



Maximum : 32°C  
Minum : 18°C  
Humidity : 43%

SUNSET  
Today 07:46 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 05:23 AM



## News Digest

### Shabir Shah Given 'Proper' Medical Aid

New Delhi: Tihar Jail superintendent informed a Delhi Court Wednesday that Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Shah, arrested in two separate cases of alleged terror financing, is being provided with all the necessary medical facilities in view of the coronavirus pandemic. The submissions were made before Special Judge DharmendraRana in a response to a plea on behalf of Shah, claiming that the accused was suffering from various ailments, including heart disease, and that his immunity was very low. The plea, moved by advocate Qausar Khan, **● P-02**

### Militant Killed In Rajouri, Says Army

Jammu- A Pakistani militant was killed on Wednesday as the Army foiled an infiltration bid by a group of militants along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu region, an Army officer said. Troops intercepted the group when it entered 400 metres into this side from across the LoC in Keri sector of Rajouri around 0555 hours, triggering a gunfight, the officer said. He said one militant was killed and an AK 47 rifle along with two magazines was recovered from his possession. The search operation to track down other members of the group was on when last reports came in, the officer said, adding further details are awaited.

### Medium Intensity Quake Hits J&K

New Delhi: A medium-intensity earthquake of magnitude 4.6 hit Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday night, the National Centre for Seismology said. The quake occurred at 11.32 pm at a depth of five kilometres, it said. There were no immediate reports of loss of life or property.

### Son Kills Bear After Father Attacked

Srinagar: A youth on Wednesday shot dead a bear in Uri area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district after the bear attacked and injured his father. 75-year-old Nazamuddin was attacked and injured by a bear at Shudwani Dardkote area of Uri, officials said. In a bid to save his father from further mauling, his son Shabir Ahmed used his 12 Bore rifle and shot the bear dead. The injured elderly man was shifted to Sub-District Hospital Uri for treatment. Police and Wild Life Department rushed to the spot to assess the situation. The body of the beast was taken by the wildlife team in custody. (KNT)

### Bridge Collapses In Sopore

Srinagar: A three-decade-old bridge in Sopore area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district collapsed on Wednesday evening. Officials said that an oldest bridge in Chankhan area of Sopore, collapsed in the evening, adding that the debris of the bridge fell into the river Jehlum. Sources said the bridge was closed for the public in the year 2019 after it developed cracks and posed threat to the lives of commuters. Meanwhile, officials visited the spot to take stock of the situation—(KNO)

## Civilian, CRPF Man Killed In Sopore Shootout

Family Alleges Cold-Blooded Murder, Police Refutes Charges



FAMILY OF SLAIN Bashir A Khan wail after his body was brought in to his home for last rites- KO Photo Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A civilian and a CRPF personnel were killed and three others injured on Wednesday in a shootout in Sopore town of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, even as the family of the slain civilian charged the paramilitary men of a 'cold-blooded murder'.

Around 7:40 am today, **▶PAGE 02**

### Mainstream Parties Condemn Killing, Seek Probe

Mainstream parties National Conference, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and JK Apni Party on Wednesday condemned the killing of a civilian in Sopore **● P-02**

## Sopore Shocker: 'The Trauma Shall Stay With The Kid For A Lifetime'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Tear-jerking scenes emerged from Apple town of Sopore on Wednesday morning when a three-year-old kid was caught on camera wailing on the dead body of his slain grandfather. While many wondered who could click the image at the shootout site, the kid was shortly sent home where his arrival triggered mourning.

The sniveling kid was seen inside a police jeep, with half-eaten biscuit, blood-stained clothes and tearful haunting eyes, before a cop lapped and comforted him.

Kashmir witnessed these devastating images on early Wednesday morning when a shoot-out took place between militants and a paramilitary CRPF patrol party at Model Town in Sopore.

A civilian and a CRPF



Picture Courtesy Social Media

personnel were killed and three others injured in the shootout.

