

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

Rajneesh posted as...

Government, Finance Department, has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, with immediate effect.

COVID: J&K records...

patients was 4,49,107, the officials said. All the fresh cases were from Kashmir division of the union territory, the officials said, adding the Srinagar district recorded the highest of seven cases. Eighteen of the total 22 districts in the Union territory did not report any fresh cases.

The death toll in the union territory due to the pandemic was 4,751 as no fresh death was reported in the past 24 hours. Meanwhile, one fresh COVID-19 case was reported in Ladakh, taking the overall virus tally in the Union Territory to 28,239, officials said.

The number of active cases, however, dropped to eight after the recovery of two more patients in Leh on Friday, the officials said, adding that with this the number of recovered patients in Ladakh has gone up to 28,003.

According to the officials, there was no COVID-related death in the region, which has so far recorded 228 fatalities linked to the pandemic since its outbreak.

Of the total fatalities, Leh district accounted for the highest 168 deaths among 22,959 cases, followed by 60 in Kargil which had recorded a total of 5,280 cases.

The officials said the new case was reported in Kargil, taking the number of active cases in the district to two. Leh has six active COVID-19 cases.

Political, social organisations...

and Kashmir with the participants expressing grave concern over the increased targeted attacks on innocents including the members of the minority community and non-local workers in the Valley.

The meeting regretted that the government has utterly failed to arrest the situation leading to the atmosphere of fear among innocent people including Panchayati Raj Institutions members, minorities and non-locals in Kashmir.

Expressing deep sympathies with families of those killed and injured besides the members of the security forces who laid down their lives during anti-militancy operations, the meeting demanded fool-proof security measures for the vulnerable sections.

The meeting also expressed grave concern over attempts to create wedge among communities and disturb religious brotherhood and harmony by various provocative means like the highly condemnable incident of vandalism at Sidhra temple in Jammu recently, the statement said.

Demanding immediate action against culprits to expose the conspiracy, the statement appealed to the people to rise against such communal and mischievous forces and not to allow peace and harmony to be disturbed at any cost.

All right thinking people and secular forces should stand united to defeat nefarious designs of divisive and communal forces active in the region, the statement said.

Rejecting the delimitation commission exercise as non-transparent , the statement said its draft report has caused grave injustice and inconvenience to the people at most places due to non-adherence of different settled principle and parameters for the exercise.

The Commission has not bothered to visit different districts or give a fair and patient hearing to the genuinely aggrieved people and areas creating an impression that the Commission will not be able to do justice to the people, it said.

The statement demanded that the Commission should consider all genuine objections and representations against its draft report which is highly illogical and against the ground situation, before finalising its report as the aggrieved people have no remedy thereafter.

It also demanded that the prime minister should honour the commitment on the floor of the Parliament regarding restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, without any further delay, followed by early assembly elections to restore democracy in order to give respite to the people from the non-accountable bureaucratic regime.

Jammu: 100 IRP...

IRP Jammu cleared promotion of 13 Head Constables and 87 Selection Grade Constables.

The DIG congratulated the promotees and their families on their elevation and has asked them to continue working with dedication and commitment towards achieving the organisational goals. He also encouraged them to perform duties with added zeal to win laurels for the force, particularly in the light of every day challenges.

Ukraine war far...

In the Kyiv region, Ukrainian authorities have reported finding the bodies of more than 900 civilians, most shot dead, since Russian troops retreated two weeks ago. Smoke rose from the capital again early Saturday as Mayor Vitali Klitschko reported a strike that killed one person and wounded several.

The mayor advised residents who fled the city earlier in the war not to return.

We're not ruling out further strikes on the capital, Klitschko said. If you have the opportunity to stay a little bit longer in the cities where it's safer, do it.

It was not immediately clear from the ground what was hit in Saturday's strike on Kyiv's Darnytskyi district. The sprawling district on the southeastern edge of the capital contains a mixture of Soviet-style apartment blocks, newer shopping centers and big-box retail outlets, industrial areas and railyards.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said an armored vehicle plant was targeted. He didn't specify where the plant is located, but there is one in the Darnytskyi district.

He said the plant was among multiple Ukrainian military sites hit with air-launched high-precision long-range weapons. As the U.S. and Europe send new

arms to Ukraine, the strategy could be aimed at hobbling Ukraine's defenses ahead of what's expected to be a full-scale Russian assault in the east.

