



Maximum : 22°C
Minimum : 05°C
Humidity : 35%

SUNSET
Today 05:42 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:47 AM



News Digest

SHO, Head Constable Caught With Bribe

SRINAGAR: The sleuths of anti-corruption bureau (ACB) on Tuesday arrested Station House Officer and Head Constable in central Kashmir's Budgam district while accepting bribe from a complainant. Acting on a complaint from a man that SHO Gowhar Gul and MHC Nazir Ahmad Bhat of Police Station Khagwere demanding Rs4000 as bribe from him, the ACB filed a case FIR No.21/2020 U/S 7 Prevention of Corruption Act and constituted a team to lay a trap, an ACB spokesperson said. "Subsequently, a successful trap was laid in which the accused were apprehended red handed while demanding and ● P-02

CRPF Man Slips To Death In Tral

Tral: A CRPF personnel died on the spot after falling from the stairs of his camp in south Kashmir's Tral on Tuesday. Chandepal was coming down from the stairs of his camp when he slipped and fell down, sources said. Due to the fall, the trooper sustained grievous injuries resulting in his on spot death. The incident occurred in the camp of 180 Battalion CRPF at Tral. South Kashmir based spokesperson for CRPF feigned ignorance about the incident saying he will ascertain the facts. (KNT)

Cardiac Arrest Kills Non-Local In Budgam

SRINAGAR: A non-local laborer died of cardiac arrest in Beerwah area of central Kashmir's Budgam district on Tuesday. Vijay Bahadur, son of Mahavir, a resident of Uttar Pradesh, suffered massive cardiac arrest while he was working in a brick kiln in Beerwah Budgam on Tuesday, official sources said. He was immediately shifted to sub-district hospital Beerwah while doctors declared him brought dead. (KDC)

Leopard Injures 4 In Pulwama

SRINAGAR: Four persons were injured after a leopard attacked them in Rohmoo village of South Kashmir's Pulwama district on Tuesday. A leopard appeared in orchards of the area on Tuesday morning and mauled four persons including a lady, locals said. The injured identified as AbdulAhad Dar, Ishfaq Ahmad Dar, Umar Gul and Taja Begum were rushed to a PHC Rohmoo from where they have been shifted to District Hospital Pulwama for advanced treatment, they said. Meanwhile, locals of the area staged a protest against ● P-02

6 Injured As Cab Falls Into Gorge

Poonch: Six persons were injured, four of them critically, when a passenger cab they were travelling in rolled down 200 feet into a gorge in Mendhar area in this mountainous district on Tuesday. Around 5:00 pm Tuesday a Tata Sumo (HP69/5056) met with the accident in near Kikarmorh Mendhar, resulting in injuries to six persons identified as MohdAyoub (driver), Haji MohdIsa, MohdNaseem, Sahira Bi, RukhsanaKousar and Wajid, all residents of the same village. "All persons have been ● P-02

Outsiders Can Now Buy Land In Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh

Centre Notifies Jammu And Kashmir Land Laws, Omits 'Permanent Resident' As Criteria

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: In a significant move, the Centre has paved the way for people from across India to buy land in Jammu and Kashmir by amending several laws, more than a year after the nullification of Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution.

In a gazette notification in Hindi and English, the Ministry of Home Affairs has made several changes to the land laws, including allowing use of agricultural land for setting up facilities of public purpose.

"With immediate effect, the Acts mentioned in the Schedule to this Order shall, until repealed or amended by a competent Legislature or other competent authority, have effect, subject to the adaptations and modifications directed by the said Schedule, or if it is so directed, shall stand repealed," read the order.

The General Clauses Act, 1897 applies for the interpretation of this current Order since it applies for interpretation of laws in force in India, said the order. Meanwhile 12 state laws have been repealed as a whole.

