



Maximum : 30°C SUNSET  
Today 06:43 PM  
Minimum : 15°C SUNRISE  
Humidity : 49% Tomorrow 06:11 AM

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## News Digest

### No Let Down In Cross-LoC Shelling

Jammu: For the second consecutive day Thursday, India and Pakistan troops traded heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. The Pakistan army opened heavy fire and shelled forward areas along the LoC in five sectors in Poonch district on Thursday, officials said. The Indian Army retaliated befittingly, they said. "The Pakistan army continued unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling with mortars along LoC in many locations," ● P-02

### IED Defused In Baramulla

Srinagar- State forces on Thursday detected an Improvised explosive device in Chatloora area of Rafiabad in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, police said. A joint patrolling party of state forces detected the IED concealed in a sand bag near a bus stop at Chatloora area of the district, a police official said. The IED was apparently planted by militants to target state forces, the official said. A bomb disposal squad was rushed to the spot which destroyed the IED without causing any damage, he added. This was the second IED ● P-02

### KU PG Entrance Exams-2020 Begin

Srinagar: The entrance examination for more than 48 PG programs offered by the University of Kashmir started here on Wednesday with the KU authorities holding the examination in two sessions including morning and afternoon for the convenience of thousands of the aspirants. According to the statistics available, the University has received more than 25182 entrance applications for admission to various post graduate courses for the year 2020 against a vacancy of 4149 seats. According to the statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer ● P-02

### Biker Killed, Two Hurt In Road Accident

Pulwama- A motorcyclist was killed and while two others injured in a road accident in Litter area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Thursday morning. A Maruti bearing registration no JK01A-3585 hit a motorcycle bearing registration no PB36G-2431 resulting in critical injuries to two persons, reported news agency GNS. He said that one among them succumbed to his injuries while two others have been shifted to Srinagar hospital in critical condition. The official identified the deceased as Younis Ahmad Tantray son of Ghulam Mohammad Tantray, a resident ● P-02

### Man's Body Fished Out After 9 Days

Srinagar: The body of a 45-year-old man was fished out on Thursday from Wular Lake, nine days after he drowned in the river in north Kashmir's Bandipora district. The body of Hussain Ahmad Khataana of Tanghat Pethkoot has been fished out after nine days from Wular Lake today, an official said. He said that the man had drowned while grazing his cattle in Zalwan area. The official added that the body has been taken to district hospital Bandipora and after completing medical and legal formalities, it will be handed over to legal heirs for last rites—(KNO)

## Indian Army 'Tightens Grip' Over Pangong Heights

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Indian Army has further bolstered its dominance over a number of strategic heights overlooking key Chinese-held positions around Pangong lake area in eastern Ladakh even as brigade commanders and commanding officers of the two militaries held separate talks to cool tensions in the region, government sources said.

They said additional reinforcements have been made in hill tops and strategic locations around Pangong lake to keep a hawk-eye vigil on Chinese-held position of Finger 4.

The mountainous spurs in the area are referred to as Finger. China has been holding onto Finger 4 to 8 on the north bank of Pangong lake, the sources said.

The Indian Army has occupied several key heights in the strategically located Rezang-La and Regim-La areas on the southern bank of the lake since the end of August.

The sources said the two armies held separate talks at brigade commander-level as well as between commanding officers in



### Jaishankar Meets Chinese Counterpart In Moscow

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi met in Moscow on Thursday amid hopes of a possible breakthrough in reducing tensions along the Line of Actual Control ● P-02

### Rajnath Singh Issues Veiled Warning To China

Five French-made multirole Rafale jets were inducted into the Indian Air Force on Thursday at a glittering ceremony here, in a major boost to the country's air power at a time it is engaged in an ● P-02

the general area of Chushul. "The focus was to bring down

the temperatures," said a source. Tension escalated ● PAGE 02

## 'Repression' Can't Change Kashmir Reality: Hurriyat

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Policy of "fear and repression" can't alter the ground situation in Kashmir, Mirwaiz led Hurriyat Conference said on Thursday claiming that the solution to the issue lies in going to the people of all the regions of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir as it existed before 1947.

In a handout issued here, a Hurriyat spokesperson said that Kashmir remains an issue which needs to be resolved sooner or later. He said that the policy of fear and repression cannot alter the reality on ground with regard to people's belief in their sentiment and their hope to realise it.

"It is stark for those willing to see it. It is long overdue and this



dispute has to be resolved sooner or later," the spokesperson said.

He said the issue should be resolved by going to the people of all regions of J&K as it existed before August 1947, or through deliberations among the key stakeholders known to all.

The separatist conglomerate also expressed serious concern over the condition of Kashmiri prisoners including Hurriyat leaders and activists and ● PAGE 02

## 2 Militants Arrested In Kupwara: Police

SRINAGAR- Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested two Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) militants along with arms and ammunition in Kupwara district of north Kashmir.

