



Maximum : 33°C
Minum : 17°C
Humidity : 45%

SUNSET
Today 07:44 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:28 AM

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News Digest

Ram Madhav To Visit Bandipore On Sunday

Srinagar: Bharatiya Janata Party national General Secretary Ram Madhav is all set to visit Kashmir on Sunday to offer condolences to the bereaved family members of slain BJP leader from north Kashmir's Bandipora district Waseem Bari. Sources in the BJP tsaid that Madhav has confirmed his visit to Kashmir with a sole aim of visiting Muslimabad residence of slain Bari in Bandipora district. "He will meet the wife and other family members of slain Waseem Bari and express his solidarity with the bereaved. Later, Madhav will also meet party workers in Srinagar," they said, adding that the BJP General Secretary will reach Kashmir on Sunday morning and right away travel to Bandipora district. "A meeting with the BJP workers from Srinagar and other districts is also on cards with Madhav," sources said. They said that after Madhav's visit, BJP's national president J P Nadda will also visit Kashmir and meet family members of slain BJP leader Waseem Bari at Bandipora. "Nadda will come next week," a source in the BJP told KNO. Waseem, the young face of BJP in



Woman Sets Herself Ablaze In Bandipora

Bandipora: A 28-year-old woman allegedly set herself ablaze on Friday evening in Chatibandi Aragam village of north Kashmir's Bandipora district. Sources said that a 28-year-old woman (name withheld) set herself ablaze after pouring kerosene oil over her body at her home in Chatibandi Aragam. She has been shifted to District Hospital Bandipora where from she was referred to Srinagar hospital in critical condition for specialized treatment. Station House Officer (SHO) Aragam said that a case has been registered in this regard while proceedings are underway

Youth Found Dead In Daksum, Anantnag

Anantnag: A 22-year-old youth was found dead under mysterious conditions on Friday in Daksum area of Kokernag in South Kashmir's Anantnag district. A police official said that a youth identified as Muneer Ahmad Chouhan (22), son of Lal Chouhan, a resident of Gadvail Larmoo was found dead in a Behak at Bovie Daksum. He said the cause of death is being ascertained and post-mortem of the body will be carried out to determine the actual cause of death

ASI Dies In Accident In Awantipora

Srinagar: An Assistant Sub Inspector of Police died on spot when he met with an accident at Awantipora in south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Friday, officials told GNS. They said that the ASI was on his scooter when the accident took place and he died on the spot. He has been identified as Nazir Ahmad Sofi of Munwarabad area of Anantnag district.

Cases Surge As J&K Records 387 New Covid-19 Infections

Fresh Cases Include 50 Security Men, 2 Doctors, Baby; 91 Discharged

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Friday recorded 387 Covid-19 cases, including 97 from Jammu and 290 from Kashmir valley and with this the number of cases in J&K went up to 9888. The fresh cases include 50 CRPF, SSB, BSF and army personnel, two doctors and a 8-months old baby.

Giving the breakup of the cases, officials said that Srinagar reported 94, Baramulla 36, Kulgam 33, Shopian 14, Anantnag 11, Kupwara 34, Pulwama 47, Budgam 6, Bandipora 8, Ganderbal 7, Jammu 23, Kathua 7, Ramban 11, Rajouri 51, Samba 1, Poonch 2, Doda 1 and Reasi 1.

According to Dr. G H Yattoo, Nodal Officer Coronavirus Control Measures at SKIMS Soura, out of 2659 samples which were processed at the viral diagnostic laboratory of the institute today, 132 returned positive for the virus.

Professor Farooq Jan, Medical Superintendent SKIMS Soura said the cases include 37 from Army, CRPF and SSB, 33 from Pulwama, 24 from Srinagar, 12 from Anantnag, 10 from Kulgam, seven from Budgam, six from Bandipora, two from Kupwara and one from Baramulla.

According to Dr Riyaz Untoo, Principal SKIMS Bemina out of 394 samples processed at the hospital's lab, 62 tested positive for COVID-19, 46 from Srinagar and 16 from



File Pic: Abdul Bhat

5 More Die Of Covid-19; J&K Toll 160

Five more COVID-19 patients died on Friday in Jammu and Kashmir, thus taking the overall death toll due to the virus to 160.

An 80-year-old man from Kokernag area of the South Kashmir's Anantnag district died last night while an 82-year-old man from Habbra Kadal area of Srinagar and 36-year-old lady from Noorbagh area of Srinagar died Friday morning at CD hospital while as 75 year old man from Kupwara died at JVC and 95-year-old man from Shopian died at SKIMS (JVC) Bemina.

Medical Superintendent of CD hospital, Dr. Salim Tak told KNO that the patient from Kokernag area of Anantnag was admitted on July 4 after testing positive and patient died last night. "He said that patient was suffering from bilateral pneumonia besides respiratory failure. He added that patient from Habbra Kadal was admitted on July 7 and died on Friday morning. "He was diabetic, hypertensive and had Community Acquired Pneumonia," he added.

