



Maximum : 32°C SUNSET
Today 07:19 PM
Minimum : 19°C SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:52 AM
Humidity : 61%

OBSERVER

23rd year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR

23 Zilhijjat-ul-Haraaml | 1441 Hijri | Vol: 23 | Issue: 176 | Pages: 08 | Price: ₹3

www.kashmirobserver.net • twitter.com / kashmirobserver • facebook.com/kashmirobserver • Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016



News Digest

Landslide Blocks Kashmir Highway

Banihal/Jammu: The Jammu-Srinagar Highway was closed for traffic on Thursday due to a landslide in Ramban district that left over 300 vehicles stranded, an official said. The 270-km highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, was blocked by a major landslide at Mehaar area, they said.

2 Killed In Pampore Mishap

Srinagar: Two people on Thursday were killed and two others injured in a road accident along Srinagar-Jammu highway in Pampore area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district. Eyewitnesses said that a speedy dumper loaded with boulders overturned and crushed on to a swift car in which four persons were injured. They said that the injured were shifted to SDH Pampore where two of them were declared brought dead. Block Medical Officer (BMO) Pampore Dr Gulzar Ahmad said that two persons were brought dead while as two injured persons were referred to ● P-02

Militant Hideouts Busted In Pulwama

Srinagar: The state forces have unearthed two militant hideouts in the forest area of Awantipora in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir, recovering a cache of arms and ammunition, police said on Thursday. Acting on a tip off about presence of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) militants in Badroo forests of Awantipora, government forces launched a search operation on Wednesday night, a police official said. "During search in the early morning hours (of Thursday), two hideouts of LeT outfit were busted and destroyed," the official said. He said incriminating ● P-02

'Notorious Criminal' Detained Under PSA

Jammu: A notorious criminal was detained on Thursday under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said. A police team conducted raids in the Tanda area and detained Nazir Ahmad who was allegedly involved in several criminal cases, including cattle smuggling and robbery, they said. He had become a threat to public order and peace, prompting the authorities to slap the stringent Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act on him. Keeping in view his repeated involvement in ● P-02

3 Drug Peddlers Held In Budgam: Police

Srinagar: Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested three alleged drug peddlers in central Kashmir's Budgam district and recovered contraband substance from their possession. Showkat Ahmad Bhat, Muzaamil Bhat and Ghulam Hussain Bhat were travelling in a car (JK01M-5928) when the police officers at a Choon crossing checkpoint intercepted their vehicle, a police spokesperson said. During checking, he said the officers were able to recover 9 Grams of Heroin and 115 grams of Charas from ● P-02

Police Begins Probe Into Shopian Encounter

Probe To Focus On DNA Sampling, Trio's Militant Links: IGP Kumar

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A police team from Kashmir has been sent to Rajouri district in Jammu region to collect DNA samples of the people claiming to be relatives of the three youths killed in an alleged fake encounter in Shopian district of the Union Territory last month, a senior police official said on Thursday.

"We have sent a team headed by Deputy SP Wajahat today (Thursday) to Rajouri to collect the DNA samples of those claiming to be relatives of the deceased," Inspector General of Police Kashmir zone Vijay Kumar told reporters on the sidelines of a function here.

Kumar said the DNA samples will be sent to central laboratories for matching. "There are two aspects of the investigations. One is matching the DNA and then we will be also investigating whether these youths, who had come to work in Kashmir, had any links with militants. We will be going through their call details and other technical aspects as well," he added.



DNA Samples Of Families Collected

A police team on Thursday collected DNA samples of the three families in Rajouri district, who have claimed that their kin have been killed in a "stage managed encounter" by state forces in south Kashmir's Shopian district last month. "The DNA samples of all the three families were collected today at the district hospital after completion of legal formalities," a family source told Kashmir Observer. ● P-02

The Army has already initiated an inquiry into an "encounter" carried out by its troops in Amshipora village of Shopian district.

On July 18, the Army claimed three militants were killed in the higher reaches of Shopian in

south Kashmir. However, no further details were shared.

On Monday, Srinagar-based defence spokesperson Colonel Rajesh Kalia issued a brief statement, saying the Army has noted social media inputs linked to the operations in Shopian on July 18, 2020.

"The three terrorists killed during the operation have not been identified and the bodies were buried based on established protocols. The Army is investigating the matter," Kalia had said.

This has sparked a controversy with political parties demanding

an impartial probe into the alleged encounter to ensure speedy justice.

The controversy erupted after some families filed a complaint at a police station in Rajouri stating that their three members are missing since July 17 ►PAGE 02

High-Level Panel Red Flags 300 Projects For Funding Under Govt's Ambitious Program

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A high-powered committee has decided against funding 300 projects under the Jammu and Kashmir's ambitious program for languishing projects.

A record note of meeting chaired by Financial Commissioner Finance, Arun Kumar Mehta, has decided against funding or not considered for approval nearly 300 projects due to varied reasons.

The meeting of HPC was held on July 13 to discuss proposals submitted by different departments for funding under government's initiative for funding languishing

projects in Jammu & Kashmir.

According to record note of the meeting, Rural Development department had submitted a total of 129 projects for an amount of Rs 18.619 crore.

But no project was approved for funding by the HPC as they were in requirement of very less funding and as such these projects can be undertaken by way of funding through regular capex budget for completion, the note reveals.

The committee also did not consider six out of seven projects submitted by the Revenue department, reasoning these were low Impact projects and ►PAGE 02

Man Hurt In Cross-LoC Shelling Dies

SRINAGAR: A 55-year-old man who was injured in shelling along the Line of Control in Kupwara district last week, died at a hospital here on Thursday, officials said.