JK Police took to its twitter account to laud one of its cops for "saving the life" of the kid. The cop can be seen consoling the crying kid whose clothes were stained with his fallen

grandfather's blood.

According to the police, the boy's grandfather stopped the car and got out to run to a safe spot but was killed in the crossfire. The boy was later rescued by a policeman standing nearby, police said.

"When we reached the



site, what we saw was disturbing. Our priority was to evacuate the child. It was very challenging as terrorists were firing upon us," said Azim Khan, a police officer. The slain civilian was

identified as Bashir Ahmad Khan, 60, of Mustafa Abad, HMT.

Khan's inconsolable daughter told reporters at her house that her father was killed in front of his grandson.

"They have snatched my father forever. He was our only support system. May his killers meet the same fate," she cursed.

Khan's son in a video statement alleged that the CRPF personnel "dragged him from his car and shot

him dead". Khan, who was a contractor, had taken his grandson from Srinagar to Sopore to oversee the progress of a construction work, he said. **▶PAGE 02**

## Rajnath, Army Chief To Review Military Preparedness In Ladakh On Friday

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is scheduled to visit Ladakh on Friday to take stock of India's military preparedness in the wake of a bitter border standoff with the Chinese troops in the region, government sources said.

To be accompanied by Chief of Army Staff Gen M M Naravane, it will be the defence minister's first visit to Ladakh after the standoff between the two armies began on May 5.

During his visit, Singh will carry out a comprehensive review of the security situation in

### China Welcomes Progress In Corps Commander Level Talks

China on Wednesday welcomed the progress made in Sino-India senior military commander-level talks to "disengage and deescalate the situation" at the LAC and said the two sides are working towards implementing the consensus reached so far. **● P-02**

the region with Gen Naravane, Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Yogesh Kumar Joshi, Commander of the 14 Corps Lt Gen Harinder Singh and other senior Army officials, sources said.

The visit is also aimed at boosting morale of the army personnel engaged in the seven-

week bitter border faceoff with the Chinese troops in the region, sources added.

The Army Chief visited Ladakh on June 23 and 24 during which he held a series of meetings with senior army officials and visited various forward areas in eastern Ladakh. Gen Naravane **▶PAGE 02**

## Govt To Digitise Land Records To Recover Encroached Land

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: To tackle land mafia and retrieve encroached government land, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has set a deadline of July 31 to complete survey and digitisation of land records across the union territory, official sources said on Wednesday.

The decision was taken after the administration learnt that illegal entries of encroached about nine lakh kanal state and forest land in the Jammu region by the land ma-

fia have been officially deleted, and the land restored to the government only "on papers", they said.

According to the sources, near about 21 lakh acres of state and forest land have been encroached in Jammu and Kashmir by the land mafia in league with revenue officials over the past several decades, taking advantage of several orders of the earlier governments.

In a bid to break this nexus and find changes made in land records, the Lieutenant Governor administration has strengthened

the department of land records by inducting various officers at district levels as settlement commissioners recently to ensure speedy digitisation of land records and deletion of the illegal entries of state lands in the name of private persons, they said.

Lt Governor Girish Chandra Murmu has given clear directions to the officials to complete the digitisation of land records by July end as a final deadline, the sources said.

Murmu said this after reviewing the progress of the digitisation **▶PAGE 02**

**IN THIS DIRECTION, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS** strengthened the survey and land records department by posting directors in districts of Doda, Baramulla, Udhampur and Rajouri and others districts on June 26, the sources said.

### NC Leaders Seek End To Their 'Illegal, Unlawful' Detention

SRINAGAR: As many as 19 prominent National Conference leaders who are under house detention in different parts of the Kashmir valley since August last year, have sought immediate end to "illegal and unlawful" curbs on their "fundamental right to movement".

