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# **News** Digest

### **Civilian Injured In Cross-LoC Firing**

Srinagar: A civilian on Friday was injured as India and Pakistan troops traded fire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. Wajid Ali son of Qurban Shah of Gohlad Mendhar was injured after the two armies exchanged gunfire along the LoC at Reelan in Mendhar sector, reports said. The injured civilian was removed to the sub-district hospital Mendhar for treatment. SHO Mendhar Manzoor Kohli told news agency GNS that the civilian was injured in firing by the Pakistani troops along LoC.

### **Policeman Killed In Road Accident**

Srinagar: A policeman on Friday was killed in a road accident in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. Tahir Ahmad Bhat of Lachampora Rajwar was critically injured when the bike he was riding, was hit by a vehicle near Petrol pump Chogal in Handwara on Friday morning, official sources said. The injured cop was shifted to district hospital Handwara for treatment. However, the doctors there referred him to SMHS hospital Srinagar for advanced treatment. However he succumbed to the injuries there, official sources added.

### Kashmiri Youth Held In **New Delhi Released**

Srinagar: Delhi police has released a youth from central Kashmir's Budgam district, two days after he was detained over suspicion. Manzoor Ahmed Ahanger was released by police, two days after he was detained when he was allegedly found roaming in suspicious conditions around Parliament, reports said. A resident of Rathsuna, Ahanger was handed over to a close relative. Confirming his release, family sources told news agency KNT that Ahanger was questioned by Delhi police and treated well. "He is returning home," they added.

### J&K's Covid-19 Combat **Efforts Hailed**

Srinagar: A central team of experts on Friday lauded the Jammu and Kashmir government's COVID-19 containment and mitigation measures, saying the testing strategy across the Union Territory is aggressive and robust which has helped in containing the spread of the disease. The two-member central team comprising NITI Aayog Member (Health) V K Paul and National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) Chief S K Singh, which is on a visit to Kashmir to take stock of the overall COVID situation in the valley, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhavan here, an official spokesman said. He said the two-member team held a detailed review of the situation emerging in the valley due ● P-02

### 11 Shops Gutted In **Kupwara Blaze**

Srinagar: At least 11 shops were gutted in a midnight blaze incident at Manwan Aawora village in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. Nearly a dozen shops were gutted in a blaze that broke out in the intervening night of Thursday-Friday, reports said Friday. They said that though the actual cause of fire was not ascertained yet while the loss suffered in the blaze was also being estimated. Locals told news agency KNO that at least 11 shops having different stock within were gutted in the incident. The shops include grocery, medical store, ● P-02

# Cop-Turned Militant, 3 Aides Killed In Shopian Encounter

Another Militant Arrested With 'Extreme Professionalism': Police

**Observer News Service** 

SRINAGAR: Four militants, including a policeman-turned militant commander on Friday were killed while another was captured by government forces during an encounter in south Kashmir's Shopian district.

State forces launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Kiloora area of Shopian after receiving specific information about the presence of militants in the area, a police spokesperson said.

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

In the ensuing exchange of fire, four militants were killed, the police spokesperson said. He identified the killed militants as Al-Badr District Commander Shakoor Ahmad Parray and his associates Suhail Bhat, Zubair Nengroo and Shakir-ul-Jabbar.



and arrested another militant identified as Shoiab Ahmad Bhat of Awantipora.

Disclosing the background details of the militants, the police spokesperson said all of them had a long history of crime records and were involved in planning and executing several attacks in the area including on police and security establishments.

About Al-Badr commander Par-The police spokesperson fur- ray, the spokesperson said that he ther said that joint team exhib- was engaged as special police ofited "extreme professionalism" ficer (SPO) in 2014 in »PAGE 02

**Hideout Busted** In Tral: Police

olice said on Friday that it busted a hideout in Tral area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. Based on specific information regarding presence of JeM militants in Takiya Gulabagh in Tral, Police, army and CRPF launched a search operation in the area, a police spokesperson said. • P-02

**Missing BJP Panch's Body Found In Shopian Orchard** 

olice on Friday recovered body of a missing BJP affiliated Dolice on Friday recovered body of a missing BIP affiliated Panch from south Kashmir's Shopian district, days after an unverified audio clip purportedly released P-02

### Man Tried To Snatch Rifle Of CRPF Cop, Held

28-year-old man was on Friday arrested by security forces after he tried to snatch a CRPF personal's rifle in forces after he tried to shade it & on. P-02

Nowhatta area of the city, police said. P-02

Centre Issues Fresh Rules For J&K Administration

# Police, ACB, AIS Brought **Under Direct Control Of LG**



**Press Trust Of India** 

NEW DELHI: The Centre has issued rules for a smooth functioning of the Jammu and Kashmir administration, specifying that the police, the all-India services and the anti-corruption bureau will be under the direct control of the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of the Union Territory.