A police official said that acting on a tip off, state forces jointly carried out an operation in the Kupwara district during which two JeM militants were arrested.

He identified the arrested militants as Waseem Irshad Gabroo of Takiyabal Arampora, Sopore and Mehraj-Ud-Din Wani of Badshah Masjid, Sopore.

"One AK-47 rifle, one AK magazine, two grenades, 30 AK rounds and cash worth Rs 7 lakh were recovered from their possessions."

The official said that a case (FIR

### Arms Cache Recovered In Uri

State forces on Thursday claimed to have recovered a large cache of arms and ammunition near the LoC in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. The Army said the operation carried out in Dulanja ● P-02

no. 233) under section Indian Arms 7/25 Act, and 1318, 19, 39 UAPA sections has been registered at police station Kupwara. "Further investigations have been set into motion," the official added.

### Vilification Campaign Aimed At Belittling Kashmir Media: KEG

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir Editors Guild (KEG) had a detailed interaction on Wednesday. All members attended the marathon meeting which was presided over by Bashir Ahmad Bashir, Editor Srinagar Times.

Discussing the special and extraordinary situation that prevailed in Jammu and Kashmir, the members detailed the highs and lows of the crisis that impacted the process of collection, processing, and disbursement of the information directly and indirectly. They identified the issues and explored the ways and means of solving them, according to a statement released after the meeting.

The newspaper editors said that "despite an overwhelming situation, they managed to keep history on record in challenging times, a tradition that has evolved over the years."

"The members took a strong note of the 'vilification' that seemingly is revived by the vested interests to undermine the institution of media in Kashmir. These campaigns were always there but these added a noise value in anticipation of the 2019 summer and seemingly have revived now, a year later", the statement said.

The members said the Kashmir media has proved its mettle throughout Kashmir's recent history and will continue to do so. "For doing so ● P-02

## 13 More Covid-19 Deaths In J&K, Toll 848

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus claimed thirteen more lives in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, taking the number of fatalities due to the deadly infection in the Union territory to 848.

While eight deaths were reported from Jammu division, the remaining five were confirmed by the officials in Kashmir valley.

In Jammu division, two deaths each were reported from Jammu, Rajouri and Samba besides one each from Doda and Reasi, officials said.

Among the victims from Jammu, included a 62-year-

old man from Pothal Reasi, who died two days after being admitted to GMC with "inferior wall myocardial infarction. "He died at 5 a.m.," a doctor at the hospital said.

A 38-year-old man from Bari Brahmana area of Samba died at 5:10 am today, two days after he was admitted to the hospital and diagnosed with Bilateral Community Acquired Pneumonia, the doctor said.

An 80-year-old man from Ustad Mohalla Jammu died at GMC, three days after he was admitted to the hospital and diagnosed with hyperten-

sion, CKD and acute ● PAGE 02

WITH THESE DEATHS, OFFICIALS said, 848 people have succumbed to the virus in Jammu and Kashmir so far. Among them, they said, 717 were from the Valley while 131 others were from Jammu division.

### 1592 New Cases Include 112 Travellers

Covid-19 cases in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday inched closer to 50,000 mark as 1592 fresh cases were reported, including 112 travelers, taking the total number of people infected by the deadly diseases across the Union Territory to 49134. For the eighth consecutive day, Covid-19 cases ● P-02

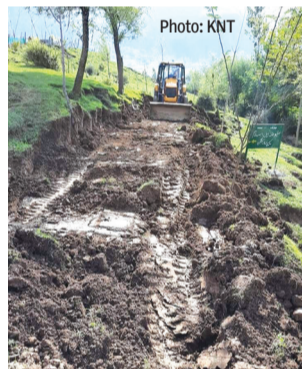
## BJP Leader Arrested For 'Vandalising' Graveyard

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Police have arrested a Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) leader after he allegedly vandalized a graveyard in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district triggering massive outrage among the locals.

According to reports, BJP leader Ghulam Qadir flanked by his security guards appeared in Kichpara village of Kangan on Tuesday afternoon and tried to forcibly make a path in the middle of a local graveyard. Qadir, reports said had also brought a JCB machine to create a pathway to the inaccessible land lying way behind the graveyard.

The villagers, reports said resented the move of the BJP leader and staged a massive protest.



Chanting anti-BJP slogans, the protesters said they won't allow the 'hooliganism and misuse' of power by the BJP leader to grab the graveyard.

Fearing the situation to go out of hands, the BJP leader fled from

the spot along with his PSOs.

However, the JCB machine which he left behind was seized by police after locals brought the issue into the notice of police and Tehsildar, reports said.

"He was trying to create a pathway for his plot through Kahcharai land. On the basis of complaint, we have taken action against him. He has been arrested. The JCB machine too was seized," SSP Ganderbal, Khalil Poswal told Kashmir Observer.

