



Maximum : 24°C SUNSET Today 06:22 PM
Minimum : 11°C SUNRISE Tomorrow 06:22 AM
Humidity : 61%

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News Digest

Two Medium-Intensity Quakes Hit Ladakh

New Delhi: Two medium-intensity earthquakes of magnitude 5.4 and 3.6 hit the Ladakh region on Friday, the National Centre for Seismology (NCS) said. The first quake of magnitude 5.4 occurred at 4.27 pm at a depth of 10 kms and the second quake of magnitude 3.6 at a depth of 10 kms hit the region at 5.29 pm, it said. The Himalayan region is known for high seismic activities.

Car Falls Into Kathua Gorge, 2 Dead

Kathua: Two persons were killed and a minor girl seriously injured when a car they were travelling in skidded off the road and rolled down into a 100-feet gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Friday, officials said. The car, which was going from Sandhar to Bhoond in the district, skidded off the road and rolled down into the deep gorge at Jandari belt of Basholi area, they said. In the accident, two persons died while a minor girl identified as Pratiksha (8), daughter of Vijay Singh and a resident of Sandhar, was admitted for treatment at Basholi hospital, they said. The deceased were identified as Soom. P-02

India, Pak Troops Trade Fire Along LoC

Srinagar: India and Pakistan troops Friday exchanged heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. Around 10:15 pm Friday, Pakistani troops initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling with mortars along LoC in Degwar sector of Poonch district, a Defence Spokesperson said. Indian army, he said replied befittingly to the ceasefire violation. "No injury or major damage has been. P-02

DGP Awards 25 CRPF Personnel

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag Singh has awarded commendation certificate class-1 along with cash reward to 25 CRPF personnel in appreciation of their excellent performance on the counter-militancy front, police said on Friday. While ASI Nounihal Singh has been rewarded with a commendation certificate class-1 along with cash reward of Rs 25,000, Constable Narendra Kumar and Head Constable Rajesh Kumar have been awarded with commendation certificate class-1 along with cash reward of Rs 15,000 each for showing. P-02

2 Sisters Killed After Ambulance Overtakes

Srinagar: Two sisters were killed and two others injured on Friday in a road accident in Qazigund area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district. A Srinagar bound ambulance (PB02 BY-1387) carrying two Covid-19 patients Haji Maryam Sheikh and Zareena Shiekh of Kishtwar turned turtle at Nipora area of Qazigund on Friday evening leaving both the women dead, news agency GNS reported. The driver Umer Jehangir and another man identified as Arfan Khan of Poonch suffered injuries in the road accident. According to the report, over speeding was the reason of tragic accident. Meanwhile, police has registered a case and started further investigations in this regard.

SHOPIAN 'FAKE ENCOUNTER'

DNA Confirms 3 Slain Shopian 'Militants' Were Labourers

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The DNA samples of three men who were killed in an alleged fake encounter with the Army in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district in July have matched with their families from Rajouri, a senior police officer said on Friday. Asked whether the three men were indeed labourers, as claimed by their families, and not involved in militant activities, he said it is a matter of further investigation.

The relatives of three youths, belonging to Dhar Sakri village in Kotranka of Rajouri area in Poonch, had lodged a written missing persons report at the local police station after they lost contact with them on July 17.

In their complaint, they informed the police that they had last spoken to the three, who were mainly involved in apple and walnut trading, on July 17 when the youths had informed their families that they had got a room at Ashimpura in Shopian.

Three boys, Mohammad Imtiyaz and Ibrar Ahmed, both



File Photo

'Who Planted 'Incriminating Material'?', Asks Omar

Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah on Friday questioned the official version that arms and ammunition were recovered from the Shopian encounter site in July after the DNA tests on Friday proved that the three slain men were labourers from Rajouri. P-02

It Was A 'Stage Managed Encounter': PDP

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Friday demanded stern and speedy action against the perpetrators of the Shopian "fake encounter" urging for transparent and time-bound investigation to deliver justice to the families of the victims. P-02

residents of Kathuni mohalla of Dharsakri village of Rajouri, and Mohammad Ibrar, a resident of Tarkassi village of Rajouri, P-02

THE DNA REPORT HAS COME AND MATCHING HAS TAKEN place," Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar told reporters here.

Pak PM Assails New Delhi For Kashmir Moves

NEW YORK: Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan Friday assailed Indian government and its moves to cement control of Muslim-majority Kashmir, calling India a "state sponsor of hatred and prejudice against Islam."