The rules, notified by Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, also made it clear that in case of a difference of opinion between the LG and the council of ministers (when it is formed) with regard to any matter, the former shall refer it to the Centre for the decision of the president and shall act according to that decision.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notification said there will be 39 departments in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, including agriculture, school education, higher education, horticulture, floriculture, election, general administration, home, mining, power, PWD, transport and tribal affairs.

Article 370 of the Constitution. which gave a special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, was abrogated on August 5, 2019 and subsequently, the state was bifurcated into Union territories - Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The Union territories came into existence on October 31 last year.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by section 55 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, read with the Proclamation dated 31st October, 2019 issued under section 73 of the said Act, the President hereby makes the following rules...," the notification said.

It said the LG shall, in respect of matters connected with ▶PAGE 02

# **Govrenment Scuttles Muharram Procession With Tough Restrictions**

**Press Trust Of India** 

SRINAGAR: Authorities on Friday imposed strict restrictions in parts of Kashmir to prevent people from taking out Muharram processions to mark the eighth day of the 10-day mourning period, officials said.

They said restrictions on the movement and assembly of people under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) have been imposed in Budgam and Baramulla districts and parts of Srinagar district.

In Srinagar, curbs were imposed in areas falling under eight police stations—Batamaloo, >> PAGE



**Dozens Detained As Police Foils** 

Dolice on Friday detained over two dozen youth, who defied government ● P-02

**Hurriyat Condemns Arrests, Use Of Force** 

over the fresh wave of "arbitrary arrests" of youth, the All Parties Hurriyat • P-02

# **Gangbal Yatra Held Amid Covid-19 Pandemic**

**Press Trust Of India** 

**JAMMU:** The annual yatra to highaltitude Harmukh Gangbal lake, which Kashmiri Pandits consider as the abode of Lord Shiva, has been performed in Central Kashmir Himalayas amid curtailment due to COVID-19.

"The yatra started from Naranag on August 24 and team members Harmukh Ganga. The Harmukh had to trek to Harmukh Gangbal lake. This year, the yatra size was Kailash of Kashmir. The yatra realso curtailed due to ongoing CO-turned to Jammu today", he said. VID-19 pandemic", Vice-President of Harmukh Gangbal Ganga Trust (HGGT), King C Bharati said.

The team members of the HGGT performed yagna at the Harmukh Gangbal lake, which is located



around 14,500 feet above the sea level in the Harmukh mountain range. "The lake is also known as

mountain is also know as The

Raijy Pandita a member of the yatra team, said it began on August 24 and culminated on August 28. "The yatra was conducted under tight security. The Gangbal yatra was revived after → PAGE 02

## **Bangladeshi Teen Goes Missing From Quarantine Centre**

**SRINAGAR:** A coronavirus infected girl from Bangladesh has reportedly gone missing from a quarantine centre in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

18-year-old Chandni, daughter of Muhammad Younis Mian, a Bangladeshi national, went missing from a quarantine centre in Akura, where she was taken by the officials of Child Welfare Committee and she tested positive for the deadly disease, news agency KNT reported Friday.

"We have lodged a missing report at the police station," BMO Mattan. Dr Saleem said.

According to News 18 the girl had entered India illegally in March via the Bangladesh border without a visa and passport.

"She was then taken into custody from Anantnag area of ● P-02

# **Kashmir Records 8 More** Covid-19 Deaths, J&K Toll 683

**Observer Monitoring Desk** 

**SRINAGAR:** Coronavirus claimed eight more lives in Kashmir Valley on Friday, taking the death toll across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to 683.

While two each victims were residents of Srinagar and Kulgam, one each hailed from Anantnag, Ganderbal, Baramulla and Pulwama districts of the valley, official sources said.

A 62-year-old man from Saller Anantnag died at SKIMS Soura, six days after he was admitted to the tertiary care hospital, they said.