He further added that a 36-year-old lady from Noorbagh area of Srinagar was referred from

Shopian.

The Srinagar cases include 1.F-42yrs-FatehKadal, M-53yrs-Rainawari, M-45yrs, M-

7yrs, F-3yrs, F-7yrs, M-32yrs, F-85yrs, M-45yrs, M-1yr, M-40yrs from Munwarabad, M-60yrs-Nishat Brane, »PAGE 02

PROFESSOR FAROOQ JAN, MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT SKIMS Soura said the cases include 37 from Army, CRPF and SSB, 33 from Pulwama, 24 from Srinagar, 12 from Anantnag, 10 from Kulgam, seven from Budgam, six from Bandipora, two from Kupwara and one from Baramulla.

Police Apprehends 2 Women For Stealing New Born Baby

HANDWARA: Police on Friday morning apprehended two women for stealing an infant from district hospital Handwara.

An official said that a baby soon after birth went missing from Handwara district hospital.

He said that the incident came to light late last evening after a woman from Natnusa Kupwara was shifted from the labour room to the ward without her just born baby.

The baby was whisked away while her mother was being shifted to the ward of the district hospital, reports quoting family said.

"Soon after the incident both police and hospital administration swung into action and launched a search for the new born," a hospital official said.

According to Deputy Medical



Image for representation

Superintendent, Dr Ajaz Ahmad police apprehended two women Friday morning and recovered the infant from their custody.

Baby was later handed over to her mother.

BJP Demands Security For Workers

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the BJP on Friday demanded security for political workers of different parties who are facing threats, asserting that they are upholding democracy in the union territory.

It said sarpanches and heads of local bodies should also be provided the security cover as Pakistan wants to destroy the democratic process in J and K.

"It is very important to provide security to all the active political workers of all the political parties — be it the NC, the PDP, the Congress or the the BJP — who have threat perception, BJP's J and K unit president Ravinder Raina said here. Those who participate in the democratic process make the democracy and law of the land stronger," he added.

Raina was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a function at the

HC Seeks Status Report On Dumping Of Waste In Wullar Lake

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has issued notices to government of India and J&K administration on Public Interest Litigation, seeking directions for removing garbage dumped on the banks of Wullar Lake, Asia's largest fresh water lake, in north Kashmir.

A division bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Sanjay Dhar also sought a status report from the government on the PIL filed by Central Auqaf Committee Tarzoo-Dharnambal, an amalgam of eight Auqaf Committees of the area.

The court passed the directions after hearing Advocate Shaqfat Nazir for the petitioners who seek a slew of directions to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the J&K government.

The petitioners also demand that the Municipal Council Sopore be asked to stop dumping of municipal solid waste on the Ramsar wetland site situated



File Pic

NGT Also Seeks Report On Wullar Lake

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the authorities in Jammu and Kashmir to file an action taken report on alleged dumping of solid municipal waste in the Wullar Lake.

Hearing an petition filed by social activist Raja Mu-

zaftar Bhat, the NGT on Wednesday directed the collector of Baramulla district and the Pollution Control Board of Jammu and Kashmir to file a factual report and an action taken report by the next date of hearing on October 15.

"In view of the allegation

and photographs annexed, we find it necessary to require a factual and action taken report from the member secretary of state Wetland Authority, Collector of Baramulla, and the state Pollution Control Board before the next date," the tribunal said in a two-page order. »P-02

Hold Final Year Exams by Sept End: UGC

SRINAGAR: Amid surge in COVID-19 cases across Jammu and Kashmir, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has asked the University authorities to complete the examination process of terminal semester and final year examinations by September end.

The UGC said that the exams can be held via off-line that includes physical appearance of the students or through the online or blended mode following the prescribed protocols and guidelines related to COVID-19 pandemic.

The newly revised

Staff Leaves BSNL In Droves, Services Hit

Auqib Javed

SRINAGAR: If you are a subscriber to BSNL broadband in Srinagar and it stops working as a result of some fault, it is most likely you will get no one from the BSNL to set it right, no matter how many complaints you register online, no matter how many officials you beseech for help and no matter how much monthly tariff you pay the telecom company for the service.

The BSNL in Srinagar is just not interested in its subscribers.

This is what its subscribers in the city are learning to their detriment. On June 2, Riyaz Ahmad, a subscriber

from Umar Colony Wambal, found his broadband was not working. He says he contacted local linemen who didn't turn up despite promising to do so. Later he registered three online com-

BSNL had over 2 lakh employees all over India out of which one lakh took the VRS recently. In Srinagar we have over 500 employees working out of which over 300 took the VRS"

plaints, still nobody came. He rung up senior officials in the department, who all promised to send the linemen, none still came.

