



Maximum : 22°C  
Minimum : 17°C  
Humidity : 91%

SUNSET  
Today 07:03 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 06:01 AM



## News Digest

### Pak Violated Truce In Poonch: Army

Jammu: Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire on Wednesday by firing and shelling on forward posts and villages in three sectors along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, a defence spokesperson said. The Indian Army gave a befitting reply and the cross-border shelling between the two sides was going on when the last reports were received, he added. The spokesperson said Pakistan initiated the unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing from small arms and shelling with mortars in Shahpur, Kimi and Qasba sectors around 6.50 pm. There was no report of any casualty on the Indian side, he added.

### Electric Shock Kills Youth In Ganderbal

Srinagar: A youth died on Wednesday after suffering an electric shock in Lar area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Sameer Ahmad Khan of Thune Kangan received an electric shock when he was repairing wire at the house of his brother-in-law in Benhama area of Lar in the district, officials said. The youth as per the official was an electrician by profession. He was rushed to the hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.

### Youth Stabbed To Death In Pampore

Srinagar: A youth was allegedly stabbed to death by his cousin brother amid altercation between two families over some property issue in Pampore area of Pulwama district on Wednesday. 22-year-old Aadil Ahmad Dar of Chandara Pampore was allegedly attacked with knife by his cousin brother Aiyaz Ahmad this evening, news agency GNS reported. Dar was critically injured in the incident and was shifted to local Sub District Hospital where he died. Meanwhile, a police officer said that the accused has been arrested while a case under relevant section of law has been registered in this regard.

### Sopore Woman Dies Of Burn Injuries

Srinagar: A woman from north Kashmir's Sopore died of burn injuries at a hospital here on Wednesday, a day after she allegedly set herself ablaze. The woman had set herself ablaze by pouring kerosene oil over her body at her home in Naseerabad area of Sopore on Tuesday, news agency KNO reported. Her husband reportedly managed to douse the fire but not before both of them received severe burn injuries. She along with her husband was rushed to hospital where from they were referred to Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at SMHS hospital in Srinagar where she succumbed to her injuries today, the report said. ● P-02

### IAF Rescues Stranded Man In Rajouri

Jammu: The Indian Air Force on Wednesday claimed to have rescued a civilian who was left stranded on a marooned island in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, a defence spokesman said. Heavy rains battered most parts of Jammu region, including Rajouri, over the past two days, leaving the water bodies swollen. A message was received in the evening regarding an individual stranded on a marooned island following overflowing river south of Naushera. An Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopter of the Helicopter Unit captained by Squadron ● P-02

## Govt Panel For Business Revival To Meet Traders, Industrialists

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** A government constituted panel to revive business sector in Jammu and Kashmir will be meeting delegations and deputations of the business, industries and commerce fraternity of the Union Territory for two days from Friday.

According to an official spokesperson, the committee members will be meeting delegations and deputations of the business, industries and commerce fraternity of the Union Territory on Friday 28th August from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at Banquet Hall Srinagar and from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Udhioyog Bhawan Jammu on Saturday 29th August. The decision regarding it, the official

spokesperson said was taken in the second meeting of the committee held under the Chairmanship of Advisor to Lt. Governor, K.K Sharma. The meeting was also attended by its members including Financial Commissioner Finance, Arun Mehta, Commissioner/Secretary Industries and Commerce, Manoj Kumar Diwedi, Chairman Jammu Kashmir Bank, R.K Chibber and other senior officers. "The meeting decided that by inviting suggestions from different stakeholders would ensure making suggestions broad-based and in tune with the local needs and demands of the business fraternity of Jammu and Kashmir," the official spokesperson said. He said it was also ● P-02

## Ladakh Stand-Off 'Most Serious' Since 1962 War: Jaishankar

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** A solution to the border row with China must be predicated on honouring all agreements and understandings without attempting to alter the status quo unilaterally, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said, in a clear assertion of India's position on the issue.