It was the second strike in the Kyiv area since the Russian military vowed this week to step up missile strikes on the capital. Another hit a missile plant on Friday as residents emerged for walks, foreign embassies planned to reopen and other tentative signs of the city's prewar life began to resurface following the failure of Russian troops to capture Kyiv and their withdrawal to concentrate on the east.

Kyiv was one of many targets Saturday. The Ukrainian president's office reported missile strikes and shelling over the past 24 hours in eight regions stretching across the country.

The governor of the Lviv region in western Ukraine far from the volatile east and an area long seen as a safe zone reported airstrikes on the region by Russian Su-35 aircraft that took off from neighboring Belarus.

In apparent preparations for its assault on the east, the Russian military intensified shelling of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, in recent days. Along with killing civilians, Friday's assault wounded more than 50 people, the Ukrainian president's office reported.

On Saturday, an explosion believed to be caused by a missile sent emergency workers scrambling near an outdoor market in Kharkiv, according to AP journalists at the scene. One person was killed, and at least 18 people were wounded, according to rescue workers.

All the windows, all the furniture, all destroyed. And the door, too," recounted stunned resident Valentina Ulianova.

In southeastern Ukraine, the pummeled southern port city of Mariupol is holding out, but the situation is critical, the Ukrainian president's office said. Russian forces have maintained a blockade there since the early days of the invasion, and dwindling numbers of Ukrainian defenders have held out against the siege.

Mariupol's capture would allow Russian forces in the south, which came up through the annexed Crimean Peninsula, to fully link up with troops in the Donbas region, Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland.

The battle for control of Mariupol has come at a horrific cost to trapped and starving civilians. Locals reported seeing Russian troops digging up bodies from residential courtyards and prohibiting new burials. It was unclear why.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy appealed for more Western arms and a global embargo on Russian oil, and accused Russian troops occupying Ukrainian cities of terrorizing civilians.

The occupiers think this will make it easier for them to control this territory. But they are very wrong. They are fooling themselves, Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address. Russia's problem is that it is not accepted and never will be accepted by the entire Ukrainian people. Russia has lost Ukraine forever.

He also warned in an interview with CNN that all of the countries of the world should be prepared for the possibility that Russian President Vladimir Putin could use tactical nuclear weapons, an underlying fear ever since the invasion of Ukraine started on Feb. 24.

Zelenskyy estimated that 2,500 to 3,000 Ukrainian troops have died in the war, and about 10,000 have been injured. The office of Ukraine's prosecutor general said Saturday that at least 200 children have been killed since the start of the war, and more than 360 wounded.

The Russians also have taken captive some 700 Ukrainian troops and more than 1,000 civilian, Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said Saturday. Ukraine holds about the same number of Russian troops as prisoners and intends to arrange a swap with Moscow, but is demanding the release of civilians without any conditions, Vereshchuk said.

Russia's warning of stepped-up attacks on Kyiv came after Russian authorities accused Ukraine on Thursday of wounding seven people and damaging about 100 residential buildings with airstrikes in Bryansk, a region bordering Ukraine.

Ukrainian officials have not confirmed striking targets in Russia. However, they claimed responsibility for destroying a key Russian warship with missiles earlier this week, in an important victory for Ukraine and symbolic defeat for Russia.

The Moskva sank Thursday after taking heavy damage. Moscow did not acknowledge any attack, saying only that a fire had detonated ammunition on board.

The sinking reduces Russia's firepower in the Black Sea and seemed to symbolize Moscow's fortunes in an eight-week invasion widely seen as a historic blunder following the Russian retreat from the Kyiv region and much of northern Ukraine.

After the withdrawal, bodies were abandoned in the streets of towns around Kyiv or given temporary burials. Andriy Nebytov, who heads the region's police force, cited police data indicating 95% died from gunshot wounds, saying they were simply executed in the streets.

More bodies are being found every day under rubble and in mass graves, he added, with the largest number found in Bucha, more than 350.

The diplomatic chasm between Russia and the West deepened further Saturday, as Moscow barred British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and a dozen other top U.K. officials from entering the country in response to British sanctions. (AP)

New district court...

the cost of the building is around Rs 60 crores while the acquired land is around 45 kanals. Tenders for the main court complex building along with the compound wall has already been issued. The process for rest of the buildings will be done soon, the spokesman said.

Clashes during Hanuman...

the situation under control but because of the stone pelting, some policemen were injured and were taken to hospital for treatment.