Khan said that Islamophobia prevails in India today and threatens the close to 200 million Muslims who live there. "They believe that India is exclusive to Hindus and others are not equal citizens," Khan said in a prerecorded speech to the U.N. General Assembly, which is being held virtually amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Khan has frequently criticized the decision by the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in August 2019 to strip Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, scrap its separate constitution and remove. P-02

PM To Address UNGA Today

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the United Nations General Assembly for the general debate in the 75th session of the General Assembly on Saturday. He is scheduled as the first speaker in the forenoon of September 26 (Saturday).

Since the UNGA this year is being held in the backdrop of COVID-19 pandemic. P-02

Two Top Militants Killed In Anantnag Encounter

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commanders were killed in an overnight encounter with government forces in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, police said.

Based on specific information about the presence of militants in Sirhama area of the south Kashmir district, state forces launched a cordon and search operation on Thursday evening, a police officer said.

He said the search operation turned into an encounter after the militants fired upon the forces, who retaliated.

A tight cordon was maintained throughout the night to prevent the two militants from escaping. They were killed in the exchange of fire this morning, the officer said.

4 Youth Injured In Blast Near Gunfight Site

Four youth were injured after some explosive substance went off near the encounter site in Sirhama area of Bijnbehara in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Thursday, official sources said. The incident happened soon after the encounter in which two Lashkar-e-Taiba militants were killed, reported news. P-02

Incriminating materials, including arms and ammunition, were recovered from the encounter site, he said. Addressing a press P-02

ONE OF THE MILITANTS HAS BEEN identified as Abu Rehan from Pakistan, who was active since March 2019. The second one has been identified as Adil Rashid Bhat, who was also a Lashkar commander,"

Two Held With Arms, Cash In Kulgam: Police

Two persons were arrested and a huge quantity of arms, ammunition and cash seized from their possession in south Kashmir's Kulgam district, police said on Friday. State forces seized a huge quantity of arms, ammunition. P-02

'3 Youth Prevented From Joining Violent Path'

Police on Friday claimed to have prevented three youth from joining the "violent path" in Sumbal area of Bandipora district. Bandipora police on its official Twitter handle informed that they prevented 3 youth of Sumbal area from. P-02

MeT Predicts Wet Spell In Kashmir From Today

SRINAGAR: The weather department on Friday predicted two-day wet spell from Saturday during which the plains will receive rains while the upper reaches are likely to receive season's first snowfall. According to a weather department official, due to feeble western disturbance, light isolated to scattered rain/snowfall will occur over higher reaches of Kashmir and Kargil district most likely during September 26-27th. "No forecast of any Major Rain/snow for next 2 weeks. Day temperature expected to drop by 4-5 degree Celsius," the official added.

China Wants India To Vacate Key Heights Before De-Escalation On LAC

Agencies

NEW DELHI: China is insisting that India vacates strategic heights on the south bank of Pangong Lake ahead of talks on disengagement on the LAC, top Indian Army sources said.

During the Corps Commander-level talks, China told India that will not discuss disengagement in eastern Ladakh, where the build-up by both sides has triggered a war-like situation over the last four months, till the time P-02

Trump Offers Help To Defuse Border Tension

US President Donald Trump hoped on Thursday that India and China would be able to resolve their current border disputes as he reiterated his offer to help the two Asian giants. "I know that China now, and India, are having difficulty, and very very substantial. P-02

Covid-19 Claims 23 More Lives In J&K, Toll 1111

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least 23 people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, raising the number of fatalities due to the deadly infection across the Union Territory to 1111.

Officials said Friday that 12 more people in Kashmir valley died of Covid-19, while 11 deaths due to the virus were reported from Jammu division. In Jammu, five of the victims were from the J&K's winter capital while two were from Udhampur and one each from Kathua, Doda, Samba and Poonch.

Among others, the victims from Jammu included a 71-year-old of Preet Nagar, a 65-year-old woman from Morh, and a 58-year-old from Janipora Jammu. Regarding Valley, they said, six were from Srinagar, three from Pulwama and one each from Kupwara, Ganderbal and Shopian.