The leaders, including party's general secretary Ali Mohammad Sagar and Kashmir provincial president Nasir Aslam Wani, have sent identical letters to the Jammu and Kashmir Principal Secretary (Home), urging him to lift the restrictions on their movement.

In their letters, the NC leaders said they are being subjected to an "illegal confinement" and **▶PAGE 02**

## Hurriyat (M) Meets, Cautions People Against 'Demographic Changes'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Asking government to stop issuing domicile certificates to outsiders to 'change the demographic character' of J&K, the Hurriyat Conference (M) on Wednesday cautioned people against selling their land and property to outsiders at any cost.

In a statement issued here today, a Hurriyat spokesperson said that executive members Prof. Abdul Ghani Bhat and Bilal Ghani Lone called on ailing executive member and former APMC chairman Maulana Abbas Ansari to check on his deteriorating health at his residence and later held a meeting there.

Executive member Masroor Abbas Ansari also participated in the



meeting while APMC chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq could not attend as he continues to be under arbitrary house arrest since August 2019, the spokesperson said. In the meeting, the members said that the government should stop issuing domicile certificates to outsiders with the view to change the demographic character of J&K, which is causing great concern among people and could have serious consequences for the region. **▶PAGE 02**

## Tral Operation Called Off After Militants Flee

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Government forces on Wednesday called off search operation in Tral area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district after militants managed to flee following a brief exchange of fire on Tuesday.

An official said that after exchange of fire between government forces and militants on Tuesday evening, search operation continued in the area till today late afternoon. However, no contact wasn't established with the militants.

He said that a joint team of Police, Army's 42 RR and CRPF launched a cordon and search operation on specific information about the presence of militants in the area on Tuesday night at around 10 pm.



He said that as the joint forces approached towards the suspected spot, the hiding militants fired upon them which was retaliated triggering an encounter.

After exchange of fire, search operation was conducted in the area which remained on till later part of the day today. However, it was called off later, as militants had managed to give a slip to the forces, officials said.

Pertinently, 40 militants were killed in 15 encounters in South Kashmir in month of June alone (KNO)

## Ex-MD SICOP Held In Disproportionate Assets Case

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday detained former Managing Director (MD) of Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Limited (SICOP) in a disproportionate assets case.

In a handout issued to Kashmir Observer, an ACB spokesperson said that former MD SICOP Bhupinder Singh Dua was taken into custody for questioning regarding assets acquired by him. Dua, according to the spokesperson has amassed massive wealth and raised a number of assets in his own name as well as in the names of his family members and close relatives.

"He had acquired these assets with the ill-gotten money earned through corrupt practices during



his stint in SICOP in various capacities," the spokesperson said.

Divulging the details, the ACB spokesperson said that in a search conducted on October 14, last year, golden ornaments weighing 1.834 kg, silver weighing 1.470 kg and cash amounting Rs 9, 57,400 was

recovered from his premises.

"During ongoing investigation, it was discovered that Dua has also acquired massive movable and immovable properties, including 12 different factories under different names and style established by him and his family members," **▶PAGE 02**

## PM Modi Quits Chinese Weibo

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has quit Chinese social media platform Weibo, the BJP said on Wednesday, with its general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh saying that Modi has sent out a "strong message" at the border, on economic front and now at "personal level too".

"After govt move of banning 59 Chinese Apps, PM Narendra Modi exits from Chinese social media platform WEIBO also. Strong message at the border, on economic front & at personal level too," Santhosh said.

Sources have said Modi decided to quit Weibo, which he had joined in 2015, as soon as the decision was taken to ban 59 Chinese apps in India.

They added that Weibo has a



more complex procedure to quit for accounts of important personalities which is why an official process was initiated.

For reasons best known to the Chinese, there was a great delay in granting this basic permission, they said.

The prime minister had 115 posts on Weibo, and it was decided to manually delete them and after much effort 113 posts were removed, they said.

The two posts left were those where Modi had photos **▶PAGE 02**