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News Digest

LG Extends Diwali Greetings To People

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday extended his greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the eve of Diwali.

On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, I extend my heartiest greetings and best wishes to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. May this Diwali fill our lives with the light of hope and positivity for building a new Jammu and Kashmir with a renewed spirit, he said.

Sinha said Diwali is celebrated by various religions and sects and this festival inspires us to work for the service of people.

Let us light a lamp of compassion, peace and love and build a better and prosperous J-K for our future generations, he said.

CASO Conducted In Pulwama village

SRINAGAR: Joint Forces on Friday launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Rohmoo village of south Kashmir district of Pulwama.

The search operation was launched in Wani Mohalla of Rohmoo, news agency KNT reported.

Quoting locals, the report said that Special Operation Group (SOG) of Jammu and Kashmir police, CRPF and soldiers from 53 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) launched a joint search operation and conducted searches.

All exit points were sealed by the forces; they said adding later house to house search was launched. The search operation was extended to another locality called Astan Mohalla.

Devotees Catch Burglar In Anantnag Mosque

SRINAGAR: Devotees caught a thief red-handed while he was trying to steal accessories in a newly constructed mosque in South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Friday.

Witnesses said that at Daraul Hudha Jamia Masjid Ahadith in New Qazibagh area of Anantnag, a thief appeared while people were busy offering Friday prayers, news agency KNT reported. However, some alert devotees caught him and foiled his attempt to steal accessories from the mosque.

The witnesses said that police was immediately called and the burglar was handed over to the police party.

Man Held For Posing As ACB Official

SRINAGAR: Police on Friday claimed to have arrested a man who was allegedly impersonated as an Anti-Corruption Bureau official "with an intention to extort money" from a person in south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Mohammad Amin Wani of Zafraon Colony Pantha Chowk was arrested by police after receiving a complaint from a man from Awantipora alleging that a person introducing himself as an Anti-Corruption Bureau official intercepted him near Toll Plaza Awantipora and searched his car and also took his phone number, a police spokesperson said.

"Later on during evening hours, the person called the complainant on phone with the intention to extort money from him," he added.

He said that taking note of the complaint, the accused was identified and arrested by police.

Fire Breaks Out In Qiomoh Hospital

ANANTNAG: A fire broke out in OPD block of a Hospital in Qiomoh in Kulgam district of south Kashmir, officials said Friday.

BMO Qiomoh Dr Abdul Ghani told news agency GNS that the fire started in the hospital on Friday evening.

Reports said that fire and emergency services reached the spot and are trying to douse of the flames. When this report was filed, the fire and emergency services were on the job while some cylinder blasts were heard. (GNS)

LoC Bloodbath: 5 Security Men; 5 Civilians Killed In Cross-LoC Shelling

Horror Videos On Social Media Show Houses Ablaze, Residents Running For Lives



Residents escape to safety in Uri as shells rain along LoC.



Scene of burning houses in Neelum Valley on the other side of LoC.

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a major escalation, Indian and Pakistani troops on Friday exchanged heavy firing and shelling along military Line of Control (LoC) that divides Kashmir between the two countries, leaving at least ten people, including four army men, a border guard and five Kashmiri civilians dead and scores of soldiers and civilians injured.

Civilians were killed as mortar shells landed on houses setting them on fire along the de-facto border in North Kashmir on Friday.

The new peak in tensions came only five days after three Indian soldiers and three militants were killed in an exchange along the LoC. >> More On P2

5 Civilians Injured In Poonch Shelling

At least five people, including two porters on Friday were injured in cross-LoC shelling in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to officials, Pakistani troops violated ceasefire by firing mortars along the LoC in Sawjiri sector in Poonch district. In the Pakistani firing and shelling, five people, including a middle-aged woman and two porters were injured. >> More On P2

Army Uses Kornet ATGMs

The social media was abuzz with multiple videos, believed to have been released by the Indian Army, showing what looked like ATGMs (anti-tank guided missiles) hitting the Pakistani army bunkers.

The anti-tank guided missile systems are originally used to destroy tanks, but the weapon has been used against other targets in recent battles, including lightly armored and soft vehicles, fortifications, enemy infrastructure, fire points and snipers. >> More On P2

NC Leaders Seek End To Border Shelling

The National Conference on Friday condemned the casualties along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir and called for an immediate end to such skirmishes.

Four security forces personnel were among 10 people killed in multiple ceasefire violations by Pakistani troops along the Line of Control (LoC) from Gurez to Uri sectors of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, officials said. Expressing >> More On P2

DDC Elections

PAGD Gets Into Huddle To Finalise Candidates

SRINAGAR: The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), an amalgam of mainstream parties spearheading campaign for restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, on Friday held back to back meeting here to finalise candidates for the forthcoming 8-phase District Development Council (DDC) polls, slated to be held from November 28.

According to the reports, the first meeting was held on Friday morning at the Fairview residence of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President Mehbooba Mufti to chalk out the DDC poll strategy and finalise the names of the candidates contesting the elections.

