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Pak firing: BSF jawan martyred in Sunderbani, soldier in Machil

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A BSF jawan lost his life and another got injured in sniper fire from across the Line of Control (LoC) in the Sunderbani sector while an army jawan was martyred in Machil section in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Thursday. They said the incident occurred at the Rakhee post in the evening. The sector is manned by the troops of the 126th battalion of the Border Security Force (BSF).

While a bullet hit Constable P Biswas on the left shoulder, Constable Mansa Ram suffered a gunshot wound to the thigh, they said.

The two jawans were evacuated in a helicopter to the nearest medical facility, but Biswas succumbed to injuries, they added. The condition of the other jawan is stable, officials said.

Meanwhile, at least one soldier was martyred on Thursday in ceasefire violation by Pakistan in the Machil sector in the Valley.

Earlier, the Indian and Pakistani armies traded heavy fire on the Line of Control (LoC) on Thursday in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district,



defence sources said.

The Pakistan Army used automatics and mortars to target Indian positions on the LoC in Kamalkote area of Uri sector late on Wednesday, the sources said. "Indian positions retaliated effectively. Firing exchanges continued till Thursday morning. No casualty has been reported from our side," they added.

Two Indian soldiers were injured on Wednesday in Pakistan firing in the same area.

On Wednesday, the soldiers were injured during a ceasefire violation in Jammu and Kashmir. The ceasefire violation took place at Uri sector of Baramulla district in the state. The injured soldiers were admitted to the hospital.

Hold early elections in J&K: Farooq Abdullah

"Fearing imminent defeat BJP may try to get polls delayed" Urges opposition to unite to take on divisive Govt in New Delhi

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah on Thursday sought early conduct of elections to Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, apprehending that the BJP may attempt to get these delayed for the fear of imminent defeat due to its misgovernance and failure in keeping up the promises.

"Hold elections and the people of Jammu and Kashmir, not New Delhi, will choose the government they want for themselves", Dr Abdullah said while paying homage to Babasaheb Dr B.R Ambedkar at a function held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan here this afternoon.

Dr Abdullah said a stable and strong government alone can lead the State to peace and development. He said the alliance on crutches does

Learn to be tolerant like Vajpayee

JAMMU: Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah on Thursday had a piece of advice for Prime Minister Narendra Modi - be tolerant like Atal Bihari Vajpayee to ensure acceptance by all people.

Speaking at an event here, the National Conference patriarch asked Modi to be "tolerant like Vajpayee". He said "He is the prime minister. He has to come up to that level and should not get engaged in smaller issues. At time I feel sorry for his statements." He went on to add, "Please inculcate sense of



National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah addressing press conference at Jammu.

not suit the State, which is facing numerous challenges and exuded confidence that National Conference will get

peoples' massive mandate. In this context, he referred to the landslide victory

Finance Deptt releases full Capital Budget to districts

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: To give fillip to the developmental activities on the ground and ensure productive utilisation of resources, the Finance Department on Thursday released well in advance 50 per cent balance allocation of the Capex Budget to the districts for the current fiscal.

"Sanction is accorded to the utilisation of 100 per cent District Capex Budget 2018-19 allocations, including 50 per cent already authorised, in favour of all the District Development

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KVIB BoD reconstituted, Hina to be VC

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Governor's administration on Thursday accorded sanction to the appointment of Vice Chairperson including non-official members in the constitution of Board of Directors of J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB).

According to the order issued by Principal Secretary Industries and Commerce Shailendra Kumar, Dr Hina Shafi Bhat, daughter of Mohammad Shafi Bhat shall be the

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Kashmir shivers in cold

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: There was respite from cold wave conditions in Kashmir on Thursday morning even as all weather stations in the Valley recorded sub-zero temperatures last night.

WEATHER
Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 21.0°C Min: 08.8°C
Humidity
Max: 84 Min: 90
Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 10.9°C Min: -2.6°C
Humidity
Max: 73 Min: 87
Sunset: 17:26 Hours
Sunrise: 07:21 Hours

63 doctors transferred; 68 promoted

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The State Government on Thursday transferred 63 doctors including 26 Medical Officers (MOs), 12 Dental Surgeons and 25 consultants in Health Department. Meanwhile, 68 Medical Officers have been promoted and adjusted as consultants.

According to order issued by Mohd Iqbal Lone, Under Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department, Dr. Suresh Kumar, Consultant Gynae, awaiting orders of adjustment in Directorate of Health Services Jammu (DHSJ), has been posted at CHC Parole; Dr. Anjana Koul, Consultant Gynae, PP Centre SMGS Hospital Jammu, has been posted at

Sub District Hospital, Sohanjana vice Dr. Usha Kiran, Consultant Gynae, who has been posted at District Hospital Kathua; Dr. Savita Amla, Consultant Gynae, Sub District Hospital, Ramnagar has been posted at PHC Kot Bhalwal; Dr. Sanjeev Gupta, Consultant Paediatrician, CHC Billawar, has been posted at Government Hospital Sarwal, Jammu; Dr. Jyoti Katoch, Consultant Ophthal, Government Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, has been posted at District Hospital Kathua; Dr. Promila Kumari, Consultant Ophthal, Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar Jammu has been posted at AH Vijaypur.

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GMC's Cancer Centre craves for operational equipment

JAMMU: Every day around 100 patients suffering from cancer visit Regional Cancer Centre



(RCC) in Government Medical College Hospital, Jammu in pursuit of better treatment facilities but in the absence of 'operational' equipment majority of them end up returning empty handed.

According to patients, who regularly visit the GMC, some of the machines in the RCC always remain out of order and consultants are left with no option but to adopt 'hit and trial' method on obsolete machines to carry out treatment.

