



Maximum : 32°C  
Today : 07:46 PM  
Minimum : 18°C  
Humidity : 40%



**News Digest**

**Pak Army Shells Two Sectors Along LoC**

Jammu: Pakistani troops resorted to firing in various forward areas in twin sectors along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Thursday, prompting the Indian Army to give a befitting reply, officials said. "At around 0930 hours today, Pakistani Army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms along the LoC in Kirni and Shahpur sectors of Poonch district," a defence spokesperson said. "The Indian Army is retaliating befittingly," he said. Firing and shelling between the two sides were continuing when the last report came in, officials said.

**Another Quake Jolts J&K**

DODA: An earthquake of magnitude 3.6 was reported near Gandoh in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday afternoon, according to India's National Center for Seismology. The epicentre of the earthquake was 86 km east (E) of Katra, Jammu and Kashmir, India, the agency said. The earthquake struck at 2:02:12 PM IST at a depth of 5 km from the surface.

**Cop Arrested For Drug Peddling**

Srinagar: A Jammu and Kashmir policeman was on Thursday arrested for his alleged involvement in the peddling of drugs in Ganderbal district of the union territory, police said. In continuation to its drive against menace of drive drugs from society, Ganderbal Police developed information about the involvement of a police official in the peddling of drugs in Kurhama area (of the central Kashmir district), a police officer said. He said after a hot pursuit, constable Showkat Ahmed Ganie was arrested with an initial small quantity of Codeine Phosphate bottles. A case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act was registered against him and investigation taken up, the officer said. ● P-02

**CASO Launched In Pulwama Village**

Srinagar: Government forces on Thursday launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Pathan village of southern Kashmir's Pulwama district. According to the reports, government forces laid a siege in the area on Wednesday midnight and carried out a search operation. The forces, reports said carried out searches of houses suspecting militants to be hiding there. The search operation continued for several hours, however the joint team did not find any success. (KNT)

**Police File Case After JCB Set Afire**

Budgam: Police on Thursday filed a case after miscreants set a JCB on fire in central Kashmir's Budgam during the intervening night of July 1 and 2. A police official said that they have taken the cognizance of the incident and registered a case in this regard. The incident occurred at Paller village of Budgam. The JCB (LNT)1-10, that suffered partial damage in the fire incident is owned by one Gulzar Ahmed Bhat of Paller village of Budgam district. (KNT)

**J&K Reports 10 Covid-19 Deaths In A Day, Toll 117**

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported 10 coronavirus deaths, nine among them in Valley on Thursday, taking the total number of deaths due to the virus across the Union Territory to 117.

Among these, five COVID-19 positive patients died at SKIMS Soura hospital, three at SMHS hospital and one at CD hospital, the officials said. Besides it, reports of a man from Doda came out positive to Covid-19, two days after his death.

The deaths at SKIMS Soura hospital include 2 persons from Kulgam, 65-year-old man from Shop-

ian and a 65-year old man from Sopore, and a 75-year-old from Budgam, they said.

According to officials, a 65-year-old Covid-19 patient from Tarigam area of Kulgam died at the hospital on Thursday afternoon.

They said the sexagenarian was referred from GMC Anantnag to the hospital on June 23 in the view of B/L CAP with ARDS.

A 65-year-old man from Nadigam area of Shopian died at the hospital at 4.45 p.m, the officials said.

They said the patient was admitted in Infectious Disease Block of the hospital on Wednesday as a case of Coronary Artery Disease with ● PAGE 02

**NC Leader, 28 Army; Paramilitary Men Test Positive**

Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday reported 154 new cases of Covid-19, including a senior NC leader and three of his family members, besides 28 army and paramilitary personnel, taking the number of infected persons across the Union Territory to 7850. While 134 cases were reported from Kashmir valley, the remaining 20 were confirmed by officials from Jammu province. Giving the district wise details ● P-02

**UN Takes Note Of Sopore Killings**

'People Who Were Responsible Need To Be Brought To Account'

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: A day after a minor's picture wailing over his grandfather's body triggered massive outrage in Kashmir and outside, the United Nations have said that whosoever responsible for the killings in Sopore, "have to be made to account for it", reports said Thursday.

In a daily press briefing on Wednesday, Stephane Dujarric, the spokesperson for Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that those who were responsible for the killing of a civilian and a CRPF man in Kashmir have to be made to account for it.

