

News Digest

Naeem Akhtar Released From Detention

Srinagar- PDP leader and former minister Naeem Akhtar on Thursday said he has been set free by Jammu and Kashmir authorities after 407 days in custody since the abrogation of Article 370 in August last year. "After 407 days of detention am informed that I am free to move about. Thank you rulers for small mercies while you inflict larger tragedies on our land," the PDP leader said in a sarcastic tweet. Akhtar was among several mainstream politicians, including three former chief ministers of the erstwhile state -- Farooq

● P-02

FIR Filed After Police Pelted With Stones

Srinagar: Police on Thursday filed FIR after a team on way to arrest a tractor driver was challenged by a 'mob' at Chichloora of Kunzer area in the district. A police official told news gathering agency GNS that police station Kunzer lodged the FIR (77/20) in connection with a law and order incident which took place at Chichloora Kunzer. "A police party was on way to arrest one 'suspected' tractor driver, who had fled from the Naka point at Chachloora Kunzer," the official said, adding, "On the way some mob attacked on police party

● P-02

LMD Slaps Fine On Two Petrol Pumps

Srinagar: The Legal Metrology Department on Thursday slapped a fine of Rs.10, 000 each on two petrol pump after they were found issuing 30 ml and 40 ml short fuel in every 5 litre measure. During a routine inspection of several petrol-pumps of city Srinagar under the supervision of Controller Legal Metrology Department J&K M. Akbar Wani one nozzle among several nozzles at two different filling stations were found issuing 30 ml and 40 ml short fuel in every 5 litre measure, an official spokesperson said. "The functions of

● P-02

Youth Found Dead In Sopore

Srinagar: A youth was found dead inside his home in Sopore town of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Thursday. 28-year-old Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat was found dead under mysterious circumstances inside his home in Muslimpeer locality of Sopore, official sources said Thursday. They said a police team took the body in custody to conduct post-mortem and to ascertain the cause of death. After completing the post mortem and other legal formalities, the body will be handed over to family, sources said. They said a case under 174 CRPC has been registered and investigations have been taken up. (KDC)

Nine Injured In Rajouri Road Accident

Rajouri: At least nine persons were injured on Thursday in a road accident on Jammu-Rajouri national highway. A tripper on the way to Rajouri from Jammu collided with a passenger cab on Jammu-Rajouri national highway near Dandesar village on Thursday evening, resulting in injuries to 9 persons including three women. "All the injured were shifted to Nowshera sub-district hospital for treatment." The official said that in this regard a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Nowshera police station—(KNO)

3 Militants, Woman Killed In Batamaloo Encounter



STATE FORCES leaving Batamaloo after a deadly pre-dawn gunfight ended on Thursday morning. KO Photo Abid Bhat

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Hundreds of people on Thursday protested in Batamaloo area of this capital city after a pre-dawn encounter in the area left three militants and a woman dead, while two CRPF personnel, including an officer, were injured.

Around 2:30 am, state forces launched a cordon and search operation in Firdous Abad locality of Batamaloo following specific information about presence of militants, officials here said.

According to police, besieged militants turned down surrender offer and opened fire on joint column of forces resulting in injuries to a CRPF Deputy Commandant Rahul Mathur and a woman identified as Kousar Jan.

"The lady succumbed to her injuries on the spot while as the injured CRPF Officer was shifted to hospital for treatment for his injuries," police said.

However, the son of the deceased woman contested the po-

All Slain Militants Local: DGP

Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh said that three militants were killed in the encounter and all were locals from south Kashmir. Addressing a press conference at the Police Control Room (PCR) Srinagar, the DGP said that in the early hours of the day, state forces, while acting on a lead, zeroed in

● P-02

Pulwama Type Attack Averted: Police

Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday claimed to have unearthed huge cache of explosive material in South Kashmir's Awantipora area. In a statement, police said that acting on tipoff about the presence of militant of outfit Jaish-e- Mohammad, Police, 42 RR and 130 BN CRPF conducted a joint search

● P-02

lice claim that she was killed in the cross-fire between state forces and the besieged militants.

A local news agency KNT quoted Kousar's son Aqib Reyaz as saying that he and his mother were fired upon by the government forces when they were retreating from the area where they run a bakery shop. "My mother died instantly after government forces fired

at us," he added.

