



Maximum : 28°C
Minimum : 18°C
Humidity : 75%

SUNSET
Today 07:12 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:56 AM

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News Digest

Guns Roar Along LoC In Rajouri

Jammu: The India and Pakistan troops on Wednesday traded heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan Army violated ceasefire by resorting to heavy firing and mortar shelling in forward areas along the LoC in Rajouri district, prompting a befitting retaliation from the forces, officials said. "At about 1630 hours today, Pak army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and intense shelling with mortars along the LoC in Keri Battal area of Sunderbani sector," defence spokesperson said. The Indian Army retaliated befittingly, he said. On August 7, a 65-year old man was killed as Pakistan army resorted to mortar shelling in Poonch. **● P-02**

Youth Found Dead In Handwara

Srinagar: A youth on Wednesday was found dead in Handwara town of the frontier Kupwara district. 24-year-old Aamir Suhail of Kargam village was found dead near the bus stand Handwara on Wednesday by the locals, a police officer said. He said a police team instantly reached the spot after receiving information from the locals. "A case under relevant sections of law has been registered and further investigation taken up," the officer told GNS.

Labourer Drowns In Jhelum

Srinagar: A young labourer on Wednesday died of drowning while extracting sand in river Jhelum in Pulwama district of south Kashmir. 20-year-old Irshad Ahmad Sheikh was extracting sand from Jhelum near Sombura bridge in Kakpora, Pulwama when he slipped into the river, official sources said. Several youth jumped into the river to save the Sheikh from drowning. However, after hectic efforts, they retrieved the lifeless body of the labourer. Sheikh's body was handed over to his family for final rites after completion of legal-medico formalities.

PDD Employee Dies Of Electric Shock

Srinagar: A Power Development Department (PDD) employee died of electrocution in this capital city on Wednesday. 40-year-old Ghulam Nabi Dar was repairing electricity line in Brane locality of Nishat here when he received an electric shock and collapsed on the ground, an official said. He said that electric shock was so strong that the PDD employee died on the spot. A police officer told news agency KINS that a case has been registered in this regard and further investigations set into motion.

ACB Books Seven For Illegal Land Mutations

Jammu: The Anti Corruption Bureau on Wednesday booked seven people, including three former government officials, in a case related to illegal mutation of land title in Katra town, the base camp for pilgrims visiting Vaishno Devi shrine in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir. After registration of the case, searches were carried out by seven teams in Reasi, Udhampur and Jammu districts, leading to the seizure of "incriminating material and documents" as evidence, a spokesman of the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) said. He said among the accused in the case include Naib Tehsildar Katra Nek Ram; then executive officer. **● P-02**

PDP's Poser To Former Ally

If Nagas Could Have A Special Status, Why Can't JK People?

SRINAGAR: Termining the Naga peace accord a way forward towards conflict resolution, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Wednesday lashed out at the government of India for committing a constitutional fraud by scrapping Article-370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement issued here, a PDP spokesman has said that while the out of box solution to a long-pending humanitarian and political problems facing the country is a welcome measure, it is ironic that the BJP led government at the centre is promising the Nagas same things that it snatched from the people of Jammu and Kashmir last year in August.

He said that the special position accorded by Jammu and Kashmir at the time of accession in 1947 was not a 'charity' given to the state by the union of India but was an outcome of thorough deliberations and discussions between the two parties.

"Government of India, parliament and even the President cannot scrap 370 in a unilateral way. When it was agreed upon by the two parties, it was imperative that both the parties should have agreed to its dilution or scrapping. What GOI did to Jammu and Kashmir was a constitutional fraud," PDP spokesman said. "Idea of securing regional autonomy, internal **►PAGE 02**

9-Day Old Militant Killed In Shopian Encounter

Handwara Gunfight Leaves Lashkar Commander, Aide Dead

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two Lashkar-e-Taiba militants and a nine-day-old Hizbul Mujahideen recruit were killed on Wednesday in two separate encounters with government forces in Shopian and Kupwara districts of the Valley.

A teenager, who joined militant ranks just nine days back, was killed in a brief encounter in Molu Chitragam area of Shopian this afternoon, a police official said.

The state forces, he said launched a cordon and search operation in Molu Chitragam area of Shopian after receiving specific information about the presence of militants in the area.

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

In the ensuing exchange of fire, one militant was killed, the official said. However, two other militants reportedly managed to escape from the encounter spot, reported GNS quoting sources.

The report identified the militant as Talib Hussain Mir son of Nissar Ahmad Mir, a resident of



File Photo

4 Held With Grenades, Bullets In Shopian

State forces recovered four grenades and 100 rounds of AK-47 from 4 persons arrested in Shopian district of South Kashmir, officials said.