According to reports, a case FIR No 70/2020 has been filed against Qadir under sections 295A (deliberate and malicious intention of outraging the religious feeling of any class of citizens of India) and Sec 297 IPC (Trespassing on burial places) at the police station Kangan.

## Amid Covid, J&K Bank Posts Profit For Q1

Balance Sheet Further Strengthened; NPA Coverage Ratio Increased To 80.93 Pc, Core Deposits Show Marked Growth: JKB CMD

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Despite unprecedented crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, J&K Bank posted a net profit of Rs 6.50 Cr for the first quarter (Q1), of the current financial year (CFY), ended June - 2020.

The bank announced its reviewed financial results for the first quarter of CFY soon after its Board-of-Directors approved the quarterly numbers at a meeting held through video-conference here at its corporate headquarters.



The NPA coverage ratio of the bank has improved to 80.93 percent for the quarter as against 66.61 percent recorded last FY, while the Net NPA ratio of the bank has considerably reduced to 3.05 percent as against 4.36 percent recorded for the ● PAGE 02

### Family Booked For 'Gala' Wedding

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday filed a case against a family for holding a gala wedding in violation of the Covid-19 norms during which firecrackers were burst and a large number of people were invited to the function.

In a handout issued here Thursday evening, a police spokesperson said that around 10:30pm on Wednesday huge sounds were heard in Solina Payeen locality of the city creating panic in the vicinity. The locals, he said called the police station Shergarhi demanding curbing of nuisance in the area.

The preliminary enquiry, the police spokesperson said revealed that the panic created by blast like sound was due to the bursting of fire crackers in a marriage ceremony in the house of Ghulam Nabi Bhat.

"The owner of the house ● P-02

### Govt Employee Booked For Migrant Relief Fraud

JAMMU: The Crime branch of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday booked a government employee from the valley for withdrawing relief meant for Kashmiri migrants by fraudulent means, an officer said on Thursday. Mukhtiyar Ahmed Sheikh of Achabal in Anantnag district, who is employed with the health department in Mattan, prepared documents to entitle him to draw relief in both cash and kind as a Kashmiri migrant, a Crime Branch, Jammu officer said.

The crime branch registered a criminal case against the accused for his involvement in withdrawal of relief and ration worth lakhs of rupees by resorting to impersonation and forgery after hatching a criminal conspiracy with ● P-02

## HC Orders Completion Of Selection By SKUAST (K) Despite Govt Order

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Thursday directed SKUAST (K) to proceed with and conclude the selection process regarding appointment of Assistant Professor and Jr. Scientist in various disciplines advertised on March 7 last year.

The posts advertised included Assistant Professor and Jr. Scientist in the disciplines of Veterinary Physiology, Live Stock Production Management, Veterinary Public Health and Veterinary Biochemistry. However despite lapse of about nine months, the selection process has not made any progress beyond screening stage.

The university stated the selection process was put on hold in view of the communication of the Finance



Department on 4 July 2019. Following notice to the government by the high court, the latter filed a status report, revealing that the Finance Department has issued a circular on 4th July, 2019, in terms whereof the SKUAST was required to seek financial concurrence before advertising the posts in question and that it had to route the proposal through Administrative Department i.e., Agriculture Production Department which has not been done. ● PAGE 02

## In FOCUS

Swati Joshi

RECENTLY, when it rained, Mehraj regretted her decision to travel by road. She had ditched the flight to Srinagar to "enjoy the picturesque route". But sadly, the experience turned out to be sour.

Mehraj was stuck on the Srinagar-Jammu highway—also called NH (National Highway)—44—for 24 hours. Even when the traffic started moving, she was always on the look for falling debris on the bumpy road.

Traveling to and from Kashmir valley by road has been a nightmare for tourists, locals, truck drivers,

and for those innumerable people for whom the highway is the only road to connect the landlocked region with the rest of world.

Be it the unstoppable monsoons or snow-clad winters, the 287-km long NH-44 can get blocked anytime.

According to the J&K State Disaster Management Policy report 2017, "J&K has recorded more deaths in traffic accidents than militancy."

The report does not primarily talk about NH-44 but it is a part of the catastrophe.

The report stated 3,086 accidents and 464 deaths in J&K in 2017.

Accidental Report 2018, by the National Highway Authority of



India (NHAI), claimed that J&K reported 2,118 road accidents on the National Highway.

J&K secured 21th position out of 36 states and union territories, in the 'total number of persons killed

in road accidents on national highways' ranking.

The area along NH-44 is prone to landslides and avalanches due to the prolonged precipitation resulting in loss of life and property.

Some of the main landslides and shooting stone zones are Panthyal, Anokhifal, Kheri, Ramsos Maroog, Nashri, Battery Cheshma, along the Bichleri stream in Ramban and Udhampur district.

"Most of the cases will be along roads where rocks are cut to make ways because it exposes them and makes them vulnerable to sliding," said Dr. Afroz Ahmad Shah, Assistant Professor in Structural ● PAGE 02