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News Digest

Weather To Remain Dry Till Nov 4: MeT

Srinagar: The Meteorological department on Thursday said that weather will mainly remain dry till November 04 in Kashmir; there may be isolated rains from Oct 31 to Nov 01.

A Met official told news agency KDC that there are chances of isolated rains on 31st Oct and 1st Nov in hilly areas, but overall weather is likely to remain dry till November 04.

India Sans Kashmir On Saudi Banknotes

New Delhi: India has conveyed its serious concern to Saudi Arabia over "gross misrepresentation" of its external territorial boundaries in a banknote issued by the Gulf nation last week, and asked it to take "urgent corrective steps", the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday. The global map printed on the new 20 Riyal banknote, released to mark Saudi Arabia's presidency of the G20 grouping, does not feature Jammu and P-02

LG Greets People On **Eid-I-Milad**

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday extended his greetings to the people of the Union Territory of J&K on the auspicious occasion of Eid-i-Milad-un-Nabi. In his message of felicitations, the LG hoped that the auspicious occasion would spread the message of oneness, peace and universal brotherhood among all the sections of the society, an official spokesperson said. The LG, he said prayed for ● P-02

Man Shot Dead In Kathua

Kathua: A man was shot dead after an altercation with his friend over repayment of money borrowed by him in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Thursday, officials said. Sanjeev Sharma went to the house of his friend Banu to get back his money borrowed by his friend in Kathua. they said. An altercation between the duo ensued and Sharma was P-02

Newborn Among 2 Die In Ramban Mishap

Srinagar: Two persons including a baby were killed while six others received injuries in a road accident that took place in Ramban district on Thursday. An Ecco vehicle was moving on a road near BagliharHydel power project in Ramban when it skidded off the road on Thursday evening, officials said. A few days old baby and another unidentified person were killed in the accident while six passengers have received injuries. • P-02

6 Gamblers Held In Bandipora: Police

Srinagar: Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested a group of six gamblers in a raid in Sumbal area of north Kashmir's Bandipora district. Acting on an input, a police team carried out at raid in Check Ganastanarea of Sumbal and arrested six gamblers from the spot, a police spokesperson said Thursday.He said that playing cards and an amount of Rs7600 was recovered from the gamblers. "They have been P-02

3 BJP Workers Shot **Dead In Kulgam**



Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Suspected militants on Thursday shot dead three Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers, including party's youth wing General Secretary in Oazigund area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

Around 8:15pm on Thursday, suspected militants opened fire upon three BJP workers, including retary for Kulgam Fida Hussain Ya- tendent Qazigund >> PAGE 02

too and his associates Umer Rashid Beigh and Umer Ramzan Haiam near Eidgah Y K Pora, officials said. The trio, they said were critically injured in the militant attack and were removed to the emergency hospital Qazigund for treatment.

However, before the doctors could operate upon them, all the three BJP members succumbed to gunshot wounds.

"All three of them were brought party's Yuva Morcha General Sec- dead," Dr Asima Medical Superin-

Militant Arrested In Pulwama: Police

olice on Thursday claimed to have arrested a militant in Below area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. A senior police officer said that a joint team of Police, army's 44RR and CRPF during Naka duty arrested a militant affiliated with The Resistance Front (TRF) outfit in P-02

PDP's Protest March Foiled, **Several Leaders Detained**

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Several PDP leaders were on Thursday detained by police as they tried to stage a protest against the new land laws notified by the Centre for Jammu and Kashmir.

PDP leader Khursheed Alam party spokesman Suhail Bukhari and youth president Waheed Parra were among those detained by police as they came out of the party's Srinagar office at Sher-e-Kashmir Municipal Park, officials said.

The party leaders wanted to hold a protest rally against the amendments made to the land laws of the Jammu and Kashmir by the Centre on Tuesday which allow people from other parts of the country to buy land in the region. >> PAGE 02

Mehbooba's Jibe At BJP

'Take On China, Why Suppress **Hapless Kashmiris'**

laiming that Kashmir has been turned into a prison, former Chief Minister and People's Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday dared BJP-led government to retrieve the land occupied by Chinese troops In Ladakh instead of suppressing the helpless people • P-02

'Does Centre Want Us To Ouit Politics?'