Police has identified slain militants as Zakir Ahmad Paul of Shopian, Ubair Mushtaq Bhat of Kulgam and Adil Hussain Bhat of Awantipora saying all belonged to Hizbul Mujahideen. Pertinently this is the fourth encounter in the capital city this year. Earlier similar exchanges took place in Nawakadal, Zoonimar

● P-02

“THE LADY SUCCUMBED TO HER INJURIES ON THE SPOT while as the injured CRPF Officer was shifted to hospital for treatment for his injuries,”

Coronavirus Claims 26-Year-Old, 18 Others; J&K Toll Reaches 954

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least nineteen people, including a 26-year-old youth succumbed to coronavirus infection in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, taking the fatality count across the Union Territory to 954.

While Jammu division reported 14 more Covid-19 deaths, the remaining five were confirmed by officials from the Kashmir Valley.

Among the victims from Valley, officials said included a 95-year-old woman from Bandedipora, a 65-year-old from Peerbagh, a 62-year-old woman from

Lal Bazar, a man from Chewdara Beerwah and a 73-year-old man from Tiral area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Among others, the victims from Jammu include a 38-year-old man from Ramgarh, a 74-year-old man from Mahendra Nagar, a 65-year-old man from Residency Road, an 86-year-old from Lazpal Nagar and a 26-year-old from Patoli Battadeh Jammu. With these deaths, 954 people has lost lives to the virus in Jammu and Kashmir—755 from Valley and 199 from Jammu. (With GNS inputs)

62 Travellers Among 1467 More Test Positive

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Thursday 1467 new cases of coronavirus, including 62 travellers, taking the total number of people infected by the virus in the Union Territory to 59711. Officials said that 785 fresh cases of Covid-19 were reported from Jammu

● P-02

Pakistan To Grant G-B Full Provincial Status

ISLAMABAD- Pakistan has decided to elevate Gilgit-Baltistan's status to that of a full-fledged province, a Pakistani media report on Thursday quoted a senior minister as saying.

According to a report in the Express Tribune, Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs, Ali Amin Gandapur, on Wednesday said that Prime Minister Imran Khan would soon visit the region and make the formal announcement to elevate Gilgit-Baltistan to the status of a full-fledged province with all constitutional rights.

Gandapur said Gilgit-Baltistan would be given adequate representation on all constitutional bodies, including the National Assembly and the Senate.

After consultation with all stakeholders, the federal government has decided in principle to give constitutional rights to Gilgit-Baltistan, the minister told reporters.

India has conveyed to Pakistan that "the entire union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including the areas of Gilgit and Baltistan, are an integral part of the country by virtue of its fully legal and irrevocable accession."

India has said "the Government of Pakistan or its judiciary has no locus

● P-02

LADAKH FACE-OFF

China Occupying 38,000 Sq Kms In Ladakh: DM

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday asserted that no force in the world can stop Indian soldiers from patrolling the country's border in Ladakh region.

Making a statement in Rajya Sabha on the situation in eastern Ladakh, he said China has amassed troops on the border and in response India has made appropriate counter deployment.

China, he said, made "provocative military manoeuvres" on August 29/30 in an attempt to change the status quo in the south bank area of Pangong Lake in the Ladakh region at a time when the two sides were engaged in military and diplomatic talks to de-escalate tensions.

The defence minister said there is a mismatch between

Oppn Demands Restoration Of Status Quo

Opposition leaders in the Rajya Sabha asked the government on Thursday to restore status quo ante as on April this year on the India-China border. Cutting across

● P-02

what China says and does.

"Unki kathani aur kami lag hai (their actions are at variance with their words)," he said

The skirmishes and face-off in the last few months with China, that left 20 Indian soldiers dead and inflicted heavy casualties on the Chinese sides as well, were primarily over the issue of patrolling

● P-02

Both Sides Should Focus On Easing Tensions: MEA

India on Thursday said China should sincerely work with it for complete disengagement of troops at the earliest from all friction areas including Pangong lake and take steps to de-escalate the situation in eastern Ladakh. External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said India hoped the Chinese side would strictly

● P-02

Admin Orders Probe Into Sopore 'Custodial Killing'

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: A day after a youth's mysterious death triggered strong protests in Sopore, the district administration on Thursday ordered a magisterial inquiry to probe the allegations of the family that the youth was killed by police in custody.

The Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Dr G.N. Ittoo on Thursday directed Additional District Magistrate Baramulla Muhammad Ahsan Mir to conduct enquiry into the alleged custodial killing.

".....In exercise of powers conferred upon me as district magistrate under section 176 of Criminal Procedure, Mr Muhammad Ahsan Mir, KAS, additional district magistrate Baram-

ulla is order to conduct a magisterial enquiry in the above mentioned case so as to ascertain the causes and circumstances leading to the death of Mr Irfan Ahmad Dar

● P-02

SHOPIAN 'FAKE ENCOUNTER' Results Of DNA Samples Expected Soon: DGP

Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh on Thursday said the test results of the DNA samples collected from the family members of three men from Rajouri, who were

● P-02

22 Soldiers Died At High Altitudes In 3 Years: Gol

SRINAGAR: At least 22 soldiers have died while serving at high altitudes including Siachen Glacier, the world's highest battle ground, the government informed on Thursday.