A senior consultant in the RCC told STATE TIMES, "Due to rush of patients in the Centre, we are not in a position to treat everyone, especially if the patient is in need of radiotherapy". The consultant said, "Several machines are out of order



and some of them have been kept inside locked doors by the department. We are left with only one obsolete Cobalt 60 machine to administer radiotherapy to patients". The consultant claimed that in the absence of proper calculation of dosage several patients end up in receiving over-dose or under-dose.

When asked about the status of machines, looked inside the rooms, another

er consultant said, "Some of these machines have not been put to use due to want of repairs".

It is learnt that Simulator and Brachytherapy rooms remain locked and these machines have not been put to use by the department to treat patients. One Cobalt machine has not been put to use since last five years. Several other rooms, which may have been used for accommodating patients, stand converted into store rooms by the department.

According to official sources, the number of patients visiting the RCC is witnessing increase of 2300-2500 annually in its register and almost equal number of patients visit the centre for follow up. Considering the growing rush of patients, the RCC is in need of immediate modernization, especially as the proposal to set up State Cancer Institute remains non starter on ground. The DPR of the project, prepared in 2014, is still under review and work on it is yet to begin.

Haseeb Drabu resigns from PDP

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The PDP suffered another jolt on Thursday when its senior leader and former finance minister Haseeb Drabu announced his resignation from the party.



In his resignation letter, Drabu, a well known economist who has also served as chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Bank, said his legislative engagement has prematurely come to an end with the dissolution of the state assembly.

"I don't agree with the timing and manner in which it was done. It doesn't credit

either the democratic system or its custodian participants with any glory, whatsoever. "Be that as it may, the time has come for me to bid adieu!" Drabu, who was the editor of a business daily earlier in his career, said.

The letter, which was posted by Drabu on his personal twitter handle, said his exit

from the PDP had been coming for a while now.

"Even though I have not been a dissident... I have disengaged myself from party affairs for quite some time now," he wrote in the letter.

He said he did not believe in precipitating the matter because he thought it to be morally and ethically wrong to leave the party under whose aegis he had contested his maiden elections to the state assembly.

"Now that it is over, I am hereby resigning from the Jammu and Kashmir PDP," he said. After Imran

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CEO holds all parties meeting on summary revision of electoral rolls

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Jammu & Kashmir Shaleen Kabra on Thursday held a meeting with the representatives of recognised political parties regarding the on-going Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls.

All the Roll Observers deployed by Election Commission of India also attended the meeting.

They were apprised about the extension of ongoing Summary Revision, i.e 23rd December, 2018 as the

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Court takes cognisance of charge-sheet against Aasiya Andrabi, 2 others

AGENCY
NEW DELHI: A Delhi Court has taken cognisance of a charge sheet filed against pro-Pakistani separatist and Dukhtaran-e-Millat head Aasiya Andrabi and two of her associates for allegedly "waging war" against the country by spreading hate speeches using Internet platforms and collecting funds for terror activities.

Special Judge Poonam Bamba also issued production warrants for Andrabi, Sofi Fehmeeda and Naheeda

Nasreen, who are lodged in Tihar Jail under judicial custody.

The Court directed the jail authorities to produce the three accused before it on December 12, when they will be handed over a copy of the charge sheet and annexed documents.

The three were arrested by the Jammu and Kashmir Police in April and the case was later transferred to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in July.

According to the NIA, Andrabi, Fehmeeda and

Nasreen were using various social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook and YouTube and TV channels including some in Pakistan to spread "insurrectionary imputations and hateful messages and speeches against India".

It had said the Dukhtaran-E-Millat, a banned terrorist organisation, through Andrabi and others openly advocates secession of Jammu and Kashmir from the Union of India and its merger with Pakistan

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Deaths due to potholes 'unacceptable': SC

AGENCY
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday expressed concern over 14,926 people being killed in road accidents due to potholes in last five years and termed it "unacceptable".

A Bench headed by Justice Madan B Lokur said the large number of deaths caused due to potholes across the country was "probably more than those killed on border or by the terrorists".

The Bench, also comprising Justices Deepak Gupta and Hemant Gupta, said the number of deaths from 2013 to 2017 in accidents due to potholes indicated that the authorities concerned were not maintaining the roads.

The Bench sought a response from the Centre on a report filed by the Supreme

Court Committee on Road Safety, headed by former Apex Court Judge K.S Radhakrishnan, on the number of deaths due to potholes



in India.

The top Court had on July 20 expressed its concern over the deaths and observed that the number fatalities due to such accidents was more than those in terror attacks.

Referring to media reports, the top Court had said, "So many people are dying in the country due to accidents caused by potholes on roads. Reports say that more people have died due to accident caused by potholes than the deaths in terrorists attacks".

It had asked the Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety to look into this "very serious issue" and file

that people who have lost their lives as a result of accidents due to potholes should be entitled to compensation.

It was a matter of common knowledge that a large number of people have died in such accidents and authorities, who were supposed to maintain the roads, were not doing their duty properly, the Bench had said.

Referring to media reports, the top Court had said, "So many people are dying in the country due to accidents caused by potholes on roads. Reports say that more people have died due to accident caused by potholes than the deaths in terrorists attacks".

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Four MLCs complete term; LC accords farewell

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Council, Haji Anayat Ali, senior officers and staff of the Council Secretariat on Thursday accorded warm send off to four outgoing members of the Upper House on completion of their term, here.

A grand function was organised for the outgoing members Ghulam Nabi Monga, (INC), Sham Lal Baghat (INC), Dr Shahnaz Ganie (NC) and Ali Mohammed Dar (NC).

Speaking on this occasion, the Chairman Legislative Council highlighted the contribution of the outgoing members in maintaining the decorum and esteem of the House particularly in raising

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