Jaishankar called the situation in Ladakh the "most serious" after the 1962 conflict, adding the quantum of forces currently deployed by both sides at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is also "unprecedented". At the same time, he noted that all border situations were resolved through diplomacy. "As you know, we are talking to the Chinese both through military channels and diplomatic ones. In fact, they work in tandem," the external affairs minister told Rediff.com in an interview ahead of the release of his book 'The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World'.



File Photo

"But when it comes to finding a solution, this must be predicated on honouring all agreements and understandings. And not attempting to alter the status quo unilaterally," he said. India has been insisting that the border standoff with China must be resolved in accordance with the existing agreements and protocols for border management between the two countries. Asked how he envisaged the future of India-China ties in the book that was written ● P-02

dem," the external affairs minister told Rediff.com in an interview ahead of the release of his book 'The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World'. "Both the IDs have different names. While the driving license is in the name of one Firdaus, the name mentioned in the Aadhaar Card is Manzoor Ahmed Ahanger," the report claimed. Quoting unidentified CRPF officials, the report says that the arrested youth has been changing his statements which aroused further suspicion about him. "First, he said that he had come to Delhi in 2016. Then he said that he had come to the national capital during the coronavirus-induced lockdown. He told the CRPF officials that he has been staying in Delhi since then. The man, whose identity is not clear yet, said that he first stayed in Jamia locality, then near the Jama Masjid area in Nizamuddin," the report added. Meanwhile, the family of the detained youth said that he had gone to Delhi before lockdown to retrieve money grabbed by a fraudster. "My son is innocent. ● P-02

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## Cancel Meet On J&K Internet Suspension: BJP MP To Tharoor

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** BJP MP and member of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology Nishikant Dubey on Wednesday appealed to the panel's chairman and Congress leader Shashi Tharoor to cancel a meeting on suspension of Internet services in various states and Union Territories, including Jammu and Kashmir.

Dubey's letter came a day after Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla issued an advisory to chairmen of all parliamentary panels asking them to strictly adhere to rules and regulations while conducting committee meetings.

Birla issued the advisory following a political slugfest between BJP

and opposition members of the parliamentary panel on information technology over taking up the issue of suspension of Internet services in Jammu and Kashmir and summoning Facebook before the committee in its next meeting.

"Since this issue is presently pending before the Supreme Court of India, any further deliberations on this would again be a violation of the relevant rules/directions as well as disregarding the recently issued advisory of the Lok Sabha Speaker," Dubey wrote in his letter to Tharoor.

Tharoor has been under attack from BJP MPs who have demanded his removal as the chairman of the panel. Referring to the Lok Sabha ● P-02

## Muharram Procession Met With Force In Budgam Police Lob Teargas, Fire Warning Shots To Disperse Mourners

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Police on Wednesday lobbed tear smoke shells and fired warning shots in central Kashmir's Budgam district to break-up a Muharram procession.

Hundreds of people on Wednesday afternoon took out a Muharram procession from Zurigund area of the district, witnesses told Kashmir Observer. Chanting "La-baik Ya Hussain", the protesters were marching towards Imam Bargah located in the main town.

However, as the procession reached Hur near the main town, witnesses said the police deployed in the area in advance, intercepted

### Arrests After Azadi Slogans During Muharram Procession

Police on Monday arrested two youth for allegedly chanting pro-freedom slogans during a Muharram procession in Hokersar area of the Srinagar outskirts. The arrests came after a video went viral showing hundreds of mourners in a Muharram procession in Hokersar ● P-02

it. However, the mourners, they said offered stiff resistance and tried to make their way ahead.

Angered by the police intervention, eyewitnesses said, some of the youth in the procession resorted to vociferous pro-freedom and anti-India sloganeering. "The cops fired dozens of tear

smoke shells and fired shots in air to disperse the youth. The mourners regrouped and tried to march towards the Imam Bargah," Altaf Ahmad, an eyewitness said.

