

Maximum : 29°C
Minum : 16°C
Humidity : 54%SUNSET
Today 06:47 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:09 AM

News Digest

IED Defused In
Kupwara

Srinagar: An improvised explosive device (IED) was found on road-side near Arampora in Kupwara on Monday. Official sources said that the IED was detected by police and army, reported news agency GNS. They said bomb disposal squad teams of the Army and police reached to the spot and destroyed it safely, they added. A senior police officer confirmed the recovery as well as defusing of the device

Biker Killed In
Hit And Run

Srinagar: A motorcyclist on Monday was killed while his pillion rider was injured after being hit by a vehicle in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. Mudasir Ahmad Sheikh and Mehraj-ud-Din Bhat were critically injured when an unknown vehicle hit their motor-bike near Kawari Bridge in the border district, reports said. The vehicle fled from the spot after the accident while the duo was shifted to District Hospital Handwara for treatment, where Sheikh was declared brought dead on arrival. A police official told news agency KNS that manhunt has been launched to trace the unknown vehicle that

3 Booked For Cheating
J&K Couple

Jammu- Three persons, including a Mohali-based visa consultancy firm owner, were booked by the crime branch for allegedly cheating a couple from Jammu and Kashmir of over Rs 4.50 lakh on the pretext of sending them to Canada on a work visa, officials said. The Jammu crime branch registered a criminal case against Aditya, the owner of Consultancy VFS Global Associates, and his associates Daljeet Singh and Love Preet Singh for defrauding the couple of Rs 4.59,800, they said. Manpreet Singh and Gagandeep Kour, residents of Bharkh village in J&K's Reasi district, in

LAWDA Demolishes
Illegal Structures

Srinagar: The Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) on Monday carried out demolition drive in several parts of the city. The Enforcement Wing of LAWDA today carried out several demolitions in Harwan, Saidakadal, Nishat and Habak areas in collaboration with concerned Police Stations, an official spokesperson said. During the drive, he said, plinth, two single storeys and third storey raised by violators while taking undue advantage of the prevailing situation in the valley were dismantled. "Also FIR's were registered in the concerned police stations against the violators," the official spokesperson said.

Youth Killed After
SUV Falls Into Gorge

Jammu: A 22-year-old man was killed on Monday when a private passenger vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into a 500-feet deep gorge in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. Kuldeep Singh, a resident of Bagna village, allegedly took away the SUV of Farooq Ahmad who had parked it on a link road outside his Alsi village Sunday night, a police official said. On seeing his vehicle missing in the morning, Ahmad was on way to lodge a police complaint when he came to know

Arunachal Is 'South Tibet',
China Remains Defiant

Dismisses India's Claim Of Abducting 5 Men

Agencies

BEIJING: China on Monday adopted a decidedly unfriendly posture to the Indian Army's question asking if five civilians who went missing from Arunachal Pradesh days ago were in the custody of the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

China has never recognised the "so-called 'Arunachal Pradesh', which is China's south Tibet region", the Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian told a news briefing on Monday in response to a question about the missing Indians.

"We have no details to release yet about question on Indian Army sending a message to PLA about the five missing Indians in the region," he added, denying knowledge of the abduction.

The Indian Army had told its Chinese counterpart about the five civilians, who were engaged as guides and porters by the Army in the Upper Subansiri district on the Sino-India border, on Saturday.

Those allegedly kidnapped have been identified as Toch Singkam, Prasat Ringling, Dong-



Image for representation

Jaishankar To Discuss LAC
Crisis With Chinese Counterpart

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is likely to have a stopover in Iran on Tuesday on his way to a four-day visit to Russia, where he is expected to hold a bilateral meeting with his Chinese

SSF Commando Laid To Rest In Leh

Niyima Tenzin, a commando of the Special Frontier Force (SFF) who was killed in a land mine blast a week back in eastern Ladakh, was laid to rest in Leh with military honours, official sources said. Tenzin died on the intervening night of August

tu Ebiya, Tanu Baker and Ngaru Diri. They had gone for hunting in a jungle when they were allegedly kidnapped by the PLA.

Two members of the group returned home and informed the families of the other five that they had been

Guns Roar Along
LOC In Rajouri

Jammu: Indian and Pakistani troops Monday exchanged fresh bout of fire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir.

A defence spokesperson said that Pakistani troops on Monday violated ceasefire by resorting to firing and shelling on forward areas along the LoC in Rajouri district.

The firing from small arms and shelling from mortars from across the border was "unprovoked", he added.

The spokesman said the cross-border shelling

Kashmir Action
'Threatened'

Peace: Pak Army

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa has sent out an open warning to India, claiming that his country would win the "fifth generation or hybrid war".

