



Maximum : 32°C
Minimum : 21°C
Humidity : 61%

SUNSET
Today 07:18 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:52 AM



News Digest

Soldier Shoots Self Dead

Srinagar: In another alleged case of suicide in armed forces, a soldier on Friday shot himself dead with his service rifle in central Kashmir's Budgam district. Lance Naik Om Prakash ended his life by shooting himself with his service rifle at Old Air Field in Rangreth area of the district on Friday morning, official sources said. The soldier died on the spot. Official sources said that reason behind the extreme step by the soldier was not immediately known. Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident and started proceedings in this regard.

Hunter's Fire Kills Bengal Youth

Srinagar: A non-local youth was killed after being hit by a hunter's fire in Trenz area of south Kashmir's Shopian district, officials said Friday. 27-year-old Amir Hussain of West Bengal was collecting scrap in an orchard in Wanpora village of Trenz on Thursday evening when a cartridge fired by a hunter hit him, they said. The youth sustained serious injuries in the incident and was removed to Srinagar's SMHS hospital for treatment. However, he succumbed to his injuries on Friday afternoon. The non-local youth, they said was putting up in Khanda Chadoora. A police ● P-02

ACB Arrests Police Officer For Taking Bribe

Srinagar: The anti-corruption bureau (ACB) on Friday arrested a police officer while he was accepting bribe from a truck driver in Batamaloo area of the uptown city. Sub-Inspector Farooq Ahmad Abassi posted at police station Batamaloo was arrested by the sleuths of ACB while he was accepting Rs 3000 bribe from a truck driver to release the documents of his truck he had confiscated earlier, an ACB spokesperson Friday. The police officer, he said was arrested after the truck driver approached ACB with a written complaint mentioning ● P-02

Elderly Man Injured In Bear Attack

Srinagar: An elderly man on Friday was attacked and injured in a bear attack in south Kashmir's Pulwama district. 60-year-old Abdul Gani Sheikh of Khangund Tral was grazing cattle in the upper reaches of Tral when a black bear attacked him, officials said Friday. In the attack, he said the elderly man received serious injuries in the bear attack. "The injured was shifted to Sub District Hospital Tral where he is undergoing treatment," the official added. (KNT)

Army Recovers Arms In Baramulla

Srinagar: The Army recovered a cache of arms and ammunition during a search operation in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir, an official spokesperson said on Friday. The search operation was launched in Trenarian in Dogi Pahad area of the north Kashmir district on Tuesday based on inputs about the presence of a cache of weapons and ammunition in the area, the Army spokesperson said. The cache was recovered on Thursday, he said. According to the spokesperson, three pistols with magazines and ammunition, 73 AK rounds, two detonators, 15 grenades and Pakistani currency were recovered during the operation.

DIG Who Nabbed Davinder Singh Awarded Gallantry Medal

Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir police's Deputy Inspector General Atul Kumar Goel, who broke a police-militant nexus by arresting now-suspended DSP Davinder Singh, is among 81 personnel of the force who have been awarded police medals for gallantry. Overall, the J&K police's 81 medals are the maximum awarded to any police force this year, followed by the CRPF's 55.

Goel, a 2004-batch IPS officer, had personally laid a police picket on a national highway on January 11 this year after intelligence reports indicated that Davinder Singh, along with an over ground worker of militant groups, was ferrying two militants to Jammu to escape the harsh winters.

After a brief altercation, when Singh attempted to throw his weight at the

policemen at the checkpoint to escape, Goel, according to eyewitness, stepped out of his vehicle and slapped the erring DSP, following which he was arrested. The NIA, which took over the case subsequently, has already filed a charge sheet and alleged that the suspended DSP was being groomed by officials of the Pakistani High Commission in India to get more sensitive information. Tahir Ashraf Bhatti, a Superintendent of Police in the Special Operations Group, a specialised anti-militancy unit of the JK police, was also awarded the gallantry medal for his counter-militancy work in the Kashmir valley. A law graduate, hailing from Poonch area of Jammu, the officer has been in charge of the SOG for the past two years. He simultaneously looks after the cyber cell, which monitors anti-India propaganda on the internet. The force also been given ● PAGE 02

2 Cops Killed, Another Injured In Srinagar Militant Attack

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two policemen were killed and another injured on Friday in an audacious militant attack in Nowgam area on the city outskirts on the eve of I-day, police said.

Early Friday morning, unidentified militants appeared in Nowgam area of the city outskirts and opened fire upon a group of policemen who were deployed in the area as part of the August-15 security bandobast, a police official said. In the surprise militant attack, three policemen were injured.

The injured cops were shifted to a hospital where two of them succumbed and the third was undergoing treatment, the official said.

The official identified the slain duo as Ishfaq Ayoub and Fayaz Ahmad, both from IRP's 20 battalion. While Ayoub had bullet wounds on right side of chest and leg, Fayaz had injuries on right thigh, he said.

The injured cop has ● PAGE 02



SECURITY personnel searching a house in Nowgam on Friday following a militant attack.

DGP Blames Pakistan

Pakistan and its proxies cannot tolerate the peaceful atmosphere in Jammu and Kashmir, Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh said on Friday after militants shot dead two ● P-02

2 Jaish OGWs Held In Tral: Police

Police on Friday claimed to have arrested two militant associates of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) from south Kashmir's Pulwama district. The militant associates were nabbed ● P-02

Stringent Security Across Valley For I-Day

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Surprise checks, rampant frisking and identification checks were held Friday in most parts of the Kashmir Valley on the eve of I-day, amid apprehensions of militant strikes to disrupt the celebrations.