A 76-year-old man from Mehjoor four days after he was admitted to among the exclusive >> PAGE 02

**Baby**, 106 **Travelers Among** 696 New cases

month-old baby, six soldiers and seven CRPF personnel were among 696 people, who tested positive for coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, taking the number of people infected by virus in the P-02

the hospital and diagnosed with as "T2DM, AKD and bilateral CAP". A 64-year-old man from Dalgate Nagar died at SMHS hospital here, Srinagar died at CD hospital, one

# **Flood Threat Ebbs As Rain Stop After 2 Days In Kashmir**

SRINAGAR: As incessant rains from last couple of days stopped, the water level in river Sindh and Doodhganga Nallah receded considerably in last 24 hours, official sources said on Friday.

They said that water level in Sindh decreased from 3.74m at 11 p.m. last night to 2.20m at 9.p.m on Friday near Duderhama Ganderbal in central Kashmir's district. The authorities had declared flood alert at around 10 p.m. on Thursday night after the water level breached danger mark of 3.35m near Duderhama Ganderbal.

Six Years Later, Flood Concerns Continue Testing Kashmir's Preparedness

## Admin Asks People Not To Panic, Stay Alert

hief Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Jal Shakti department on Friday urged to remain alert but not panic amid increase in water level in River Jhelum and its tributaries. "It is for the information of the General Public that due to continuous rains over the last two days the water level • P-02

### LG Sinha Tours City, **Reviews Flood Preparedness**

ammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday conducted a whirlwind tour of Srinagar city to assess the flood preparations and emergency response mechanism being put in place to deal with any eventuality that may • P-02

"Amidst incessant rains, the derhama has crossed Flood mark. water level in Nallah Sindh at Du- All residents of the PAGE 02

# **KU To Hold UG First Semester**

**Exams Online** 

SRINAGAR- The University of Kashmir will conduct the first semester examination of undergraduate courses through online mode in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, a university spokesman said on Friday. A notification to this effect was issued by the Controller of Examination of University of Kashmir on Friday.

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic and the requirement of social distancing thereof, the Vice-Chancellor has been pleased to authorise the conduct of 1st semester examination through online mode strictly as per guidelines notified by the University," the notification reads.

Practical Examination • P-02

# Swati Joshi

HEN the Central Water Commission (CWC) about the moderate risk of flash floods in some areas of Jammu and Kashmir on August 25, some haunting memories of the devastating fall of 2014 resurfaced on social media in Kashmir.

In the backdrop of the CWC's prediction, many wondered: Is Kashmir staring at another deluge?

The forecast came on the eve of the sixth anniversary of the flood that marooned major parts of the valley, and ravaged lives and properties.

"Flash Flood Guidance issued by on August 25, 2020, in Jammu and

# erate threat over some watersheds

informed Kashmir and Uttarakhand are appended," the CWC tweeted. "Modand neighborhood areas of Puch, Reasi and Ramban districts of Jammu and Kashmir...

When flood hit Kashmir on September 6, 2014, thousands of people were left stranded inside their submerged houses. Due to incessant rain and overflowing flood channels, the conditions worsened in the following days.

By September 25 that year, the death toll had reached 285. Even after IMD valid for 6 hours from 0530 hrs 10 days of the flood, three major hospitals remained closed, while two of

them partially resumed their services. The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) stated that the 2014 floods in Kashmir were caused by "a combination of intense rain, mismanagement, unplanned urbaniza-

Overlooked Warning Six years before that shattering September, a stark warning had come in the form of a study.

tion and a lack of preparedness".

Scientists Humayum Rashid and Gowhar Naseem, in their 2008-published paper, had warned that the system due to the degradation of the network of lakes could prevent ing flood was there, no steps were the deluge



Though the proof of an upcom- was the first entity to disappear in

"We completely forgot about floods after 1980," Saleem Beg, convener at Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), said. "That's why nothing much was done to get Kashmir prepared for floods." And such was the groundwork

during the 2014 floods that there were no rescue boats in the initial days, Beg told Kashmir Observer.

Most of the infrastructure in the valley is in a flood-prone area, the INTACH convener continued.

"It's a challenge for every government to remove construction from flood-prone areas but that cannot be a reason for bad disaster management," he said.

A study done by Hakim Farooq Ahmad, Assistant Professor, Geography & Regional Development, University of Kashmir, clearly maps the flood vulnerability in the valley.

The study claims that 39 percent population, residing in 424 villages of the valley, with 90082 households, covering an area of 64.97% of study area, are vulnerable to low flood hazard.

Similarly, the professor notes, 41 percent population, belonging to 99 villages, with 110060 households, covering an area of 34.66% out of the total area of the study area, is vulnerable to moderate flood hazard in Kashmir.

"And about 20 percent population of 14 villages, with 55952 households, covering an area of only 0.35%, is highly vulnerable >> PAGE 0