Meanwhile those legislations which are being repealed as whole include the Jammu and ● PAGE 02

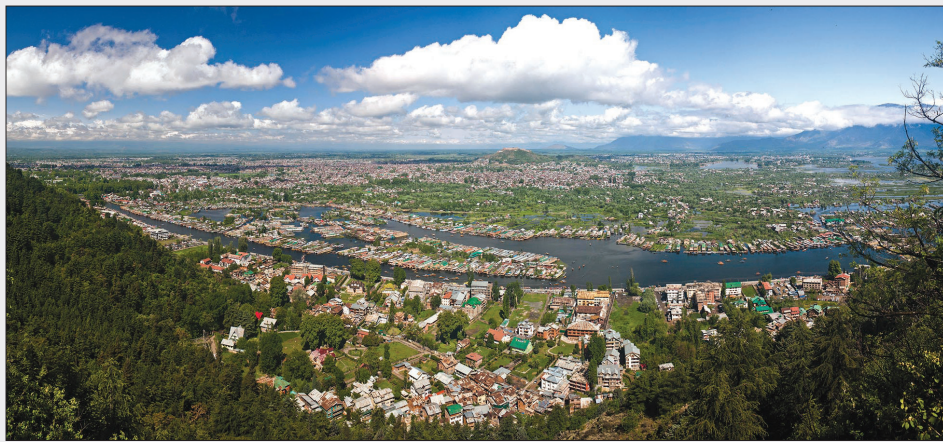


Image for representation

'Kashmir Up For Sale': JK, Ladakh Unionists Slam New Land Laws

Auqib Javeed

Despite his one-man protest amid pernicious pandemic to secure land and job rights for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, Harsh Dev Singh feels a big letdown after New Delhi on

Tuesday went ahead to notify new land laws for Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, making it possible for any Indian citizen to buy land in the region.

The same laws have empowered the armed forces to declare any area as strategic and use it for their operational and

training purposes.

The move has sparked fears of "demographic change" among locals, even as the regional unionist camp has upped its ante against New Delhi's new steps in the former state.

"This is an obnoxious move," Singh, a senior Panthers ● PAGE 02

New Laws Will Open Floodgates Of Development: BJP

JAMMU: The new land laws notified by the central government allowing people from outside Jammu and Kashmir to buy land in the Union Territory will open the "floodgates

of development", the BJP said on Tuesday.

In a statement, senior BJP leader and former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta said, "The amendments in the

land laws will mark the beginning of a new era of development in the Union Territory with new avenues waiting for the residents to become part of this new journey of

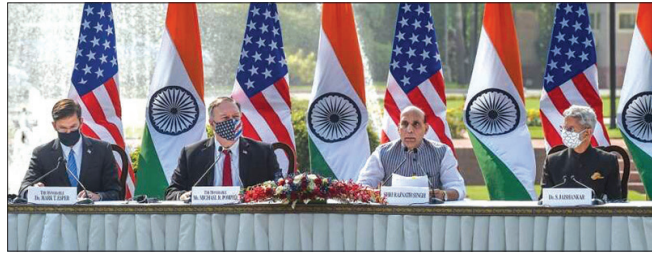
progress and prosperity which Prime Minister Narendra Modi has promised to one and all."

Interacting with party workers here, he said, "The changes (in laws) ● PAGE 02

Amid Ladakh Standoff, India, US Ink Defence Pact

Pompeo Says US Stands With India On Galwan Valley Clash

NEW DELHI: India and the US signed the landmark defence pact, BECA, that will allow sharing of high-end military technology, geospatial maps and classified satellite data between their militaries as the two countries held a high-level dialogue on Tuesday, and vowed to ramp up their security ties and boost strategic cooperation ● PAGE 02



Gunfight Rages On In Mouchwa, Budgam

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Two Jaish-e-Muhammad militants are believed to be trapped in an ongoing encounter that broke out in Budgam district of central Kashmir on Tuesday.

According to the reports, army's 50RR, special operations group (SOG) of police assisted by CRPF laid a cordon around Mouchwa area of

the district after receiving an input about the presence of militants.

