



Maximum : 19°C  
Minum : 03°C  
Humidity : 44%

SUNSET  
Today 05:34 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 06:54 AM



## News Digest

### Youth Uploads Obscene Content, Booked

Srinagar: Police on Wednesday booked a youth for blackmailing a woman and uploading her obscene pictures on social media in Pampore area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. Acting on a complaint by a woman alleging that some miscreants have been blackmailing her and had uploaded her obscene pictures on social media, police swiftly acted and arrested an accused identified as Asif Rasool Wani of Drangbal, Pampore, a police spokesperson said Wednesday. Accordingly, he said a case FIR Number 89/2020 under section 354A, 354C, 54D, 509, 500, ● P-02

### Two Killed In Nashri Tunnel Accident

Ramban- Two people were killed and another critically injured when their car crashed into an emergency exit gate inside Chennani-Nashri tunnel along the Jammu-Srinagar highway near here, officials said on Wednesday. The vehicle was on its way to Ramban from Udhampur district and the accident took place late on Tuesday night, they said. The officials said the car hit gate number 16 after its driver lost control over the vehicle, resulting in the death of two of its occupants, including the driver, and injuries to another. They identified the deceased as Bittu Sharma (40) ● P-02

### KPDCL Employee Hurt By Stray Bullet

Srinagar: A Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) employee on Wednesday was injured after being hit by a stray bullet in Pattan area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. The soldiers were doing practice at Wanigam Pattan when a bullet accidentally hit the hand of KPDCL employee while he was repairing a transmission line behind the headquarters of Army 10 Sector, news agency KNT reported Wednesday. The injured employee identified as Showkat Ahmed of Checkpora Budgam was shifted to Sub District Hospital Kreeri ● P-02

### 2 Held For IPL Betting In Jammu

Jammu: Two persons were arrested in Jammu on Wednesday for allegedly betting on Indian Premier League matches, police said. Acting on inputs, a police team raided a place at Nagrota on outskirts of the city and apprehended two persons -- Parshotam Kumar and Vikram Singh -- for betting on IPL matches, official said. Two mobile phones and many electronic materials have been seized. A case has been registered and an investigation is on, the officials said.

### Scooty Rider Crushed To Death

Srinagar: A scooty rider was on Wednesday evening crushed to death in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Zahoar Ahmed Bhat was killed on the spot when his scooty (JK05G-6316) was hit by an unknown vehicle near Janbazpora on Wednesday, police officials said. They said that a case under relevant section of law has been registered and further investigation was also taken up -- (KNO)

## HC Takes Note Of Illegal Constructions In Sonmarg

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Under the shield of the permission to repair damage on account of snow or fire, large scale unauthorised constructions are carried out in Sonmarg and is "absolutely imperative" to check this illegal activity, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court has said.

"We find that in case, after case applications are being made for building permissions. On several occasions, the request is couched as a permission for renovation / repairs. On many occasions, we find the use of damage on account of snow or fire is put forth," said a bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Puneet Gupta.

"Under the shield of the permission so obtained, large scale unauthorised constructions, expansions and encroachments are being effected. Most of these are being sought and carried out by persons who have no right in the lands at all," the court said, adding, "It is absolutely imperative to check this illegal activity as the unauthorised construction in this eco-fragile area is irreversibly damaging the environment. The damage is such that it cannot be compensated monetarily. Not only the present populace, but the generations to come will have to pay the price for the environmental degradation."

The court directed that, in addition to the requirements made in the applicable law, all ● PAGE 02

## J&K Announces DDC Polls From Nov 28

West-Pak Refugees, Valmikies;

Gurkhas To Cast Vote For First Time



State Election Commissioner K K Sharma addressing a press conference in Jammu on Wednesday.

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir poll panel on Wednesday announced an eight-phase election to 20 district development councils (DDCs) in the union territory beginning November 28, in the first major electoral exercise since the abrogation of Article 370 in August last year.

The government had in October amended the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act to

provide for setting up of District Development Councils in each district which will have directly elected members, marking the implementation of the entire 73rd Constitutional Amendment in the union territory.

State Election Commissioner K K Sharma told a press conference here that by-elections to vacant panchayat and municipal seats will be held simultaneously.

The notification for the first-phase polling on November ● PAGE 02

**WHILE THE ELECTION TO DDCS AND panchayat bypolls will be through ballot, by-election to municipal seats will be conducted through electronic voting machine (EVM).**

## J&K Sees 10 More Corona Deaths, Toll 1515

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus claimed ten more lives in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, raising the total number of fatalities across the Union Territory due to virus to 1515.

