

News Digest

CRPF Trooper Shoots Self In Dalgate

Srinagar: A paramilitary Central Reserve Police Force trooper was critically injured after he allegedly shoot himself with his service rifle at Dalgate in Central Kashmir's Srinagar district on Friday morning. A senior police officer said that the CRPF trooper from 61 Battalion fired upon himself with his service rifle at Dalgate, leaving him critically wounded. Identifying him as constable Parveen Munda, the officer said that he was immediately shifted to 92 base Hospital for treatment. Asked about the reasons for the trooper to take such an extreme step, the officer said the investigations have been started in this regard. (GNS)

HC Srinagar Wing Shut Over Covid-19

Srinagar: The Srinagar wing of the Jammu and Kashmir remained closed on Friday after come officials there tested positive for the novel coronavirus. The court premises have been closed on the orders by Chief Justice Gita Mittal in light of SOP issued by the government. "As informed by the Registry, some officials in Srinagar Wing of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir have tested COVID positive. As per the SoPs issued by the Government access to the High Court Premises in Srinagar Wing of the High Court has to remain closed for two days for sanitization purpose," reads an order issued by the Chief Justice. "No person except the sanitization workers will be permitted entry into the High Court premises on 17th and 18th of July," adds the order. ● P-02

Landslide Closes Srinagar-Leh Highway

Srinagar: Two residential houses and a shopping complex were damaged after coming underneath a massive landslide in Kangan area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Friday. The landslide also blocked the Srinagar-Leh highway, resulting in the suspension of the traffic on the strategic thoroughfare. Reports reaching here said that a major landslide ripped through the shops and residential houses in Bunibagh Kangan area along the Highway early morning. In the incident, as per reports, a chopping complex comprising of at least sixteen shops belonging to one Ali Mohammad Mir and two residential houses ● P-02

Aga Hasan Tests Positive For Covid Infection

Budgam: Senior Hurriyat leader and president Anjuman-e-Sharie Shiyani Aga Syed Hasan Almosvi Alsafvi has been admitted to Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Science Soura after he was tested positive for Covid-19 infection. Family sources said that Aga Syed Hasan was not feeling well and he developed complications during the intervening night of July 16 and 17 at his Budgam home, after which he was shifted to SKIMS Srinagar. Doctors said Aga Syed Hasan has been tested positive and he has been admitted for Pneumonia and heart ailment in the hospital. He said that the condition of Aga was stable. Earlier, Aga Muntazir, the son of Aga Syed Hasan was ● P-02

Kashmir Inc No More Backs Govt On PSU Privatisation

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCC&I) on Friday expressed concern at press reports about the closure and privatization of Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) and Government owned Corporations.

A KCC&I spokesperson said that the privatization of PSUs was a long pending demand of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry prior to the constitutional changes to Jammu and Kashmir.

"The demand of the KCC&I was based on the wanton waste of assets, nepotism, mismanagement which had resulted in the raking up of liabilities of around 15,000 Crores and locked up critical economic assets of Kashmir in the shape of infrastructure, land, manpower and sectoral

potential of key areas," he said.

"In normal conditions, the KCC&I would have welcomed the step towards privatization but post the constitutional changes made to Jammu and Kashmir in August, 2019, it has instead become a cause of concern. After August 2019 the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has made changes to the mining policy which opened up the sector for non-locals. Earlier the rights were exclusively reserved for the local stakeholders only," he said.

The spokesperson further stated that the subsequent auction of mineral blocks in Kashmir showed an alarming take-over of the business by a non-local syndicate.

"Local contractors and other persons associated with the business since decades stand deprived of their only source of income. The prices of construction material like

Army, IAF Showcase Combat Readiness In Ladakh

Defence Minister, Army Top Brass Witness War Games Near LAC

Press Trust of India

STAKNA (LADAKH)- On his first visit to eastern Ladakh since the border row with China broke out, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday witnessed an intense military drill featuring attack helicopters, T-90 tanks, infantry combat vehicles and ground commandos here at a high-altitude forward base, seen as a message to Beijing that India will maintain a high-level of combat readiness to deal with any eventualities.