A police officer said that police and security forces arrested four persons including Imtiyaz Ahmad Dar of Ratnipora, Parvaiz Ahmad Kumar, Sajad Ahmad Dhobi, both residents of Pinjora and Shahid Manzoor of Hillow imamsahib, reported news agency GNS. Four grenades and 100 rounds of AK-47 were recovered. **● P-02**

Malikpora Shopian who according to sources had joined Hizb-ul-Mujahideen ranks on August 10. Meanwhile, two LeT militants,

including the outfit's commander Naseer-u-Din Lone were killed in a late night gunfight with government forces in Kralgund area of **►PAGE 02**

HANDWARA ENCOUNTER UPDATE: LET CMDR NASEER-u-din Lone, who was #involved in #killing of 3 CRPF jawans at #Sopore on 18/4/20 and 3 CRPF jawans at #Handwara on 4/5/20, got killed: IGP Kashmir Shri Vijay Kumar,

1.89 Crore Indians Lost Jobs In Lockdown, 50 Lakh In July

Agencies

NEW DELHI: The lockdown India went through since March 25 in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic led to huge job losses across the country as almost all manufacturing and business activities came to a grinding halt.

According to the latest data issued by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), an independent think tank, over 18 million salaried employees lost their jobs during lockdown.

It said that the bloodbath in salaried employment began in April when 17.7 million jobs were lost,

followed by an additional 0.1 million jobs loss in May. Then, 3.9 million jobs were gained in June.

The CMIE report cast serious doubts over the prospect of healthy economic recovery as job losses in the formal sector kept ballooning. According to the report, 21 percent of all employment in India is in the form of salaried employment, far lower than the number of those engaged in the informal, or unorganised, sector.

It further stated that while the employment in informal sector and rural areas have seen an uptick since April, the lack of improvement in salaried jobs paints a **►PAGE 02**

Day 3: Protests Continue In Kashmir Against Blasphemy Video



Pic Abid Bhat

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: For the third consecutive day Wednesday, scores of people in Valley held strong demonstrations against the members of a Hindu extremist group, who made derogatory remarks against the Prophet of Islam (PBUH) in Jammu's Reasi triggering massive outrage across Jammu and Kashmir.

Man Held Over Social Media Posts

A man was arrested on Wednesday for allegedly hurting religious sentiments of a community in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said. Mohammad Zahid has been arrested for posting objectionable comments on Facebook and hurting religious sentiments of a particular community, SSP, Poonch, Ramesh Angral said. A case has been registered.

According to the reports, protests against the rightwing Sentinel Bharat Raksha Manch members continued for third straight day in parts of the Valley, including Srinagar.

Early morning, member of a lesser known outfit 'J&K Bachao Tehreek' appeared in Srinagar's Press Colony and staged a demonstration against the blasphemous remarks of the Hindu fanatics. Carrying

placards and banners denouncing the blasphemous remarks, the protesters demanded exemplary punishment for the accused for hurting sentiments of Muslims.

A peaceful protest was also held in Chanapora area of the city, where protesters demanded death penalty for the culprits.

On Sunday, police arrested Satpal Sharma, the main **►PAGE 02**

Govt Orders Pull Out Of 10,000 Troops From J&K

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Wednesday ordered "immediate" withdrawal of about 10,000 paramilitary personnel from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

This is the biggest de-induction of these forces after additional troops were rushed to the UT post the abrogation of the Article 370 of the Constitution that gave the erstwhile state a unique status.

They said the decision was taken after the Ministry of Home Affairs reviewed the deployment of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) in the union territory (UT). The Home Ministry had last withdrawn 10 CAPF companies from the UT in May, while 72 such units were taken out in December last year.

A senior official said that a total of 100 CAPF companies have been ordered to be withdrawn "immediately" on Wednesday and they have been asked to revert to their base locations in the country. **● P-02**

Jammu Admin To Resolve Army's Land Acquisition Cases

JAMMU: The Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Sanjeev Verma on Wednesday directed the officials to resolve all the pending land acquisition and requisitions cases of the army.

In a meeting held here with the Defense Estate Officers to review the status of land acquisition, requisition cases of army pertaining to district Jammu, Samba and Udhampur, Verma sought case wise details and asked the concerned officers for resolving all the pending acquisition and requisitions, an **● P-02**

Army Asks People To Join Shopian 'Fake Encounter' Probe

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Army on Wednesday issued an advertisement in local newspapers asking people to share "credible" inputs for its probe into the killing of three alleged militants in an encounter last month, following allegations by families in the Rajouri area of Jammu region that as many of their kin were missing from the same place.

"Any person having credible inputs or information on the encounter by security forces at vil-

lage Amshipora, district Shopian, dated July 18, 2020 may please contact Deputy GOC (General Officer Command)...on telephone number 01933-247026 within the next 10 days. The identity and details of the person will be kept secret," the advertisement issued by Lt Col Sonal Jain read.

Srinagar-based defence spokesperson Colonel Rajesh Kalia had said on Tuesday that the Army was committed to ethical conduct of all counter-terrorist operations. "Cases where doubts **►PAGE 02**

15 More Covid-19 Deaths In Kashmir, J&K Toll 581

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least fifteen people, seven of them Srinagar residents succumbed to coronavirus infection on Wednesday, taking the total number of Covid-19 fatalities across the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory to 581.

