



Maximum : 28°C
Minum : 17°C
Humidity : 69%

SUNSET
Today 07:00 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:02 AM



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 Rathuna, 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 to COVID-19.

11 Shops Guttled 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 Killoora 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 Shakoar Ahmad Parry and his associates Suhail Bhat, Zubair Negroo and Shakir-ul-Jabbar.

The police spokesperson further said that joint team exhibited "extreme professionalism" and arrested another militant identified as Shoiab Ahmad Bhat of Awantipora.



Ko File Photo Abid Bhat

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 Parry, the spokesperson said that he was engaged as special police officer (SPO) in 2014 in

Missing BJP Panch's Body Found In Shopian Orchard

Police on Friday recovered body of a missing BJP 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

A 28-year-old man was on Friday arrested by security forces after he tried to snatch a CRPF personal's rifle in Nowhatta area of the city, police said. P-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—Batamalo, P-02



Ko Photo Abid Bhat

Dozens Detained As Police Foils Muharram Processions

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

Hurriyat Condemns Arrests, Use Of Force

Expressing serious concern over the fresh wave of "arbitrary arrests" of youth, the All Parties Hurriyat 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 Nagar died at SMHS hospital here, four days after he was admitted to

Baby, 106 Travelers Among 696 New cases

A 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 Srinagar died at CD hospital, one among the exclusive P-02

Gangbal Yatra Held Amid Covid-19 Pandemic

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The annual yatra to high-altitude 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 had to trek to Harmukh Gangbal lake. This year, the yatra size was also curtailed due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic", Vice-President of Harmukh Gangga Trust (HGGT), King C Bharati said.

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



File Photo

around 14,500 feet above the sea level in the Harmukh mountain range.

"The lake is also known as Harmukh Ganga. The Harmukh mountain is also known as The Kailash of Kashmir. The yatra returned to Jammu today", he said.

Rajiv 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 P-02

Flood Threat Ebbs As Rain Stop After 2 Days In Kashmir

Agencies

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.

Admin Asks People Not To Panic, Stay Alert

Chief 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

Jammu 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 water level in Nallah Sindh at Duderhama has crossed Flood mark. All residents of the P-02

Swati Joshi

WHEN the Central Water Commission (CWC) informed 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 IMD valid for 6 hours from 0530 hrs on August 25, 2020, in Jammu and

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

Kashmir and Uttarakhand are appended," the CWC tweeted. "Moderate threat over some watersheds and 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 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 urbanization and a lack of preparedness".

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

Scientists Humayun Rashid and Gowhar Naseem, in their 2008-published paper, had warned that the breakdown of the natural discharge system due to the degradation of the network of lakes could prevent



File Photo of 2014 floods

water from flowing out of the valley. Though the proof of an upcoming flood was there, no steps were

taken by the government — which was the first entity to disappear in the deluge.

"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 man-

agement," 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 P-02