The projection of India's military prowess in the region came in the midst of diplomatic and military talks between the two countries to resolve the border row that escalated manifold following a deadly clash in Galwan Valley.

The exercise showcased integrated combat prowess of the Army and the Indian Air Force in dealing with complex security challenges in the high-altitude terrain. ● PAGE 02



Singh Reviews Security In Srinagar

All the security agencies are doing a commendable job in Kashmir especially on the anti-militancy front but it is high time to use all technical support to plug infiltration completely and to clean Kashmir from the remaining militants, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told top army, police and other officers from the security grid of Kashmir during a high

■ ALSO, I GOT THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERACT WITH THEM. I am proud of these brave and courageous soldiers," he said and posted pictures of his interaction with the military personnel.

2 Boys Drown While Swimming In Anantnag

ANANTNAG: Two minor boys drowned to death in Dadi Canal Khiram area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Friday afternoon.

Officials said that two boys identified as Waseem Ahmad Bajard (12) son of Mohammad Ashraf Bajard, a resident of Galan Khiram and Abrar Ahmad Khatana (12) son of Mohammad Ashraf Khatana, a resident of Achdhar Khiram drowned in Sirhama following which locals tried to rescue them, but couldn't save their lives.

They said soon after the news spread, the locals gathered at the spot while teams of

Jaish Commander Among 3 Militants Killed In Kulgam

3 Soldiers Sustain Received Injuries; US Made M-4 Carbine Recovered From Slain Militants

Observer News Service

KULGAM: A Jaish-e-Muhammad commander was among three militants killed in an encounter with armed forces in Nagnad village of Damhal Hanjipora belt of South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Friday.

A joint team of Police, army's 9 RR and CRPF launched a cordon and search operation on specific information about the presence of militants in the area early this morning at around 4:30 am, police said.

As the joint team of forces approached towards the suspected spot, the militants present fired



upon them triggering an encounter. "In the initial assault, two militants were killed and one more was later killed after civilians were evacuated from the house," officials said. Among the slain was JeM commander and IED expert, Waleed Bhai, who, according to police was active since past 16 months in southern districts, a police officer said. From his possession a US made M-4 Carbine was recovered. ● PAGE 02

3 Of Family Killed In LoC Shelling

POONCH: Three members of a family were killed in alleged ceasefire violation by Pakistan along the line of control in Poonch district of Jammu on Friday evening. Official sources said that a shell landed on the house of one Mohammad Rafiq in Karmara village adjacent to LoC in which the 58-year-old

At about 2120 hours, Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with Small Arms & shelling with Mortars along LoC in Gulpur sector. Army retaliated,"

owner, his wife Rafia Bi (50) and son Irfan (15) died on the spot. One person was also injured and he has been hospitalized, they said.

SSP Poonch Ramesh Angral confirmed the killings of the three family members.

"At about 2120 hours, Pakistan initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with Small Arms & shelling with Mortars along LoC in Gulpur sector. Army retaliated," an army official said. (GNS)

Covid-19: 601 More Test Positive

Cases In Kashmir Cross 10K-Mark, Active Cases Around 6,000 In J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir witnessed biggest spike of 601 positive cases of Novel Coronavirus on Friday and with this the number mounted to 12,757 in J&K. The fresh positive cases included 86 persons who had returned to J&K from outside in last 24 hours.

Of the 601 new cases, 644 belong to Kashmir division while as 137 are from Jammu division, officials said, adding that the total number of positive cases in Kashmir division has reached to 10,113 including 4893 recoveries and 213 deaths while as total num-

ber of positive cases in Jammu division have reached to 2644 including 1665 recoveries and 18 deaths.

They added that a total number of active cases in Jammu and Kashmir are 5,968 including 5,007 from Kashmir division and 961 from Jammu division.

With 112 more recoveries, the tally of recovered patients in Jammu and Kashmir has mounted to 6,558 which is 51.40 per cent of the total cases. "The cases tested positive in J&K include

152 from Srinagar, 10 from Kulgam, 62 from Baramulla, 82 from Shopian, 51 from Anantnag, 12 from Kupwara, 19 from Pulwama, 46 from Budgam, one from Bandipora and 29 from Ganderbal in Kashmir division while as 137 from Jammu ● PAGE 02

J&K Records 9 More Deaths

SRINAGAR: Nine more patients, who were tested positive for Covid-19 lost their battle to the deadly virus on Friday, taking the total number of people who died of the novel virus in J&K to 231.