"The situation is under control. All senior officers are on the spot. Since it is a sensitive area, additional police forces have been made available," he said.

According to information received so far, around 5-6 police personnel and a couple of civilians have been injured, said an official.

Special Commissioner, Law and Order (Zone 1), Deependra Pathak, told PTI: "There is peace and tranquillity. We are communicating with the people. We have requested them to maintain peace and not pay heed to rumours."

Talking about the security arrangements in Jahangirpuri, he said, "We (deployed police personnel) are in adequate numbers, and we have contained the situation."

More than 5-6 police personnel are injured and according to latest information, only one civilian was hurt, Pathak said, adding that the injured have been mainly taken to the Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial Hospital.

Asked about what led to the violence, he said, "It is a matter of investigation. We are investigating it."

Condemning the violence and terming it "unfortunate", Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal said that those behind this incident will not be spared, according to officials.

Taking stock of the situation along with Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana, he appealed to people to maintain peace and restrain, and cooperate with police in maintaining law and order, a senior official said.

The Lt Governor has also asked Asthana to depute forces at all other identified sensitive areas and localities in Delhi, and ensure mobile patrolling and vigil under the direct supervision and responsibility of senior officers, he said.

"He also directed that all possible help be provided to the injured police personnel apart from civilians who suffered injuries in the scuffle. He also spoke to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal about the incident," the official said.

In a purported video of the incident, several people could be seen pelting stones during the procession. Some are seen brandishing swords on a street while others were hurling abuses and a police siren could also be heard in the background.

PTI could not independently check the authenticity of the video. Delhi Police Commissioner Asthana said that strict action will be taken against rioters and requested citizens not to pay heed to rumours and fake news on social media.

"In today's incident in NW District, the situation is under control. Adequate additional force has been deployed in Jahangirpuri and other sensitive areas.

"Senior officers have been asked to remain in the field and closely supervise the law & order situation & undertake patrolling," Asthana tweeted.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also spoke to the Commissioner of Police and Special Commissioner (law and order) and directed them to take all necessary action following the violence, sources said.

The Delhi Police has also apprised the top functionaries of the Union Home Ministry about the situation. The home ministry is keeping a close watch on the situation and gave necessary directions to the Delhi Police, the sources said.

Chief Minister Kejriwal said that the incident is extremely condemnable and appealed to all to maintain peace.

He said the Lt Governor has assured him that all steps are being to ensure peace and that guilty will not be spared.

"The incident of stone-pelting on Shobhayatra (procession) in Delhi's Jahangirpuri is extremely condemnable. Strict action should be taken against the guilty. Appeal to all - maintain peace and hold each other's other," Kejriwal tweeted in Hindi. Some BJP leaders, including Kapil Mishra and Delhi's party unit spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor, alleged that it was the handiwork of illegal Bangladeshi migrants living in the area. BJP MP Manoj Tiwari claimed it was "part of a big conspiracy that should be probed immediately and strict action should be taken against the culprits". Officials said overall security has been stepped up in all the remaining 14 police districts of the national capital and technical surveillance has been also mounted to ensure no untoward incident takes place.

Communal clashes had broken out in Northeast Delhi on February 24, 2020 after violence between citizenship law supporters and protesters spiralled out of control, leaving at least 53 people dead and around 700 injured.

Wait till outcome...

documentary proof in the Civil Suit as regards the marriage between petitioners' mother and Sudhanshu Pandey, it is appropriate to defer the decision of the proceedings till the outcome of the Civil Suit.

Against the said order of deferment of proceedings, the minor Raaisha filed a Criminal Revision before the Srinagar Wing of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh and after hearing both the sides, Justice Sanjay Dhar observed that in the instant case, there is a serious dispute as regards the paternity of the petitioner and documents on record prima facie suggest that the mother of the petitioner had entered into a wedlock with one Idrees Bashir and the birth of the petitioner has taken place within two hundred and eighty days of dissolution of marriage between the petitioner's mother and Idrees Bashir. The court further held that there are two birth certificates on record, in one, name of father of the petitioner is shown as Idrees Bashir Jabari and in the other one, which has been issued after more than three years of her birth, the name of the father of the petitioner is shown as Syed Sudhanshu Pandey. The court further held that the first birth certificate being based upon contemporaneous record, prima facie, would get precedence over the second one, which has been issued after a considerable delay of more than three years. In the face of this overwhelming record, unless the petitioner, by leading cogent and convincing evidence and placing on record unimpeachable material in the proceedings going on before the Civil Court, it may not be possible for the Magistrate to pass an order of maintenance in her favour and therefore the Learned Magistrate has rightly deferred further consideration till the decision of the issue in the Civil Court.