Addressing a ceremony marking Defence Day and Martyrs' Day at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi on Sunday, Bajwa said Pakistan is facing multiple challenges aimed at discrediting the country and its armed forces.

"We are facing the challenge that has been imposed on us in the form of the fifth generation or hybrid war. Its purpose is to discredit

NC Leader Among 18
More Die Of Covid-19,
J&K Toll 806

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least 18 more people, including a senior National Conference leader and former legislator Thakur Rachpal Singh died of coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, taking the total number of Covid-19 fatalities across the Union Territory to 806.

While Kashmir valley reported ten more coronavirus deaths, the remaining eight were confirmed by the officials from the Jammu division, officials said. Among the victims from Valley included three

each from Srinagar and Baramulla besides one each from Pulwama, Kulgam, Shopian and Budgam.

Regarding Jammu, they said, four of the victims were from winter capital of the J&K two from Rajouri and one each from Kathua and Doda.

Senior NC leader died of COVID-19 at a hospital in Reasi district of Jammu division on Monday, officials said. The 69-year-old Singh is survived by wife, son and two daughters, a party leader said.

AN OFFICIAL AT THE HOSPITAL said the National Conference leader was suffering from fever, cough and also complained of breathlessness.

87 Travellers Among 1013 New Cases

Jammu and Kashmir on Monday reported 1013 new Covid-19 cases, including 87 travelers, taking the total number of people infected by the virus in the Union Territory to 44570. Among the fresh cases, 413 are from Kashmir Valley and 600 from Jammu division, taking the overall tally to 44570. Giving district-wise break of the cases, official sources said that Srinagar reported 136,

...SHOPIAN 'FAKE ENCOUNTER'

SC Petitioner Gets PIL For
SIT Probe Withdrawn In SC

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A Public Interest Litigation, seeking a probe by Special Investigation Team into claims by government forces regarding the "encounter" at Amshipora Shopian on July 18 this year, was withdrawn even as the Supreme Court granted petitioner liberty to file same before the J&K High Court.

Three "militants" were claimed to have been killed by army who was "later" joined by police and paramilitary CRPF. However, the families of

the three persons from Rajouri, who after failing to contact their loved ones since July 17 and after seeing pictures on social media claimed slain to be their kin who had gone to Shopian for "labour".

A bench of justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Aniruddha Bose and Krishna Murari after hearing the petitioner through counsel allowed him to withdraw the petition to raise the issues before the Jammu & Kashmir High Court.

"The Writ Petition is dismissed as withdrawn with the aforesaid liberty," the apex court said

THE WRIT PETITION IS DISMISSED AS withdrawn with the aforesaid liberty," the apex court said in an order.

Militants Escape After Brief
Encounter In Budgam

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Groups of youth engaged in stone pelting and clashed with state forces near the site of a gunfight between militants and troops in Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday even as the militants managed to escape the cordon, officials said.

Acting on specific information about the presence of militants in the Kawoosa area of Budgam district in central Kashmir, government forces launched a cordon and search operation there, the officials said.

They said the search operation turned into an encounter after the militants fired upon the



KO Photo Abid Bhat

Govt Puts Off SMC
Mayor Polls By 3
More Months

SRINAGAR- The government on Monday deferred by three more months the elections to the post of Mayor Srinagar Municipal Corporation in wake of an amendment made to the rules today itself.

The post of Mayor SMC fell vacant on June 16 and was to be filled up within a period of one month in terms of Section 36 of the Jammu & Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act, 2000.

However, on July 15 the election was deferred till September 15 in terms of the amendment made by the government in the rules, citing the health pandemic due to COVID-19.

Then the government inserted second proviso to sub-section (2) of section 36 of the

Sinha Visits Jagti Township, Raghunath Bazar
KPs Raise Demand Of More
Townships In J&K With LG

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The members of Kashmiri Pandit community on Monday demanded more townships for the migrant families, besides retrieval of encroached properties and compensation for damaged properties in Kashmir.