The search operation turned into a gunfight when the militants opened fire upon the advancing team of government forces in a bid to escape from their dragnet. The search team, reports said returned the fire setting off a fierce gun-battle.

A local news agency GNS quoted an unnamed police ● PAGE 02

Top Security Brass Discusses Panchayat Poll Strategy

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Core Group, comprising top army commanders, police and civil administration officers on Tuesday held a meeting here to discuss the prevailing situation across Jammu and Kashmir and the security strategy to be adopted in view of the upcoming Panchayat polls.

General Officer Commanding, Chinari Corps, Lt Gen BS Raju and Director General of Police (DGP)

Dilbag Singh, co-chaired a meeting of the Core Group consisting of top officials of civil administration, intelligence agencies, state forces and the Divisional Commissioner at Srinagar, an army spokesperson said Tuesday.

Besides discussing Kashmir situation, the Core Group, he said also reviewed the security requirements during the upcoming Panchayat elections and to discuss the winter security strategy.

"Officials shared that ● PAGE 02

7 More Coronavirus Deaths In J&K

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Seven more people died of coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, taking the overall fatality count since the outbreak of pandemic in the Union territory to 1452.

Four more people succumbed to Covid-19 in Jammu division, while three fatalities due to the deadly infection were reported from Kashmir

Valley, officials said Tuesday.

Among the four victims from Jammu division, officials said two were residents of Jammu district while one each from Udhampur and Reasi. The three victims from Valley hailed from Srinagar, Kupwara and Bandipora districts.

A 63-year-old man from Rainwari here died at CD hospital, one of the exclusive facilities for the ● PAGE 02

452 More Test Positive Including Doctor

Two Border Security Force (BSF) personnel and a doctor were among 452 new Covid-19 cases detected in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, taking the total number of ● P-02

Pak Summons Indian Envoy Over Kashmir Issue

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday summoned the Indian Chargé d' Affaires to protest over the Kashmir issue. The Foreign Office in a statement said the Indian diplomat was summoned to register "strong protest" on the "Kashmir Black Day".

It demanded that India rescind its "unilateral" action of withdrawing Jammu and Kashmir's special status and bifurcating it into two union territories -- Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Pakistan has been trying to drum up international support against India for withdrawing Jammu and Kashmir's special status on August 5 last year and bifurcating it into two union territories.

Prime Minister Imran Khan in his message said that Pakistan will continue to raise his voice in support of Kashmiris.

India has firmly told Pakistan that the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has been, is, and shall continue to be an integral part of India. New Delhi has maintained that issues related to Jammu and Kashmir are internal matters to India.

GOI Declares Hizb Chief Salahuddin, 17 Others As 'Terrorists'

NEW DELHI: The government on Tuesday designated 18 more individuals as "terrorists" including chief of the banned Hizbul Mujahideen Syed Sallahuddin, founders of Indian Mujahideen Bhatkal brothers and a close lieutenant of underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, Chhota Shakeel, taking the total number of such proscribed persons to 31.

The announcement by the Union Home Ministry came on the day the India-US 2+2 ministerial dialogue took place here where Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar met their American counterparts.

The hijackers of an ● P-02

LG Okays Over 10,000 Loan Cases For Entrepreneurs

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday announced sanction of over 10,000 loan cases for the union territory's budding entrepreneurs under various programmes.

Sinha said his mantra for Jammu and Kashmir revolved around 'four Ps' -- peace, progress, prosperity and people.

The sanctioning of over 10,000 cases under B2V3 (back to village-3) self employment programme, economic package and 'My Town-My Pride' ● P-02

Enforce Polythene Ban Strictly: HC

SRINAGAR: Prohibition on polythene required to be strictly enforced, the Jammu and Kashmir High Court has said and asked the authorities to notifying the public regarding the prohibitions and fines for carrying such material in ecologically fragile J&K and Ladakh.

"A direction is issued to the Home Department, J&K State Pollution Control Board, Tourism Department, Floriculture Department, Environment ● P-02

In FOCUS

Zeenish Imroz

Running fingers in his snow-white beard, thoughtful Abdul Aziz Khan recalls his childhood lingering memory with a sense of deep anguish.