In 20016, there were six casualties while the number stood at eight each in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

"Causes of death in Siachen Glacier and other Super High Altitude Areas range from those directly related to High Altitude like High Altitude Pulmonary Oedema (HAPO) and Pulmonary Thrombo Embolism (PTE) to other general causes," Shripad Naik, minister of state for Defence, told parliament in a written reply.

● P-02

ED Files Charge Sheet Against Shabir Shah's Wife

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The Enforcement Directorate has made incarcerated senior Hurriyat leader Shabir Shah's wife Dr. Bilquis Shah an accused in a 2005 case of money laundering for alleged militant financing against him and alleged hawala dealer Mohammad Aslam Wani.

The probe agency named her as an accused in its supplementary charge sheet filed in the case on Wednesday.

Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana will take up the matter on November 10.

In the charge sheet filed by ED's special public prosecutors N K Matata and Rajeev Awasthi, the probe



agency said that Bilquis Shah, along with Shabir Shah had received Rs 2.08 crore from Aslam Wani.

It said the claim was based on Wani's disclosure in the case, where he admitted that "all amounts were in cash and were handed over to Shabir Ahmad Shah and on three occasions to Dr. Bilquies Shah .

The ED said: She received the said amount knowing fully well that her husband had no known

● P-02

Army Chief Reviews Security Situation In Kashmir

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Indian army chief General MM Naravane on Thursday reviewed security situation in Kashmir on the first day of his two-day visit to the Valley.

The Army Chief arrived in Valley on Thursday and proceeded to undertake a firsthand assessment of the situation along the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir, an army spokesperson said. During his interaction with the soldiers deployed in high altitude areas, Naravane appreciated their high morale and complimented them on their response to Pakistan ceasefire violations.

"He also commended use of technology to ensure effective day and night surveillance across the LC

which has resulted in many successful operations to foil infiltration bids from PCK in the recent past," the army spokesperson said.

The Army Chief, he said reinforced the need to extend all possible support to civilians residing in the border areas, who are victims of targeted ceasefire violations by Pakistani Army and are facing hardships due to the pandemic.

"The COAS then proceeded to interact with commanders and troops deployed in the hinterland. While interacting with jawans, the COAS highlighted that it was the dawn of a new era of development, peace and prosperity in Kashmir and applauded them for their high level of morale and contribution to peace building in J&K," the army

● P-02

I-T Dept Searches Top Hotelier, Jeweller In J&K

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- The Income Tax Department has conducted raids on a prominent hotelier and a jeweller based in Jammu and Kashmir on charges of alleged tax evasion, the CBDT said on Thursday.

In the first case, searches were launched on Wednesday against the hotelier who owns a chain of hotels at popular tourist spots of the Union Territory like Srinagar, Gulmarg, Sonamarg and Pahalgam and he also has a hotel under construction in Leh.

"Various incriminating documents and materials evidencing unexplained investments in immovable properties, construction of hotels and residences aggregating to



A TROOPER STANDS guard during IT department's raid on a hotelier in Dalgate area on Wednesday. KO File photo Abid Bhat

Rs 25 crore in the last six financial years have been seized during the search, though he has not paid any tax since assessment year 2014-15.

"Almost all these investments are in cash and outside the known sources of income," the CBDT said in a statement without identifying

● P-02

India Wants Normal Relations With Pak: India

Agencies

NEW DELHI: India wishes for normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan but Islamabad has to create a conducive atmosphere by taking credible, verifiable and irreversible action against militancy, said V Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs, on Thursday.

Replying to an unstarred question in the Rajya Sabha on India's present foreign policy towards Pakistan, the Minister said, "India wishes for normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan but Islamabad has to create a conducive atmosphere, including by taking credible, verifiable and irreversible action to not allow any territory under its control to be used for cross-border militancy

Govt Rejects Pak's New Map, Calls It 'Absurd'

The government on Thursday said it has rejected Pakistan's "obsession" with "territorial aggrandisement" supported by cross border terrorism, in a reference to Islamabad unveiling a new political map laying claim to Indian territories. Minister of State for External

● P-02

against India in any manner."

Speaking on steps being taken by India to counter Pakistan on militancy, the Minister said, "As a result of Government's persistent

● P-02