According to the officials, Kashmir valley witnesses three more Covid-19 deaths on Wednesday, while seven more people succumbed to the deadly infection in the Jammu division. The three victims from the Valley, officials said were residents of Srinagar, Baramulla

### 4 Soldiers, 35 Travelers Among 512 New Cases

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Wednesday 512 more cases of novel coronavirus, including thirty-five travelers and four soldiers, taking the total number ● P-02

and Anantnag districts. A 60-year-old man from Boniyar Uri in Baramulla district died a week after he ● PAGE 02

## China 'Notes' Pakistan's Move On Gilgit-Baltistan

Says Kashmir Issue Left Over From History, Resolution Under UN Charter

Press Trust Of India

BEIJING: China on Wednesday said it has "noted" the recent move by Pakistan to accord 'provisional provincial status' to Gilgit-Baltistan in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PcK).

On Sunday, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan said that his government has decided to accord a provisional provincial status to the Gilgit-Baltistan region of PcK.

Reacting to Khan's remarks, Spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Anurag

### India Won't Compromise On Its Territorial Integrity: Shringla

India will not compromise on its territorial integrity, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla has said, noting that China's "unusual step" to "unilaterally" alter the status quo has contributed to the deterioration of the bilateral ● P-02

Shrivastava said in New Delhi that India "firmly rejects" the attempt by Pakistan to bring material changes to a part of Indian territory which is under Islamabad's "illegal and forcible occupation" and asked the neighbouring country to

immediately vacate such areas.

Asked for his reaction to Pakistan's decision on Gilgit-Baltistan and India's reaction to it at a media briefing here, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said, "we have noted relevant ● PAGE 02

Rajnath Tells Bihar Voters

### 'Militancy In J&K On Decline'

MUZAFFARPUR(BIHAR): Militancy is on the decline in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 and the menace will be rooted out in the foreseeable future, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Wednesday.

Addressing an election rally in this north Bihar district, Singh, a former BJP president, said the party has taken to their logical conclusion all issues it has been ideologically committed to - be it the Ayodhya temple, Article 370 or expeditious grant of citizenship to persecuted religious minorities in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

That Article 370 should go has been our ideological position since the time of Shyama Prasad Mookerji. We stuck to the stand when the Jana Sangh came into being and remained steadfast in the new avatar the BJP.

"Once our party formed a government and mustered the numbers in Parliament, we scrapped it in a snap of the finger (chutki bajaakar khatam kar diya), said Singh, evoking applause from the crowds.

He lamented that despite having enjoyed a special status for so long, J&K, which has now been split into two union territories, remained backward because of rampant corruption and terrorism.

But things have begun to look up. A decline in ● P-02

## ...FIGHT FOR SPECIAL STATUS

## People's Alliance To Meet In Jammu On Nov 7



Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: After managing to pull support of Kargil parties, the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) is scheduled to hold a meeting in the winter capital on Saturday

in order to garner support from the Jammu based leadership in its fight for special status restoration.

The meeting will be held on Saturday at the Bhatindi residence of Dr Farooq Abdullah, who is also the chairman of the mainstream ● PAGE 02

## America's Political Fate Hangs In Balance

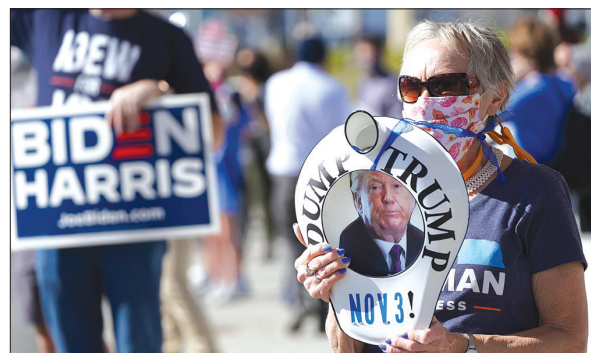
Trump, Biden Both Expect To Win In Tight US Election

Agencies

WASHINGTON: The election duel between President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden is coming down to counts of hundreds of thousands of legal votes in a handful of key battlegrounds after a night of dramatically shifting fortunes that left a deeply divided America's political fate on a knife edge, CNN reported.

Biden holds a narrow 224-213 lead in the Electoral College. A candidate must reach the 270 mark to win the presidency. Races in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Maine, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin are too close to call. In many cases, the tight races could depend on the counting of absentee and mail-in ballots, which tend to disproportionately favor Democrats.

But both candidates still have a path to victory. Biden will capture the presidency if his narrow leads in Nevada, Arizona, Michigan and Wisconsin hold. Trump is hoping to cling onto the former Democratic 'blue wall states' in the



### Twitter Flags Trump Tweets

Twitter labeled two of President Donald Trump's tweets as misleading Wednesday as a battle over the knife-edge US election spilled into social media. ● P-02

### Scattered Protests In US Cities

Scattered protests took place from Washington, DC to Washington state in the hours after polls closed, but there were no signs of widespread unrest or violence linked to ● P-02

Midwest and also Pennsylvania that he won four years ago.