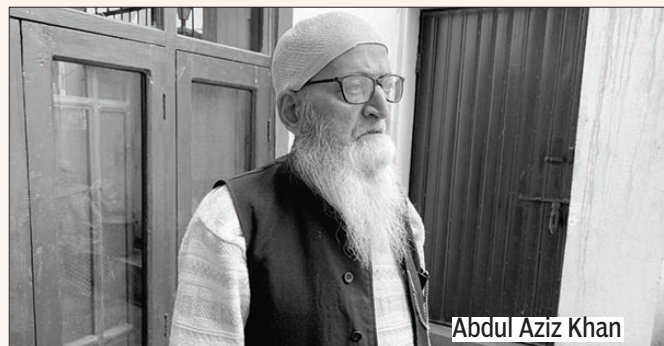
It was a historic huff, he recalls, forcing his tribe of simpletons to abandon their homes after troops were flown in sorties. When the same gunners shadowed their shelter, he saw an impending danger staring at them.

"Hiding from those gunners in an abandoned home, we were maintaining a dead silence before my year-old sister started crying," octo-

genarian Aziz recalls his personal history of the bloodcurdling fall of 1947. "One of the men hiding with us asked my mother to choke her baby to death but fortunately she fell asleep in a few seconds."

Today, Aziz says, his sister wouldn't have been alive if she hadn't slept at that time. "My mother immediately covered her with her scarf," he recalls. "When the army retreated, we heard the cries of a woman begging for her life!" How was that woman, Aziz could never know.

Today, his wizened face can't conceal the heart of the eleven-year-old boy who would run in the streets of Lal Chowk abuzz with



Abdul Aziz Khan

young and old buying colourful sugary snacks from hawkers outside the Palladium Cinema in the middle of the night.

The wrinkly smile and sparkling eyes were sleekly portraying the lively era Aziz has since longed for. A colourful canvas that was scraped of the

cheerful tint. But soon, his birthplace, a center of trade, politics or cinema culture would become a war theatre, where some self-styled militia would parade with wooden weapons.

By the fall of 1947, as the subcontinent was profusely bleeding due to partition trauma, Lal Chowk had started getting the whiff of the lethal air. The streets, as Aziz recalls now, wore deceptive calm. But to feed their sense of security, people would guard their doors with heavy grinding stones called kanz.

Aziz's mother Raja Begum was a lean lady who would religiously wear a black Afghan Burqa. She had to leave their house in Koker

Bazar because of property dispute amid heightened tensions in the city and live with her maternal family in Peer Bagh where the scenario was all the more devastating.

An area falling in the close range of airport, Peer Bagh had already seen the arrival of the Sikh regiment airlifted to Kashmir on October 27, 1947. "People were running away from their homes, to save themselves from the torment of the hostile soldiers," he recalls. Aziz and his family were also forced to run away.

Walking the whole night in darkness in a group of 20, they reached Gooyrrpur, where they took shelter inside an abandoned house upon seeing stern soldiers.

"We saw copper bowls filled with rice and egg-and-tomato dish left untouched by the inhabitants who had abandoned their home to save

their lives," Aziz recalls.

"As army entered the premises of that house, a dog barked at them. He was shot dead instantly. It instilled a great terror in our hearts. One of those soldiers climbed to the attic and screamed, 'O Prem! There is no one here!'"

Some thirty minutes later, Aziz and others saw a multitude of Kashmiris, crying and carrying utensils on their head. They were running for their lives. Aziz and his family began the journey with this large group at night again and reached Changund.

"The soldiers would enter houses and let loose the terror for no reason," Khan recalls. "My maternal uncle wearing a long pheran was mistaken as a Kashmiri Pandit. He was left untouched, but forced to steal poultry from the coops of the abandoned Muslim homes."

Somber Homecoming ● PAGE 02