**Plea In NHRC Seeks Impartial Probe**

A day after a civilian was killed during a shootout in Sopore town of north Kashmir's Baramulla district, an activist on Thursday moved the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) seeking an impartial probe in the elderly man's killing. A New Delhi-based ● P-02

Dujarric was responding to a question by a reporter at the daily briefing. ● PAGE 02

**Siblings, 2 Others Killed In Kupwara Well Collapse**

SRINAGAR: At least four people, including two siblings on Thursday were killed after a well they were working upon, collapsed in a village in the frontier Kupwara district.

The tragic incident occurred in Singhdan area of Kralpora this afternoon when a group of four people were working on an under-construction well in the village, reports said. While the men were busy with their work, the well collapsed trapping all the four.

It was only after hectic efforts of the locals, police and other allied departments that the trapped men were retrieved from the well and evacuated to nearby health facility. However the ● P-02

**India Slams Pak Over Gilgit-Baltistan Poll Announcement**

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday slammed Pakistan for its decision to hold general elections in Gilgit-Baltistan and said such exercises are intended to "camouflage Islamabad's illegal occupation" of Indian territories.

Last week, Pakistan announced that general elections in Gilgit-Baltistan will be held on August 18. "We completely reject attempts by Pakistan to bring material changes to the Indian territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Such cosmetic exercises are intended to camouflage Pakistan's illegal occupation of Indian territories," Spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs An-

urag Srivastava said. "We call upon Pakistan to vacate all Indian territories that are under their illegal occupation," he said.

Srivastava was replying to a question on the issue at an online media briefing.

In a recent ruling, the Pakistan Supreme Court allowed Islamabad to amend a 2018 administrative order to conduct general elections in the region. The Gilgit-Baltistan Order of 2018 provided for administrative changes, including authorising the prime minister of Pakistan to legislate on an array of subjects.

In May, India had issued a demarche to a senior Pakistani diplomat here and lodged a ● PAGE 02

**Work To Begin Shortly On Zojila Tunnel: Gadkari**

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: An unidentified militant and a CRPF personal on Thursday were killed in a late night encounter in Malbagh area of the city.

Special Operations group (SOG) of police and paramilitary CRPF laid a cordon around Malbagh area of Srinagar after receiving specific information about the presence of militants in the area, a police official said.

He said the search operation turned into an encounter after the militants opened fire at a search party of the forces, who retaliated.

**Militant, CRPF Man Killed In Srinagar Gunfight**

Observer Monitoring Desk

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In the exchange of fire, a CRPF man was injured. He was removed to the hospital for treatment. However, he succumbed to the grave injuries, the police official added.

He said an unidentified militant was also killed in the exchange of gunfire with the joint team. The search operation is in progress in the area, the official said.

Pertinently, today's gunfight is the second in Srinagar in the last eleven days. On June 21, three militants were killed by government forces in a fierce gun-battle in Zoonimar area of Srinagar. (with GNS inputs)

**LADAKH STAND-OFF**

**Expect China To Ensure Expeditious Restoration Of Peace: MEA**

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday said it expected China to ensure expeditious restoration of peace and tranquillity in the border areas in sync with provisions of relevant bilateral pacts as armies of the two countries remained engaged in a seven-week bitter standoff in eastern Ladakh.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava, while referring to the ban on 59 Chinese apps, said companies operating in India will have to follow laid down rules and regulatory framework including those pertaining to data security and privacy of individual data.

Asked about the corps commander-level talks on Tuesday, he said both sides will continue their meetings at the military and diplomatic levels to resolve the issues to "mutual satisfaction".

He said the discussions at the latest meeting of senior commanders reflected the commitment of both sides to reduce the tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the 3,500 KM de-factor border between the two countries.

"The two sides will continue their meetings both at ● PAGE 02



File Pic

**India Rushes To Buy MiGs, Sukhois, Missiles**

In the midst of India's tense border standoff with China, the Defence Ministry today approved procurement of 33 fighter jets, a number of missile systems and other military hardware at a cost of Rs 38,900 crore to bolster the combat capability of the armed forces, officials said.