The victims from Valley include 75-year-old woman from Kadi Kadal Srinagar, an 80-year-old from Al Farooq Colony Bemina, a 66-year-old from Rawalpura, a 75-year-old from Bota Kadal, a 60-year-old woman from Hamdania Colony Bemina, a 75-year-old from Chundina Gan-

5 Docs, 74 Security Men Among New Cases
Jammu and Kashmir reported on Friday 1218 fresh cases of coronavirus, including 76 travelers, 74 security personnel and five doctors, taking the total number of people infected by the virus to 69832 in the Union Territory. P-02



Masrat Zahra Receives Peter Mackler Award Kashmiri photojournalist Masrat Zahra on Thursday received the Peter Mackler prize for courageous and ethical journalism thanks to her coverage of women impacted by decades of unrest in Kashmir. P-02

Appeal In Israel Against Training Policemen Accused Of Abuse In Kashmir

Agencies

DOHA: Dozens of Israeli activists have petitioned the Supreme Court of the Jewish state seeking to bar the country's security forces from training Indian police officers involved in "severe violations" of human rights and international law in Kashmir.

"With this petition, we are trying our best to show solidarity with the people of Kashmir," Al Jazeera quoted Israeli human rights activist Sigal Kook Avivi, one among 40 people behind the petition, as saying.

The document was signed in January after the Israeli Police, Ministry of



Photo courtesy: Twitter

Internal Security and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs refused to pre-screen members of Indian police force from J&K, according to Israeli human rights lawyer Eitay Mack, who filed the petition. As Israel returned to a second nationwide coronavirus lockdown last week, court proceedings are likely to be further delayed.

"The fact that India is 'the largest democracy in the world', and is an important political and economic partner of the state of Israel and Western countries, cannot legally and morally justify providing assistance to specific Indian officers who are involved in grave crimes under international law in Kashmir, by way of training by police in Israel," the petition stated.

Avivi, who has worked among African asylum seekers in Israel, said "as citizens of the world, we want to say we know what is happening to you, we are not ignorant ... we see it, we hear it, we know it". P-02

In FOCUS Lament Over Lawyer: 'He Would Receive Threats In Front Of His Family'

Police Forms SIT To Probe Qadri's Killing

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday said it has constituted a special investigation team (SIT) to probe the killing of advocate Babar Qadri who was shot dead by unidentified gunmen here on Thursday.

Speaking to reporters at a press conference here, Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said the case was a top priority for the force and an SIT has been formed to probe it.

I went to the (Qadri's) house this morning and inspected the scene of the crime. We have formed an SIT headed by SP Hazratbal. It. P-02

A day after losing their assertive son to assassins, family members of the fallen advocate assembled at their ancestral hometown in north Kashmir's Tangmarg area. Amid shrieks and cries, slain Babar Qadri was paid tribute with moist eyes.

By Auqib Javed

SHEIKHPORA, Tangmarg - Barely a day after his pistol-borne assassins showed up at his Srinagar home as clients, the advocate is resting in his grave carpeted by rose petals, shield-

ed by an open tin shack. The visitors mumbled prayers and silently grieved over the passage that rattled Kashmir at the twilight of September 24.

Babar Qadri's assassination made his non-decrepit birthplace an elegiac place overnight. Amid pandemic coronavirus, hundreds of people thronged his Tangmarg home, with moist eyes.

Amid gloom, his relatives and family members took turns to recount his "bravery, kind-heartedness" and the cases he would fight for the "indicted sons of poor" without charging a penny. Insert Pic 1 here



A day after shot multiple-times, in an execution-style, the articulate—now silenced—advocate's mother constantly came out of a mourner tent to enquire,

"Aawkha, Mianiey Yaroo" (Are you home, my beloved?)

However, to crack the case on a priority, Kashmir's top cop, IGP Vijay Kumar on Friday announced the formation of the Special Investigation Team (SIT).

"Babar was fearless and would talk very openly," a relative grieving over the loss said.

"The family members had apprehensions about his life because of his controversies with many people. But we never knew that his frank advocacy would end up taking his life."

Insert Pic 2 here Babar's father Syed Yaseen

Qadri mostly sat silent amidst the sentimental swarm surrounding him. His son's killing had once again forced him to return to his roots.

For his Jama'at-e-Islami ties, the senior Qadri had faced the offensive during the early nineties, forcing him to take a shelter in downtown Srinagar, he now calls his home.

But when the same home became insecure for his vocal son—who earlier reported assassination attempts on his life—IGP Kumar said that the advocate was asked to shift to a safe zone.

He stayed put until P-02

Qadri's Killing Heartbreaking: APHC

SRINAGAR: Expressing shock and grief over the killing of prominent lawyer Advocate Babar Qadri by unknown gunmen, Mirwaiz led Hurriyat Conference on Friday said that the peaceful resolution of Kashmir was the only way to ensure that precious human lives on all sides are saved from getting consumed.

In a statement issued to media here, a Hurriyat spokesperson termed Qadri's assassination by unidentified gunmen at his Hawal residence as "gruesome. P-02