Of the victims, seven were residents of Srinagar, three each from Budgam and Kupwara and one each from Baramulla and Shopian districts, officials said.

A 75-year-old woman from Chat-tabal Srinagar who was diagnosed with bilateral community acquired pneumonia died at SMHS hospital, a week after she was admitted there, they said. Officials said that a 55-year-old woman from Rainawari who was also

diagnosed with bilateral community acquired pneumonia died at wee hours today, a day after admitted to the hospital.

The third victim of the deadly disease, officials said was an elderly man from Shalatang who also passed away at the hospital, two days after he was admitted there and subsequently diagnosed with bilateral community acquired pneumonia.

A 43-year-old man from Hawal Srinagar died at SKIMS Soura, a day after he was admitted to the tertiary care hospital and tested positive subsequently.

A 72-year-old man from Sebdan Budgam died at CD hospital Dalgate here, two days after he was referred from Chanapora to the exclusive facility for the management of the covid-19 patients. Diagnosed with **►PAGE 02**

703 New Cases Include 20 Cops, 22 Security Men

Jammu and Kashmir reported 708 new cases of Covid-19, including 20 cops, 22 security personnel and 43 travellers, raising the number of people infected by the deadly disease across the Union territory to 30034. While Kashmir valley reported 606 new cases of coronavirus, remaining 102 were confirmed by the officials from the Jammu region. Among the new cases in valley include 20 from DPL Shopian, 17 CRPF and five from BB Cantt besides as many minors and three pregnant women, officials said. **● P-02**

7000 Bunkers Come-up Along LoC, IB In Jammu

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government has constructed 7433 bunkers for the villagers living near the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border in Jammu region, where border skirmishes between the armies of the two nuclear countries occur.

The details of the border constructions were shared in a meeting chaired by Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Sanjeev Verma with district administrations of border districts, an official spokesperson said Wednesday.

In the meeting, he said it was informed that a total of 7433 bunkers have been completed so far in the division including 6521 individual bunkers and 912 community bunkers. "In all 1522 community and individual **● P-02**

ACB Power To Probe Not Affected By PC Act Repeal: HC

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Wednesday said that Anti-Corruption Bureau's right to investigate has not been affected by the repeal of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

"The right which has accrued to the Anti-Corruption Bureau to investigate the crime which took place prior to coming into force of the Central Act and which was covered by the said Act remained unaffected by the reason of clause (c) of section 6 of the General Clauses Act, 1897, and the application of Clause 13 & 14 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Removal of **● P-02**

NC Calls Meet To Test Govt's Claim On 'Free' Party Leaders

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The National Conference has decided to convene a meeting of its senior leaders on Thursday after the local administration informed the Jammu and Kashmir High Court that none of the 16 leaders, that the party claimed were in illegal confinement, were detained and that they were free to move around.

In a statement issued Wednesday, the National Conference said it had taken note of the government's stand in the High Court on the petition filed by party president Faqrooq Abdullah and his son Omar to secure the liberty of its various leaders who have been under illegal house detention.



File Photo

"On a perusal of the reply the party has noticed that the government has unequivocally submitted before the High Court that no leader is under detention and that they are free to move subject to necessary security arrangements," the statement said.

"Now relying fully on the stand of the government before the HC that the members are free to move and expecting no hogwash **►PAGE 02**

How Omission Of Commission Left Kashmiri Women In Lurch

Sanika Athavale

ONCE done with festive feeling of band, baja and bharaat, Isha Mir, 35, realized that she had just landed in a bad marriage. Her husband turned out to be "apathetic and abusive" from the word go. Neither does he let her be in contact with her parents nor does he allow her to meet them. She's not even allowed a phone.

Her husband constantly tells her that this marriage was not fixed with his consent and on that pretext, talks to other women. After eight years of their marriage, she has two children with him and is not provided any kind of financial

support. She has had family counselling many times but that didn't improve her husband's behaviour. When she confronted him about the women he talks to, he slapped her. She has previously complained against him but now she wants to take it to the court. But to her chagrin, the courtrooms in Kashmir are already crammed with countless cases during Covid times.

Her trouble equally comes from the order of October 23, 2019, that wound up the State Commission for Protection of Women and Child Rights (SCPWCR) from the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. It has left many women like her hanging by a thread.

What's even worse is that with



the dissolution of the SCPWCR, the ongoing cases of 270 Kashmiri women, which had reached the turn towards the final judgment,

have been transferred to the National Commission for Women (NCW) headquartered in New Delhi.

Speaking about the role and authority of the NCW, Vasundhara Pathak Masoodi, the last chairperson of SCPWCR, recently said, "Just because we have a Supreme Court, it doesn't mean that all the state-level cases will directly come to it; for that, you have different high courts for different states and UTs. Similarly, we should have a body in every state and UTs."

Masoodi explained that if a woman from Delhi wished to register a case at the NCW, she would not be able to because there is a separate commission in place there. "NCW only takes up the cases of NRIs or people who are settled in different states of India. Besides, NCW **►PAGE 02**