The Kashmir Pandit community members living in Jagti Township here submitted a written memorandum, flagging various issues of importance to the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha during his visit on Monday, an

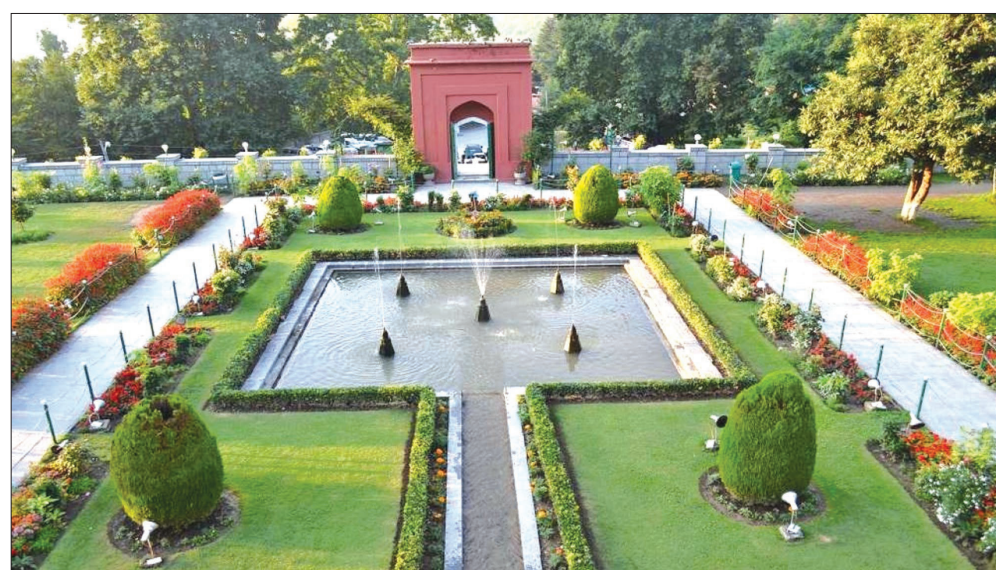
NEP-2020 Will Help Youth
Realise Dreams: LG

Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a new dawn, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday said that the new education policy (NEP) 2020 will help the talented youth of the Union Territory to realize their true potential and make their dreams come true.

official spokesperson said. They also flagged the issues of political reservation to KPs and demanded more townships for remaining families of migrants.

"The residents of Jagti Township

apprised the Lt Governor about various welfare issues of Kashmiri Pandit community including permanent rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits, enhancement of relief amount, financial package



MUGHAL GARDENS Slated To Be Included Into UNESCO World Heritage List. KO File Pic Abid Bhat

In FOCUS

Sanika Athavale

The miners from Athwajan belt who were permanently disenfranchised by a 2016 order accuse the then and successive governments of "revenge politics" and "malignant rules".

Stating that the belt was used by Kashmiris for extracting stones since their great grandparents ventured into this business, the quarry-holders proudly claim to have been the main suppliers of construction raw materials in Kashmir valley before the ban order.

"It was a bajri hub and the centre for Kashmir's highest quality," a quarry-holder said.

For the people from this region, there exists no scope to restart operations even after a lengthy wait for clearances and other permits. It is a direct ban.

Why?

The 'bad face' or poor look presented to the travellers on the Srinagar-Jammu highway, due to the presence of the mining belt on that route, has been listed as the first and foremost reason for the ban. Any resultant ecological damage has been marked as the secondary reason.

This order came eight months after the declaration of new rules under SRO 105.

"Please see the state of the high-

way from Qazigund till Athwajan," Nazeer Bhat, a quarry-holder, said.

"It's filled with quarries and gives a horrid look. It was beautiful there. Athwajan and Pathan Chowk have no jungles around them and that's the exact reason why it is naturally well-placed for stone extractions. Ancestral wisdom had narrowed down mining activities to that belt for a reason."

There are other mines placed on the Srinagar-Jammu highway, said Mushtaq Bhat, a quarry-holder from Athwajan. "It's really uncanny that the same logic does not apply to them." The only bad face it presents, he said, was to the elitist trustees of Delhi Public School (DPS), Srinagar.



Pointing out to the fact that their quarries were visible from DPS's rear side, the miners accused the former PDP-BJP government of play-

ing dirty politics with them. "After a fallout with former PDP MLA from Sonawar, Mohammed Ashraf Mir, the dispensation ordered the ban," Mushtaq maintained.

"We were promised rehabilitation"

Forbidden to execute their professional duties, innocent and struggling, the Athwajan miners had staged protests, demonstrations, and organised meetings with concerned officials for resuming work.

They were first promised rehabilitation in the form of new sites where they can continue their ancestral businesses. This part of the chapter was being overlooked by the former Divisional Commissioner

Baseer Ahmad Khan.

The fact that the 'new sites' were located merely 500-600 metres away from the banned spots, in Zewan, had bewildered the miners then. They said that the authorities contradicted themselves by promising their rehabilitation in an area so close. "What happened to their 'bad face' logic, we do not know," they said.

There was another conundrum.

A Border Security Force (BSF) office was already built and operational on a territorial level higher than that of the proposed sites.

"We accepted it," Nazeer, the quarry-holder, continued. "But did they know that we would've needed to 'develop' those new points from scratch? That we would not have been able to extract or earn until the sites had been fully