While counts are still ongoing, the President is making baseless claims that the election, which had looked more favorable to him late on Tuesday before hauls of early votes

started being tabulated, is being stolen from him and demanding that vote counting should stop. An appearance in the White House East Room in the early hours, in which he falsely claimed victory, represented his most brazen ● PAGE 02

## Wildlife Board Set Up In J&K

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has constituted a 25-member wildlife board to advise it in selection and management of areas to be declared as protected areas and in formulation of policy for protection and conservation of wildlife and plants.

LG would be the chairman of the board which included among others nine eminent conservationists, ecologists and environmentalists and three representatives of NGO's dealing with wildlife, according to an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi the commissioner secretary to the administration.

Besides advising the government on selection and management of areas to be ● P-02

## 8th, 9th Std Exams From Nov-15, 1st-7th From Second Week: DSEK

SRINAGAR: Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) Wednesday said that the examinations of 8th and 9th standard will commence from November-15.

DSEK officials said this in a meeting held under the chairmanship of Director School Education Kashmir wherein Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for conduct of T2 examination for classes 1st to 9th and annual Board examination for Class 10th and 12th session November 2020 were announced.

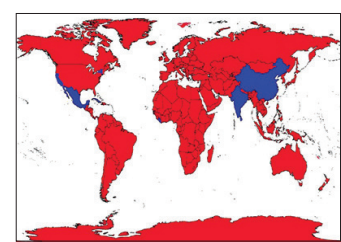
According to the Joint ● P-02

## Trump Jr Chops Kashmir From Indian Map, Faces Flak

Press Trust Of India

NEW YORK: Donald Trump Jr, son of US President Donald Trump, drew flak and criticism on Wednesday for posting an inaccurate world map drenched in the red colour of the Republican Party and one which showed the whole of India as blue, the colour of the Democratic Party, with the exception of Kashmir and north-east states.

"Okay, finally got around to making my electoral map prediction," Trump Jr said in a Twitter post along with the world map on Tuesday as the US began voting in the 2020 presidential election, implying that the entire world is voting for and supporting his father and the Republican Party.



SOURCE: TWITTER

The map showed all the countries, including water bodies and Antarctica, coloured red, with the exception of the state of California, India, Mexico, Liberia, Cuba and China coloured blue - the hue of the Democratic party.

However, while India was coloured blue, Jammu and Kashmir and the North-East states were coloured red. The Indian ● PAGE 02

## CDS Proposes Pension Cut, Increase In Retirement Age For Armed Forces

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: In a major reform initiative, the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) has proposed a significant cut in the pension amount of military personnel taking premature retirement and suggested increasing the retirement age of certain categories of officers.

The move by the DMA, headed by Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat, is part of a series of reforms aimed at ensuring efficient use of resources and manpower, the officials said.

As per the proposal, the retirement age of Colonels and equivalent rank in the Indian Army is sought to be increased to 57 years from the existing 54 years, the officials said.



FILE PIC

Similarly, the retirement age of Brigadiers in the Indian Army is proposed to be increased to 58 years from the existing 56 years, and in the case of Major Generals, it is proposed at 59 years as against 58 years at present.

The same age bracket for retirement is proposed to be applied in equivalent ranks in the Indian Air

Force and the Navy, the officials said. As per the proposal, the retirement age for personnel in logistics, medical, technical some other branches will be 57 years.

According to the proposed pension disbursement plan, only those personnel completing over 35 years of service will be eligible for a full pension which comes to around 50 percent of the last drawn salary.

The DMA has proposed that personnel with 31 to 35 years of service will get 75 percent ● PAGE 02

## Govt To Set Up 1,680 Housing Units In Valley For KP Employees

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday accorded sanction for the construction of transit accommodation for Kashmiri migrant employees at six places in the valley at a cost of Rs 201.60 crore under Prime Minister's development package.

A four-member committee headed by Principal Secretary, Revenue Department, has been set up to resolve all matters pertaining to the identification and transfer of land to the Department of Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction by November 15, the government said.

An order issued by the General Ad-



FILE PIC

ministrative Department (GAD) said administrative approval was accorded to the construction of transit accommodation for Kashmiri migrant employees recruited under the Prime Minister's package at six locations at an estimated cost of Rs 201.60 crore.

The locations include Marhama-Bijbehara in Anantnag district, Wandhama-Lar in Ganderbal district, Fatehpore in Baramulla district, ● PAGE 02