transmitted, circulated child pornography on social media plat-

forms, the spokesman said.

He said the NCMEC receives tips-offs through citizens, service providers and uses software to track child pornography content uploading/sharing online that is then shared with law enforcement agencies in the form of 'Tipline Reports'.

Based on the reports, a case was registered in Cyber Police Station Kashmir and investigation was initiated, he said.

The spokesman said a number of paedophiles from the valley were found involved in either transmission or uploading of child pornography contents on the social media platforms.

The accused will be arrested in the coming days, he said.

LG Orders Transfer Of 4 KAS Officers

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday transferred four KAS officers by the orders of the Lieutenant Governor.

As per the order, Pankaj Magotra (KAS) Additional Secretary to the Government, Jal Shakti Department, has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers' Welfare.

"He shall also hold the additional charge of Additional Secretary to the Government, Horticulture Department, till further orders," reads the order.

Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar (KAS) awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department **● P-02**

Eid-i-Milad Holidays Rescheduled

SRINAGAR: Government on Saturday rescheduled two holidays including 'Eid-i-Milad-un-Nabi' and 'Friday Following' in Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

An official communique in this regard reads that the holiday on account of 'Eid-i-Milad-un-Nabi' shall now be observed on 30th October, 2020 (Friday) instead of 29th October, 2020 (Thursday).

"The holiday on account of Friday following Eid-i-Milad-un-Nabi shall now be observed on 6th November, 2020 (Friday) instead 30th October, 2020 **● P-02**

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