They said 21 MiG-29 fighter jets will be procured from Russia while 12 Su-30 MKI aircraft will be bought from ● P-02

**DM's Ladakh Visit Rescheduled**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's planned visit to Ladakh on Friday has been rescheduled, official sources said on Thursday. It was not immediately known why the visit has been ● P-02

**NHRC Tells JK, Ladakh To Intimate It About Custodial, Encounter Deaths**

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The NHRC has asked the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to intimate it about any custodial or encounter death, in accordance with guidelines, officials said on Thursday.

In case of custodial deaths, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) should be intimated within 24 hours, and within 48 hours of the incident in case of an encounter death, according to its guidelines for all states and Union territories with a view to protect and promote human rights, the panel said in a statement.



Image by Representational

In a letter dated June 30 to the chief secretary of Jammu and Kashmir and the commissioner secretary of Ladakh, NHRC Secretary Gen-

eral Jaideep Govind has requested them to pass suitable instructions to those concerned for compliance of all instructions issued ● PAGE 02

**NIA Arrests One More In Pulwama Attack Case**

SRINAGAR: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday claimed to have arrested a man accused in last year's deadly attack on a paramilitary convoy in south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

25-year-old Mohammad Iqbal Rather of Futlipura in Char-e-Shareef was arrested in the ongoing probe into last year's IED attack in Pulwama that left 40 CRPF personnel dead, a NIA spokesperson said.

Rather, he said had facilitated the movement of Muhammad Umar Farooq, the JEM militant and a key conspirator in this case, after he sneaked into Jammu and Kashmir in April, 2018, from the highway near International border to South Kashmir.

"Farooq, along with others, had assembled the IED used in the attack. Rather had been ● P-02

**Auqib Javed**

BEFORE his shattering demise would trigger a sentimental storm that swept and inundated social media—the platform he used to plead for his homeland's perpetual pain—Abrar Reyaz had just lived 24 summers of his life. The politically-steaming seasons during his fleeting lifetime had shaped him as a poised person who wielded wit and wisdom as his armour.

The hazardous highway might've just ended another life in Kashmir lately, but the budding lawyer was no boy-next-door.

From the young age itself, the boy from Shopian wasn't basking in his own glory for nothing. Bereft of rage and brimming with reason, he had shown a maturity and promise to emerge as a reckoning voice from the valley.

By the dint of his silent work-

**Post-Script: Kashmir Lost Its Promising Advocate**



Abrar Reyaz

manship, he had made great inroads in peoples' lives and left an indelible mark. "No wonder

they're beating their chest over his sudden demise," said his inconsolable university colleague. "His loss became personal, even for those who hardly knew him."

Abrar's elegiac colleague says the departed dreamer who wanted to work for the welfare of his homeland caught in the throes of the dogged discord came of age post-2016.

He announced his eager yet unruffled arrival on the valley's legal landscape—even though he was still studying Law—with his insightful

write-ups.

His judicious commentaries, including those published in Kashmir Observer, clearly made him appear ahead of his time. His last column was on whether police have any legal power to register FIRs and summon people.

His folks back home attribute his brilliance to his "Master ji", his scholarly grandfather, who once held sway over Shopian township.

The curious child was born in summer 1996 – the year Kashmir

saw the return of the "tricky ballot" led by Farooq Abdullah who had earlier abandoned the ship in 1990 "to play golf in England".

Abrar's advent as Kashmir's conflict child raised by sham intrigues would deeply shape up his political understanding and personal life. Much of this was clearly reflecting from his articles.

His former classmates at Shopian's Mohammadiya Institution, where he studied till 10th, remember Abrar as a composed debater.

**ABRAR WAS MATURE IN CONTEXT OF KASHMIR THAN MOST** of those amongst whom he studied and was taught. I had a chance of working with me in relation to preparation of his moot for Nuremberg. He would often visit me and contribute to print and social media to highlight miseries of struggling Kashmiris."

participate in live hearing sessions to groom himself, the cousin continued. "Later he would intern with district and session courts in Shopian and Srinagar."

Much of this court curiosity came handy in May 2019, when Abrar, among the five students of his Law School, would participate in international rounds of the Nuremberg Moot Court, in Germany.

His team finished second in the competition, in which teams from more than 60 countries participated. His teachers equate his foreign land feat with his 'rebel with a cause' image.

"He wasn't only my student but a warrior dedicated to the cause so dear to his people," Dr Sheikh Showkat Hussain, a law professor, recalled the boy's transient legend.

"Abrar was mature in context of Kashmir than most of those amongst whom he studied ● PAGE 02