With these observations and directions, Justice Sanjay Dhar did not interfere with the order passed by the Trial Magistrate and further held that the revision petition is not maintainable and accordingly dismissed the same.

BRO to construct...

will change the economy of Zanskar Valley, the official added. At present, one has to travel 101 kms from Manali to Darcha on Leh road and thereafter, take a turn from Darcha towards Shinku La Pass and enter Zanskar valley. The south portal of the tunnel will be at Shinku La and the north portal at Lakhang, he added. The D-G lauded the efforts of BRO personnel in resorting the Shinku La-Padum road as well as Manali-Leh road in record time. On this occasion, BRO Project Deepak's Chief Engineer P K Barua, Project Yojak Chief Engineer Jitender Prasad, Commander 38 BRTF Col Shabarish Wachhali, Rigzin Hayrappa, ex-zila parishad member Lahaul, and people from Darcha, Chikka, Jispa and Rarik thanked the BRO D-G for the latest development project.

People need to rise up against innocent killings in Kashmir: Bukhari

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Apni Party President

Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Saturday said the people of Jammu and Kashmir should stand up against innocent killings by terrorists as security forces alone cannot control it.

He also appealed to the youth of Kashmir to stay away from subversive elements who are the enemies of peace, tranquillity and development.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially those in the valley, have to stand up themselves (against innocent killings) as only security forces and police cannot control it. We have to think that those getting killed are also Kashmiri and I openly admit that those killing them are also Kashmiri, Bukhari told reporters on the sidelines of a party function here.

Scores of young activists joined the Apni Party in the presence of Bukhari at its headquarters and pledged to strengthen the party at the grassroots level.

Responding to a question about the latest killing of a sarpanch Manzoor Ahmad Bangroo by terrorists at Goshbug in the Pattan area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Friday, Bukhari asked what his fault was and said

he was only trying to serve the people .

The gunmen behind the innocent killings are no more unidentified. The killers and at whose behest they are killing innocents are well known. It will not last for a long time, he said.

He said the people of Kashmir have tolerated a lot over the past three decades of violence as a result of which graveyards are full of youngsters. I appeal to the youth to stay away from the subversive elements. Both who are killing and who are getting killed are our own. The time will come when these subversive elements will not be able to walk, he said.

Bukhari said the situation in Kashmir is peaceful and there is no spurt in the killings by terrorists.

The violence is going on in Kashmir since 1990 and there are people who are enemies of peace. We are living in a sensitive region sharing borders with Pakistan and China, the Apni Party leader said.

He said stone pelting has ended in Kashmir over the past three years and the credit for it goes to the people, especially the youth who have controlled their emotions.

Likewise, the people need to rise up against innocent

killings and when they will, there will be no such killings.

In response to another question, he said we have lot of hopes with the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Jammu and Kashmir.

We are hopeful that our statehood will be restored, Other Backward Classes to get 27 per cent reservation, job package for unemployed youth we should take full advantage of his visit and also press for regularisation of daily wagers who are working in different government departments for the past many decades, he said.

Meanwhile, J-K BJP president Ravinder Raina said terrorists are frustrated by the successful anti-terrorism operations and are indulging in cowardly acts at the behest of Pakistan. Bangroo was killed at a time when he was supposed to break his fast in the sacred month of Ramadan. They (terrorists) and Pakistan are the enemies of Kashmiris and Islam, he told reporters outside his official residence here. He said Pakistan does not want peace and development in Kashmir. The terrorists involved in the killings will not be spared. They will have to pay for their sins, the BJP leader said.

CRIMEREPORT

Police recovers unidentified body, seeks people's help for identification

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SHOPIAN: Police on Saturday recovered an unidentified male dead body, aged about 60 years from a snow clearance shed at Ali Abad Sarai, near Peer Ke Gall under jurisdiction of Police Station Hirpora. After completing all medico-legal formalities, the dead body was shifted to mortuary of District Hospital Shopian for purpose of identification. Anybody having information regarding his identity or his family may please contact DySP Hqrs Shopian 9596767762, SHO Hirpora 9596768829, PCR Shopian 959676883 or PCR Kashmir by dialing 112.