They said that the man, Mohammad Yakoub Mir (55) son of Barkatullah Mir of Kachatiya Baghbeela Tangdhar succumbed to the injuries at SKIMS Soura here early morning. Mir had suffered forehead splinter injury.

Mir along with two other persons were referred to the tertiary care hospital from Kupwara after getting critically injured as India and Pakistan troops exchanged fire and mortar shells along the Line of Control in Kupwara district on August 6.

On the same day, Mohammad Arif from Shamspora, ● P-02

1000 J&K Panchayat Representatives To Get Security: Report

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration will provide security to nearly a 1000 Panchayat representatives, mostly from volatile south Kashmir on the basis of threat perception, NDTV reported Thursday.

According to the report, the Union Territory administration has hired hotels, hostels and private residences to provide to security to these grassroot leaders. The leaders would also get security cover when they visit their constituency.

"Data shows the most of the people who will get security are from

Two More BJP members Quit Party

Two more members of the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP), including a Panch have reportedly announced their disassociation from the party on social media. According to the reports, Ghulam Rasool Sheikh, a resident ● P-02

Raina Blames Pak For 'Targeted Killings'

Pakistan is afraid of the BJP's rise in Kashmir and is engineering targeted killings of party workers in the Valley, BJP's J&K chief Ravinder Raina said on Thursday, asserting the neighbouring country will not succeed in its ● P-02

South Kashmir. A majority of them are from the BJP," the report said.

Quoting unnamed sources, the report says that post-bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir, the BJP

has been pushing for a "grassroot democracy" that would involve a strong panchayat system

The report further says that Panchayat members ►PAGE 02

Advisor Bhatnagar's Grievance Cell Strengthened

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday said that the office of Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar has strengthened the grievance redressal mechanism for solving the genuine issues and problems of people in a time bound manner.

In a handout issued today, an official spokesperson informed people that they can register their grievances and complaints regarding departments under his charge -Health and Medical Education, Public Works (R&B), Jal Shakti (PHE, I&FC), Transport, Animal/Sheep Husbandry and Security related matters on numbers given below from Monday to ● P-02

Security Beefed Up In Kashmir Ahead Of August 15



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Security has been beefed up in Kashmir ahead of August 15 celebrations as full dress rehearsal was held in Srinagar and various district headquarters on Thursday, officials said.

Police and paramilitary forces have been deployed in strength at many places in the city and elsewhere in the valley to thwart any attempts by militants to disrupt the celebrations, the officials said.

They said random search of vehicles was being carried out near Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium here, the venue of the main function.

Similar precautionary measures with respect to security arrangements have been made in other districts of the valley, the officials said.

Lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha will preside over the Independence Day function on Saturday. This will be first August 15

Officers Directed To Attend August 15 Function

The government on Thursday asked all the officers above the rank of Under Secretaries in the J&K stationed at Srinagar and Jammu to attend the main function of the August 15 Celebration at the Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Stadium Sonawar here and Parade Ground, Jammu respectively as part of their official duty. "Independence Day is an important national event ● P-02

function since Jammu and Kashmir became a union territory.

Meanwhile, full dress rehearsal was held at Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium and other district headquarters of the valley.

"In connection with ►PAGE 02

IAF Chief Reviews Operational Preparedness

NEW DELHI: Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhaduria on Thursday flew a Mig 21 Bison jet at a frontline airbase in the Western Command, and carried out a comprehensive review of the operational preparedness of the air warriors in the region, officials said.

The Indian Air Force has kept almost all its air bases under the Western Command at a "very high level of readiness" in view of the over three-month border row with China in eastern Ladakh.

The Western Command looks after the aerial defence of the sensitive Ladakh sector as well as various other parts of North India.

Officials said Air Chief Marshal Bhaduria reviewed the ● P-02

Azad Calls Minister For 4G Restoration

SRINAGAR: Senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Thursday discussed the issue of high speed internet restoration in Jammu and Kashmir with Union Minister for Telecommunications Ravi Shankar Prasad. The leader of opposition in the Rajya Sabha spoke telephonically to Prasad and apprised him about the difficulties faced by students, traders and others in Jammu and Kashmir, reports said. Azad threw light upon the adverse impact of the non-availability of 4G internet facilities in Jammu & Kashmir, which has multiplied the problems of students, business community and other establishments.

During telephonic conversation, Prasad assured Azad of ● P-02

'Admin Running In Circles' From Past Five Months: KCCI On Lockdown

Kashmir Inc: 'Royals Enjoying Golf, Shopkeepers Behind Bars'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) on Thursday slammed government over indefinite lockdown of business establishments in the Valley, especially Srinagar terming it as a serious infringement on the rights of the business community to earn a livelihood.

In a hard hitting statement issued here, a KCCI spokesperson said that despite full cooperation of public and the business community, the administration appeared to be running around in circles since the previous



five months and seem oblivious to the fact that the business community of Kashmir is presently in the 13th month of a disruption

which has wiped out enterprises and devastated the economy.

Comparing Kashmir's Covid-19 situation with Mumbai, ►PAGE 02

Admin Hints At Partial Reopening Of Srinagar Markets

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary said on Thursday hinted that there will be no need to implement or extend lockdown restrictions in the district if people will follow SOPs properly. Choudhary said that district administration Srinagar conducted several meetings with religious heads and traders wherein lifting of lockdown restrictions were thoroughly discussed. Besides ● P-02



A CRPF personal stands guard at a checkpoint in this capital city on Thursday. pic, Abid Bhat