The meeting began at 10:30 AM at Mehbooba's residence and after Friday prayers, the second round of the meeting

was held at NC headquarters in Nawa-e-Subha here.

Notably, the PAGD has recently declared the list of 27 constituencies in which candidates from three parties including National Conference (NC), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Peoples Conference (PC) were chosen to contest the polls on their respective party symbols.

However, the Congress party for the first time has attended the meeting of PAGD today since its formation.

Meanwhile, Awami National Conference (ANC) senior vice president, Muzaffar Ahmad Shah while divulging the details of the meeting, said that the alliance is finalizing the candidates from Kashmir Valley for all the eight phases.

Shah further stated that the meeting will >> More On P2

J&K Congress Joins People's Alliance

Press Trust Of India

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) on Friday joined the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), an amalgam of several parties in the union territory seeking restoration of the erstwhile state's special status.

Two Congress leaders participated in a meeting of the alliance at PDP president Mehbooba Mufti's 'Fairview' residence at Gupkar here.

Mufti is also the vice chairman of the alliance, led by National >> More On P2

J&K Witnesses 7 More Corona Deaths, Toll 1567

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least seven more people succumbed to coronavirus infection in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, taking the total number of fatalities since the outbreak of pandemic in the Union Territory to 1567.

Three more people lost their battle with the deadly infection in Kashmir valley, while four others succumbed to Covid-19 in Jammu division, officials said Friday. Among the three victims from Valley, officials said two were residents of Srinagar and one Shopian.

One among the victims from Srinagar was a 70-year-old man from Eidgah Srinagar who died at SKIMS Soura, they said.

Three of those who succumbed to the virus in Jammu division included >> More On P2

626 New Cases Include 34 Travelers

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Friday 626 new cases of coronavirus, including 34 travelers, taking the total number of people infected by the virus in Union Territory to 101594.

While 429 more people from the Valley were tested positive for Covid-19 on Friday, the remaining 197 were confirmed infected by the officials in Jammu division.

Giving the district wise details, officials said that Srinagar reported 157 cases, Baramulla 158, Budgam 20, Pulwama 10, Kupwara 23, Anantnag 13, >> More On P2

NC Leader Stopped from Boarding Dubai Flight

NEW DELHI: As many as 33 politicians of Jammu and Kashmir have been named in a list that bars them from travelling abroad, as a result of which former National Conference MLA Ataf Ahmed Wani was prevented from boarding a flight to Dubai, according to official sources on Friday.

They said that the names of former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti are not in the list, which has mostly former legislators and former ministers from various political parties.

Wani, who was stopped on Thursday evening from boarding the flight to Dubai where he was to attend a family function, said, "Thanks to the authorities, I am left with no luggage as it took off with my family."

"I reached the international airport on Thursday afternoon. Upon reaching the >> More On P2

PAGD's Poll Partaking Amid 370 Din Renewed Old Debate In Kashmir

Auqib Javeed

Before the former Khanyar lawmaker would outrightly dismiss the ex-Amira Kadal legislator's take on the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), the new league's elusive roadmap for restoring the pre-August 4, 2019 status quo in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir had baffled commoners and commentators alike.

Amid the raging rhetoric over the binned Article



File Photo: Auqib Bhat

370 and growing political mist in the valley, the old-dramatic-debate arose after former chief minister Omar Abdullah's "no time for election" pledge was

opposed by the PAGD's decision to fight the upcoming District Development Council (DDC) elections collectively. It's for the first time

that political parties with different ideologies have come together to contest any election under a single banner.

As an amalgam of Kashmir-based political parties that pledged to restore scrapped special status of JK, PAGD lately emerged from the shadows of the "Naya Kashmir" narrative.

The alliance took a formal shape on October 24, when seven unionist parties—National Conference, Peoples Democratic Party, Communist Party of India,

Communist Party (Marxist), Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Movement, Peoples Conference and Awami National Conference—met at PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's Fairview residence in Srinagar.

PAGD, the local unionists turned allies asserted, was floated for the restoration of Article 370.

Polls Not Priority

After forming the alliance, its leaders had stated that contesting any election is not a priority for them

and that they've come together to fight for the restoration of J&K's special status.

However, the alliance eventually decided to contest elections jointly but didn't mention any specific reason for the same.

Earlier, on July 27, former chief minister Omar Abdullah had made it clear that he won't contest assembly elections till full statehood is restored.

"I've been the leader of the assembly of the state. In its time the >> More On P2

Govt Forms Panel On Zojila Pass Opening, Closure

Srinagar: The government of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday constituted a committee headed by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir to manage opening and closure of the Zojila pass.

The four member committee also comprises divisional commissioner Ladakh and deputy commissioner Ganderbal as members and deputy commissioner Kargil as member secretary respectively.

"The Committee shall meet as and when required to take decisions on the opening and closure and all other related matters >> More On P2