3 drug peddlers arrested with contraband substance

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SOPORE: Continuing its efforts to eradicate menace of drugs, Police on Saturday arrested 3 drug peddlers in Sopore and recovered contraband substance from their possession.

As per details, officers from Police Post Watergam and PC Rafiabad under the supervision of SDPO Rafiabad Ameen Bhat, at a checkpoint established at Hadipora crossing, intercepted a vehicle bearing registration number JK01N-6987 with 3 persons onboard. During search, 42 gm heroin was recovered from their possession. The accused identified as Zahid Ahmad Rather, son of Ghulam Nabi Rather; Riyaz Ahmad Rather, son of Mohd Shaif, both residents of Nasrulapora Budgam and Manzoor Ahmad Ganie, son of Ghulam Qadir Ganie, resident of Behrampora, Rafiabad were arrested and shifted to police station where they remained in custody. Vehicle used in commission of crime has also been seized. Accordingly, FIR under relevant sections of law was registered in Police Station Dangiwaicha and investigation started.

4 drug peddlers, notorious thief booked under PSA

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: Acting tough against the anti-social elements and to make our society crime-free, Police on Saturday booked 4 drug peddlers & a notorious thief under Public Safety Act (PSA) after obtaining necessary sanction from the authorities.

Earlier Police in Kupwara, in a series of action, seized huge quantity of contraband substances from possession of four notorious drug peddlers identified as Ashiq Hussain Mir @ Ashiq Codeine, son of Ghulam Oandir Mir, resident of Muqam Shahwali Drugnnulla; Majid Rehman Khan, son of Abdul Rehman Khan, resident of GundsnaH Hyhama; Gh Nabi Lone (Naba), son of Ali Mohd Lone, resident of Sarbal Mohalla Guzriyal Kralpora and Atta Mohd Khan @

Raja, son of Amanullah Khan, a resident of Halmatpora Kupwara.

Accordingly, FIRs were registered at different Police stations and the accused were arrested. Subsequently, after obtaining sanctions from the concerned authorities, the arrested drug peddlers were detained under Public Safety Act.

Moreover a notorious thief namely Danish Manzoor Zargar @ Chotta Don, son of Manzoor Ahmad Zargar a resident of Tikker Kupwara was also detained under Public Safety Act by Kupwara Police after obtaining sanction from the concerned authorities due to his unrelenting acts of burglary and theft.

Two bootleggers nabbed with 115 bottles of illicit liquor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Saturday nabbed two bootleggers and recovered 115 bottles of illicit liquor from their possession.

As per the details, information was received through reliable sources regarding sale of illicit liquor in different areas of Jammu. On this, a team of Police Post Pouni Chak under supervision of SDPO Domana Sunil Singh led by SHO Domana Inspr Mahesh Sharma assisted by Incharge Police Post Pouni Chak PSI Nitish Khajuria during Naka checking rounded up two suspects. During search, 115 bottles of illicit liquor were recovered from their possession. Duo was arrested and FIR under section 48(a) (f) Excise Act was registered against them at Police Station Domana. The accused were identified as Ankit Manhas alias Kali, son of Tarsem Lal and Tarsem Lal, son of Jagdish Singh, both residents of Ghou Manhasan, Jammu.

9 injured in LPG cylinder blast

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: At least nine people suffered serious burn injuries after a LPG cylinder exploded inside a kitchen in Mugalpora village of Kupwara.

As per details, nine people suffered burn injuries after an LPG gas cylinder exploded inside house of one Ghulam Mohidin Wani, son of Ghulam Ahmad Wani of Mughalpora Kupwara. Among injured, four were taken to hospital for treatment and identified as Naseema Begum, wife of Ghalam Rasool, Ghulam Hassan Wani, Tufail Ahmad Wani, sons of Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din and Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Mir, son of Mohammad Subhan. Other 3 among injured were rushed to Srinagar hospital for advanced treatment. Police is investigating the matter.

One drowns, another injured in Rajouri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: A man died while another one got seriously injured in an incident of drowning at Siada Ladoth in Rajouri, an official said.

Official told that deceased was identified as Mohammad Noorani, son of Mohammad Ayub, resident of Shambar Gharat while injured was identified as Mohd Iqbal, son of Mohd Yaqoob, resident of Shambar Gharat.

As per reports, both men drowned in a stream in morning hours after which locals launched an operation and brought them out of the stream but one person failed to survive.

"The injured man is under treatment at GMC Associated Hospital Rajouri and is in a serious condition," a police official told.