Officials said that nine patients who died include a 65-year-old man from Parigam, Pulwama, a 58-year-old male from Alnoor Colony Hyderpora, Srinagar, a 50-year-old male from Soibugh, Budgam, a 55-year-old wom-

an from Sumbal Bandipora, a 65-year-old male from Pampore Pulwama, a 75-year-old man from Batamallo Srinagar, a 62-year-old man from Hazratbal Srinagar, a 75-year-old woman from Sonwar Srinagar and a 60-year-old woman from Taing Mohalla Shopian. They said that four deaths were reported from SKIMS, two each from JVC ● PAGE 02

J&K Bank Staffers Test Positive, Hqrs Shut

Corporate Headquarters of the Jammu and Kashmir Bank in Srinagar was on Friday closed by the authorities to carry out a massive sanitisation drive for two days. The corporate office, situated near Tourist Reception ● P-02

Dean Academic Affairs KU Tests Positive

Authorities at Kashmir University have closed one of the gates after Dean Academic Affairs was tested positive for Covid-19 infection. Deputy Registrar Administration has issued an order asking Dean College ● P-02

DAK Warns Of Possible Covid-19 Mutation In Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Friday warned of possible mutation of the Novel Coronavirus.

"Covid-19 is now behaving aggressively which gives us to understand that the virus has mutated," said DAK President and influenza expert Dr Nisar ul Hassan in a statement.

"Initially when the outbreak arrived at Kashmir valley, Covid-19 behaved very mildly and most patients who tested positive were asymptomatic," he said.

"But, over the past few weeks

the situation has taken a serious turn with a large number of seriously-ill patients getting admitted in hospitals," he added.

Dr Nisar said the sudden rise in cases and deaths could be because of a new strain of Covid-19 that might have undergone mutation.

"Covid-19 like other viruses tend to mutate," he said adding that "mutation is a change in virus that occurs when the virus replicates inside cells and mistakes are made in copying its genetic code."

Dr Nisar said scientists ● PAGE 02

Stamp Duty On Fresh Loans; Surcharge On Fixed Charge For Power Waived Amnesty Scheme/Filing Of GST Returns Extended

SRINAGAR: To tackle the slowdown of economy due to COVID-19 pandemic, the Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, G C Murmu, in a focused policy intervention aimed to address concerns amongst various stake holders, approved a relief package to revive the economy.

Earlier, the Union Government rolled out a 20 lakh crore package under the umbrella of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan', sharply focusing MSMEs, priority sectors and vulnerable segments. However, the Jammu and Kashmir Government felt a need to consider similar hand holding measures for sectors/borrowers not covered under the Central Government package.

In order to clear the backlog of sales tax/VAT arrears under the relief package, the Amnesty scheme



has been extended upto 31st, October, 2020. Whereas, the date of filing of re-imbursement claims (GST returns/claims) for the period from January to March, 2020 has been extended to 15th October, 2020 and for the period April to June, 2020 to 15th November, 2020.

In a normal course, the Industrial units claiming GST re-imbursement on supply of goods during interstate movement were required to get the relevant electronic way bills stamped and verified by the consignee. However, considering the

issues due to COVID-19 pandemic, self attestation of claimants has been enabled and scanned copies of such documents verified by the consignee and attested by the claimants with a post dated cheque shall be accepted for re-imbursement for a period of 6 months.

To enable smooth transition out of the pandemic driven economic shock, under the relief package, the surcharge leviable on the fixed charges of all the industrial/commercial establishments in J&K for the period 31st March, 2020 to 31st October, 2020 shall be borne by the government.

Stamp duty on fresh lending under the GoI's J&K Government's package shall also be waived off under the relief package so that the cost of lending is reduced.

Moreover, the Administrative Council directed Finance ● PAGE 02



A policeman enforcing lockdown which was reimposed in Srinagar on Friday- KO photo Abid Bhat