Other States, UTs Have Laws To Protect Their Land, Why Not J&K: Omar

ational Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Thursday accused BJP-led government at the Centre of pushing to the brink the mainstream political parties in Jammu and Kashmir who have formed an alliance to fight for special status. "What do the Delhiwallas (Centre) want? Do they • P-02

NIA Continues Raids On Trusts In Kashmir For Second Day

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The NIA carried out fresh raids for the second day on Thursday on some more organisations as part of its investigations into NGOs within and outside Jammu and Kashmir that are allegedly being used as modes for "militant funding".

In continuation of the searches carried out on Wednesday, seven more locations in Srinagar. Baramulla, Anantnag and Kulgam in the union territory and two locations in Delhi were raided, (NIA) spokesperson and Deputy health and education. Inspector General Sonia Narang said in a statement.

She said the searches were conducted in connection with a case pertaining to certain registered and unregistered NGOs and Trusts raising funds in the name of charitable activities and then using those funds for carrying out "secessionist and separatist" activities in Jammu and Kashmir. The case was registered by

the NIA on receipt of "credible information" that certain NGOs and Trusts are collecting funds domestically and abroad through donations and business contributions in the name of various National Investigation Agency welfare activities such as public The NIA alleged

funds are sent to Jammu and nels such as hawala and cash cou-sustain secessionist »PAGE 02

Amnesty Calls For An End To 'Suppression Of Dissent'

xpressing concern over the continued raids by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on the homes and premises of civil society groups, human rights defenders and journalists in Jammu and Kashmir, global • P-02

Kashmir Media Bodies Condemn 'Continuous Harassment'

everal media associations on Thursday condemned the "continuous harassment" of media institutions and journalists of the Valley saying that such acts were aimed at silencing reporters and curbing the • P-02

these Kashmir through various chan- riers and are used to carry out and

KP's Demand Ban On J&K Land Sale To Outsiders

Agencies

SRINAGAR- Migrant Kashmiri Pan-Kashmir till the community is rehabilitated in Kashmir.

Satish Mahaldar, chairman of Reconciliation, Return and Rehabilitation, an organisation of migrant Pandits said in a statement: "The Government of India notified land law for Jammu & Kashmir on Tuesday, October 27, 2020, our roots. This has affected → PAGE 02

The law paves the way for any citizen of India to buy land in J&K."

"Kashmiri Pandits feel betrayed. For dits on Thursday demanded a ban on 31 years we have been waiting for resale of land to outsiders in Jammu & turn and rehabilitation in our land of origin. Without getting us rehabilitated in our land, the Government of India has thrown open the Kashmir land for sale. Is this justice? Since 1989, the community has suffered genocide and ethnic cleansing in the valley."

"The forced exodus has cut us from

India, Pak Troops

JAMMU: India and Pakistani

troops on Thursday exchanged

Exchange Fire

Along LoC

KASHMIRI PANDITS FEEL BETRAYED.

For 31 years we have been waiting for return and rehabilitation in our land of origin. Without getting us rehabilitated in our land, the Government of India has thrown open the Kashmir land for sale. Is this justice?

Probe Ordered Against Director Health Over 'Sexual Harassment'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has ordered time-bound probe against Director Health Services, Kashmir Dr Samir Mattoo over serious allegations of sexual harassment leveled by a consultant.

According to reports, on the directions of Lieutenant Governor's out following norms. Secretariat Office. Health and ordered a probe against Mattoo after a female consultant leveled serious charges of sexual harassment against him with the LG's office.

ishwar Kumar, reports said has written to Chief Secretary and Financial Commissioner H&ME to get the allegations probed by 'Internal Complaint Committee' and submit a report within 7 days. He has also staved the transfer order of the female consultant, who was transferred to SDH Kunzar by the incumbent Director Health with-

The 'Internal Complaint Com-Medical Education Department has mittee' which has been constituted to probe into sexual harassment complaints in the Health Department is headed by Satvir Kour Sudan-Director General P&S, LG's Principal Secretary Nit- H&ME and its members >> PAGE 02

40% In Srinagar Have Covid **Antibodies, Shows Sero Survey**

SRINAGAR: Over 40 per cent people living in Srinagar district have developed COVID-19 antibodies, according to a latest seroprevalence study which suggests a large fraction of the population in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir may have been infected by the novel coronavirus.