Police and CRPF personnel

further intensified the security apparatus in Srinagar and other parts of Valley to ensure trouble free August 15 celebrations after a militant attack early Friday morning left two cops dead and another injured in Nowgam here, reports said.

Forces, reports said conducted surprise checks and identification

parades at many parts of the city to keep a close watch on the activities of the suspicious persons.

Here in this capital city, scores of mobile bunkers have popped up, where people are being subjected to frisking and identification checks, reports said.

Reports said heavy deployments have also been ● PAGE 02

Wrong Decisions Post-47 Created Resentment Among Kashmiris: LG

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Newly appointed Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday invoked Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence saying that the people of Jammu and Kashmir stood against those forces who tried to divide this land on communal lines too during the country's partition.

In his message to the people of Union Territory on I-day, Sinha said that the



philosophy of Ahimsa propounded by Mahatma Gandhi has been the guiding light of India's movement for independence and this insistence of non-violence has always been consistent with the ethos of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Those responsible for the partition of the country did try to divide this land too on communal lines, but the people of this land have always steadfastly rejected this bigoted ideology. The rejection is directly a consequence of the fact that the labels 'Hindu' and 'Muslim' have always been only descriptions rather than manifestation of a division in Jammu and Kashmir," Sinha said. He said the ● PAGE 02

HRW Seeks Independent Probe Into Shopian Encounter

Says No End To 'Cycle Of Violence' If Forces Aren't Held Accountable

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Human Rights Watch (HRW) on Friday asked government to immediately order an independent and impartial investigation into the alleged extra-judicial killing of three Rajouri men, saying that there can be "no end to the cycle of violence in Kashmir if security forces are not held accountable for their past



and current abuses". "Security forces have long operated with impunity in Kashmir, and past army investigations have been more focused on

shielding those responsible for abuse than providing justice," said Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia director at Human Rights Watch in a statement ● PAGE 02

1000 Vehicles Stranded On Kashmir Highway

JAMMU: The Jammu-Srinagar Highway remained closed for the second consecutive day on Friday due to a massive landslide triggered by heavy rains in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, officials said.

Vehicular traffic on the 270-km highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, was suspended on Friday, leaving hundreds of trucks and other vehicles stranded, officials said.

The highway was blocked by a major landslide in Mehar area on Thursday, they said.

The clearance operation is going on in full swing to restore traffic movement, the officials said.

Over 1,000 vehicles were stranded on both sides and traffic was stopped at Qazigund and Udhampur Chanderkote soon after the highway was blocked.

Palestinians Unanimously Reject UAE-Israel Deal

Gaza City - Palestinians reacted with shock and dismay after US President Donald Trump unveiled an agreement between the United Arab Emirates and Israel to normalise ties.

The deal pledges full normalisation of relationships between the two countries in the areas of security, tourism, technology and trade in return for suspending Israel's annexation plans in the West Bank.

Both the Palestinian leadership and public were caught by surprise when the announcement came on Thursday.

"We absolutely had no prior knowledge of this agreement," Ahmed Majdalani, the Palestinian Authority's (PA) minister of social affairs, told Al Jazeera. "The timing and speed of reaching this agreement were surprising, especially that it came at a critical moment in the Palestinian struggle."

Former PA minister Munib al-Masri noted Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who ruled Abu Dhabi for more than 30 years before his death in 2004, had always been a strong supporter of the Palestinians.

"The late Sheikh Zayed was a dear brother to me, I knew how much he was proud of his support for Palestine... I never imagined that in my lifetime I would see the day in which the UAE would simply sell the Palestinians out for the sake of normalisation," al-Masri said. "It's very shameful. I can't believe it until now."

Other Palestinian officials said though the news came abruptly, it was not much of a surprise.

"We were not surprised that much because the ● P-02

At Galwan, Bravery In Combat Proved Our Resolve: Kovind

NEW DELHI: President Ram Nath Kovind on Friday said while India believes in peace it is also capable of giving a befitting response to any attempt of aggression as shown by its troops in Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh after "some in our neighbourhood", a veiled reference to China, tried to carry out their "misadventure of expansion".

In his address to the nation on the eve of the 74th Independence Day, Kovind also spoke about the 'Aatmanirbhar' initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and allayed fears of foreign investors saying India's self-reliance means being self-sufficient without alienating or creating distance from the world, with which it



would continue to engage.

Touching upon the COVID-19 pandemic, Kovind said the nation is indebted to doctors, nurses and other health workers who have been continuously on the forefront of the fight against the disease which has disrupted all activities world over and taken a huge toll. India's COVID-19 caseload surpassed 24 lakh on Friday after 64,553 more people tested positive and the ● PAGE 02

8 More Covid-19 Deaths In Kashmir, J&K toll 520

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus claimed eight more lives in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, five among them women, taking the total number of fatalities across the Union Territory since the pandemic outbreak to 520.

Among the victims of this deadly disease, six were the residents of Srinagar, one each from Anantnag and Baramulla districts of the Valley, officials said.

They said a 65-year-old man from Batamaloo Srinagar, who was admitted to Srinagar's SMHS

60 Travellers Among 540 New Cases

At least sixty travellers were among 540 people who tested Covid-19 positive in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, raising the number of people infected by the virus in the Union Territory to ● P-02

hospital on August 4, died today. "He was having comorbidities besides ● PAGE 02

Heartiest Greetings
to the people of Jammu & Kashmir
on
74th Independence Day

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

DJPK-4092/20