"It has been frustrating experience. I run up a monthly bill of Rs 1200-1500 but here my broadband is not working for the past eight

days. I have moved from pillar to post but no one has come to repair the fault," says Ahmad. "It is as if the company wants to tell you it doesn't want subscribers, so that none of its employees

has to work". Ahmad added the local linemen he talked to said it was not their responsibility and passed on the buck to other colleagues who in turn passed it back. "One of them Abdur Raheem who would come in past also refused to come," Ahmad said. »PAGE 02

Pvt Schools Compel Parents to Pay Transport, Miscellaneous Charges

Complaints Against Over 50 Pvt Schools Registered At DSEK: Officials

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a brazen violation of government norm, some private schools in Kashmir Valley are 'compelling' the parents to pay the pending tuition, transport and other miscellaneous charges.

The parents of those wards studying in various private schools alleged that the school management has threatened them of blocking their access to appear for the online examinations if they did not pay the pending tuition and other charges.

A parent said that de-

spite government orders, the private schools are charging tuition, transport as well as other miscellaneous fees.

"My three kids are studying at one of the leading private schools of Srinagar and in the name of tuition fee, the school is minting a hefty amount by charging tuition as well as miscellaneous fee," he said, adding that the school is also demanding the transport fee of past one year.

"The school management is now demanding us to pay the transport fee from August-2019 when all schools were closed fol-

lowing the abrogation of Article-370," he said.

The parents also said that despite government directives not to charge any fee for the closed months of August and September last year, "the school management have refused to hand over the results of our wards till we pay the whole amount."

Meanwhile, the official at Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) said, "Complaints against the management of more than fifty schools of charging transport and other miscellaneous charges have been registered. »PAGE 02

New WHO Guidance Calls For More Evidence On Airborne Transmission

NEW YORK: The World Health Organization on Thursday released new guidelines on the transmission of the novel coronavirus that acknowledge some reports of airborne transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19, but stopped short of confirming that the virus spreads through the air.

In its latest transmission guidance, the WHO acknowledged that some outbreak reports related to indoor crowded spaces have suggested the possibility of aerosol transmission, such as during choir practice

Govt Relieves Sahu, SSP Traffic Jammu, SP North Srinagar

SRINAGAR: The government on Friday relieved Ajeet Kumar Sahu (IAS), Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, who has been transferred to Ladakh by Ministry of Home Affairs last month.

"Pursuant to the Order issued by Department of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India under F.No.15030/38/2020-J&K, Dated 9.6.2020 and in partial modification of Government Order No. 688-JK(CAD) of 2020 dated 30.6.2020, it is hereby ordered that Ajeet Kumar Sahu, IAS, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Jal Shakti

Department, under orders of transfer from UT of J&K to UT of Ladakh, shall be deemed to have

been relieved with immediate effect, with further direction to report to his new place of posting, forthwith," reads an order issued by the government.

"Consequent upon the above, M.Raju, IAS, Secretary to the Government, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department, holding additional charge of Managing Director, JKPC, Administrative Secretary, Hospitality & Protocol, Estates and Civil Aviation Departments, shall also hold the charge of Administrative Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, in addition to his own duties, till further orders," the order added.

Govt Meanwhile in a separate order government on Friday relieved Joginder Singh, »PAGE 02

Mrinal Pathak

BOLLYWOOD has once again raised its patriotic pitch after actor Ajay Devgn announced his film on Galwan showdown — that saw 20 soldiers losing their lives in a deadly clash with People's Liberation Army of China recently.

While the move drew mixed response, a Bollywood actress, who was lately seen throwing her weight behind a film on lost fathers of Kashmir, believes patriotism will always find a place in cinema, even as "Kashmir has been grossly misrepresented and underrepresented by Bollywood".

Actress Soni Razdan, wife of filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt and mother of popular actress Alia Bhatt in an exclusive chat with Kashmir Observer talks about Bollywood's cinematic

'Kashmir Grossly Misrepresented In Bollywood'

treatment with Kashmir.

As someone who has a strong connection with Kashmir, do you feel the valley is rightfully portrayed in Indian cinema?

The thing is, very few people understand Kashmir—or, are fair to it in their storytelling.

But of late, there've been some excellent films set in the valley. No Fathers in Kashmir is an example of a film made by a maker who knows Kashmir well and feels for its people. Hamid is also a beautiful film, so was Haider, which was very well researched.

Many films gloss over the details of the truth, and basically tell stories set in Kashmir, but not true to the people there. Or, they're full of propaganda.



Like in Haider and Hamid, we saw how acting plays a huge role in depicting the reality of a place. Do you think that Indian actors are doing justice to the roles played as

Kashmiris?

See, a lot depends on the project and the director and the research. It's not only the actor. It's what is demanded of him too.

Cinema and web series can play a huge role in busting myths about Kashmir but at the same time we see many movies and series revitalizing the stereotypes and stigmas attached to the region.

Yes, I agree it really can. I feel people lack moral courage, or honesty, and also do not wish to see things from the other perspective. They prefer to see what is comfortable and convenient.

Sadly, Kashmir has been grossly underrepresented or misrepresented a lot of the time.

Having said this, are Kashmiris themselves willing to look at the truth in the eye? That too takes a certain amount of moral courage.

So there're many sides to the truth in Kashmir! I'm not talking about times since 5 August 2019, but before that. Post that, sadly, we've no moral ground to stand on. »PAGE 02