He said the area was filled with smoke as the mourners repeatedly tried to reach their destination despite police using a ● P-02

## Supporters of Gupkar Agenda Are Pak Backers: BJP

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir BJP on Tuesday lashed out at its rival parties in the Union Territory on their resolution to fight for the restoration of special status to the erstwhile state and said supporters of Gupkar Agenda are supporters of Pakistan.

Addressing the party's working committee meeting at its headquarters here, JK BJP President Ravinder Raina launched a scathing attack on the mainstream parties especially the National Conference and the Congress for their Gupkar declaration last week.

Supporters of Gupkar Agenda are supporters of Pakistan they are carrying on an anti-national agen-

### Ram Madhav To Visit Kashmir Today

Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) General Secretary Ram Madhav is scheduled to visit Srinagar on Wednesday to meet the party leaders and to take stock of the situation. Madhav will arrive in Srinagar tomorrow morning and right away chair party workers meeting to ● P-02

da and are responsible for all the bloodshed in the region, he said. The meeting was attended by several national leaders including Union minister ● P-02

## CPI Supports Gupkar Declaration

**SRINAGAR:** A Communist Party of India delegation on Wednesday called on National Conference President Farooq Abdullah at his Gupkar residence and extended the party's support for the Gupkar Declaration.

The CPI delegation led by Abdur Rehman Tukroo expressed complete unison with the party president in his efforts towards the restoration of what was snatched from the people of J&K on August 5th last year, a party spokesperson said.

The visiting delegation, he said discussed various facets of unprecedented developments that took place last year and its far-reaching repercussions on the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "The visiting delegation rejected the status quo on the issue and appreciated the party president's call for forging unity to work towards the ● P-02

## Indian in Germany Goes On Trial For Spying On Kashmiris

**FRANKFURT:** An Indian national accused of spying on Sikh and Kashmiri communities in Germany for New Delhi's secret services went on trial in Frankfurt on Tuesday.

The suspect, identified as 54-year-old Balvir S, is accused of working for the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), India's foreign intelligence agency, since at least January 2015.

Prosecutors say he "obtained information about figures in the Sikh opposition scene and the Kashmiri pro-freedom activists and their relatives ● P-02

## Whopping Loss In Lockdown: Global Tourism Going Kashmir Way?

Swati Joshi

**I**n his latest policy briefing and video address, Antonio Guterres, the United Nations (UN) Chief, said that the world tourism sector lost USD 30 billion in exports in the first five months of the year and more than 120 million jobs are at risk.

"It (tourism) employs one in every 10 people on Earth and provides livelihoods to hundreds of millions more," he said.

According to Guterres, it is a "major shock" for richer developed countries "but for developing countries, it is an emergency, particularly for many small island developing states and African countries."

But before the UN Chief would detail the global tourism meltdown, Kashmir had registered massive losses on tourism front. According to the preliminary loss assessment report by Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries, service sector including Tourism took the biggest cumulative hit since last summer when Kashmir was plunged into lockdown.

By the end of 2019, with the internet closed, tourist receipts were down 71 percent, according to government figures. As a result, there were an estimated 144,500 jobs lost in the tourism and handicrafts sector alone. Losses suffered by Kashmir's tourism industry over the last five months of coronavirus lockdown amount to Rs. 1,292 crore, according to a report released by Kashmir Trade Alliance (KTA).



KO File Photo Abid Bhat

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tourism industry over the last five months of coronavirus lockdown amount to Rs. 1,292 crore, according to a report released by Kashmir Trade Alliance (KTA).

The tourism trade today has tumbled, said Saif Ahmad, who is associated with the paragliding company, Karakoram Explorers. Most of the pilots hired by him were from Himachal Pradesh and they were paid four-month salary in advance. He had to send them back after the lockdown. He also had to refund the amount to his customers who canceled their bookings. "It was a nightmare," admitted Saif. He started his paragliding venture in 2015. From discovering a site for takeoff to calling experts for testing the flights, it took ● P-02