The results of the study conducted by the Government Medical College Srinagar (GMC) reveal a quantum jump from 3.8 per cent sero-prevalence recorded in check for the prevalence of anti- of the 2,400 persons tested negaa similar study conducted in the

the blood serum of individuals to has revealed that over 40 per cent cine at GMC Srinagar. >> PAGE 02

Corona Claims 11 9 SF Men Among More Lives In J&K

t least eleven more people died of coronavirus in Jammu and

Kashmir on Thursday, taking the number of fatalities in the Union Territory due to the pandemic to 1467. ● P-02

bodies against an infection. "We have conducted a sero-

A sero-survey involves testing survey in Srinagar district which Khan, head of community medi-

551 New Cases

t least nine security men and six minors were among 551 new cases of coronavirus detected in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, taking the total • P-02

tive but had developed antibodies," said Dr Muhammad Salim

heavy gunfire and mortars along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. The Pakistan army violated

ceasefire by resorting to heavy firing and shelling along the LoC in Poonch district, prompting Indian troops to retaliate befittingly, an official said. At 1710 hours, the Pakistan army

initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling mortars along the LoC in Shahpur sector in Poonch district, a defence spokesman said.

He said the Indian Army retaliated befittingly.

Pakistan has violated • P-02

With Everest On Mind, Young Hikers Sparking Adventure In Kashmir Heights

Zeenish Imroz

anish Dhaar and Amir Lateef. two GST-Goods and Services Tax-practitioners from Srinagar have started a non-profit club by the name of Jammu and Kashmir Mountaineering Foundation (JKMF) to make climbing accessible to youth for exploring the undiscovered treasures of Kashmir.

Along with their members, the duo is holding Sunday treks to make mountaineering a leisure activity for the adventure lovers.

So far, the duo has hosted groups to 50 different alpine lakes, out of the total 200-plus lakes in Kashmir tude of 6,153m.

including that of Nundkol, Gangabal, Tala sar, Sundarsar and have a forethought of exploring all the alpine lakes unravelled.

So far, the highest elevation the group has reached is that of Stok Kangri in Ladakh-the part of pre-August 5, 2019 Kashmir.

The summit was undertaken in late 2019 summer, when the atmosphere was very grim for adventure sports due to post abrogation lockdown in the valley.

Amid communication blockade. nine JKMF members left home and eventually climbed the highest mountain in the Stok Range of the Himalayas in Ladakh with an alti-



The peak, notably, is just 2,695m short of Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world.

The essence of Ladakh, Amir says, is spiritual and relaxing. The prayer flags, he mentions, equally uplifts

the natural beauty of the place.

"We started trekking in the cold desert at 8am to reach the first camp called Manakorma at 5 in the afternoon," he recalls. The temperature steeps to minus 8-degrees at night in late summers.

The next day, the duo's group reached the basecamp and left for summit push at 11pm so the ice is trekkable and the crevices aren't dangerous, Amir continues.

"It was a beautiful night of full needed." he recounts his adventurous journey. "We trekked the whole night and reached the summit at 9

in the morning.' The climb to the summit of Stok

Kangri takes 10 days which the single day. group finished in just three days!

To make trekking and moun-Kashmiri youth, Danish Dhaar, back in 2018, had started JKMF as Harhas hosted many peak summits in

Kashmir frozen heights. His group, in July 2019, climbed the Sunset Peak which is the highest mountain of Pir Panjal Range. With an elevation of 2,745 metres, moon and the headlights weren't the peak is also known as Romesh

Thong.

The duo-led group has already climbed the Mahadev Peak, which is Srinagar's highest peak, with an altitude of 3,966m in 2019, in a global platform," Danish asserts.

The group got recently affiliated with Peaks Alpines Adventures taineering a leisure activity for from North Kashmir and is planning to connect with schools and colleges so the children take the mukh Adventures. Since then, he adventure sport as a co-curricular activity.

The group also plans to climb Mount Everest and shift from trekking to mountaineering for which it plans to sponsor courses for their members of Sunday treks.

However, driven by the "catch them young" motto, the duo focuses on influencing schools and students— "so that Kashmir in near future produces its own mountain stars on the