



Maximum : 28°C  
Minimum : 11°C  
Humidity : 35%

SUNSET  
Today 06:12 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 06:27 AM



## News Digest

### Aga Hasan Leads Prayers After 425 Days

SRINAGAR: Senior separatist leader and President Anjuman-e-Shari Shian Aga Syed Hasan Almosvi Alsafvi on Friday led congregational prayers at central Kashmir's Budgam district, first time after the abrogation of special status.

On Friday, after spending more than 425 days under house detention at Darul Mustafa Shariat Abad, Budgam, Aga Hassan crossed all barricades that prevented his movement to lead the Friday congregation, news agency KNS reported. ● P-02

### JK Declares Mourning For Kuwait Emir

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday announced one day state mourning on October 4 as a mark of respect to Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, who passed away on Tuesday.

According to an order issued here today, the J&K government would observe one day state mourning on 4th of October over the demise of Kuwait Emir, an official spokesperson said. "During the period of mourning the national flag shall fly" ● P-02

### Soldier Shoots Self Dead In Uri

Baramulla- An army soldier shot himself dead with his service rifle in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Thursday night, officials said. A police officer said that the soldier, identified as Rakshit Kumar (22) son of Kuldeep Kumar, resident of Samba district of Jammu region, shot himself by using his service rifle at JACK 1 post, sub sector Gohallan of Uri. He said the soldier died on spot, adding that his autopsy is going on in sub-district hospital (SDH) Uri. He said a case has been registered in this regard and further investigation has been started.

### Minor Boy Strangulates Self

SRINAGAR: A minor boy on Friday allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself at his home in Aloosa village of north Kashmir's Bandipora district.

12-year-old boy (name withheld) was found hanging by his family members inside his home in Aloosa village on Friday afternoon, a police official said. He said the boy was taken to a nearby hospital by his family members, where doctors declared him brought dead. Meanwhile, police has taken cognizance of this incident, the official added. (KDC)

### Labourer Slips To Death In Kulgam

SRINAGAR: A labourer died after he accidentally slipped off the road and fell down into the drain in Srandoo area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district. 20-year-old youth Manzoor Ahmad Chohan, a labourer from Halankulgam, slipped off the road when he was pulling the handcart loaded with cement and fell into the drain, official sources said. He suffered severe head injury and died on the spot, the official said, adding that a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and further investigation has been taken up—(KNO)

## 10-Day-Old, 14 Others Die Of Coronavirus, J&K Toll 1214

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least fifteen people, including a 10-day-old newborn died of coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, taking the number of fatalities due to the deadly infection across the Union Territory to 1214.

While ten more people succumbed to Covid-19 in Jammu division on Friday, the virus claimed five more lives in Kashmir valley, officials said.

The infant is the youngest COVID-19 victim in J&K, the officials said. Earlier, an 11-day-old died on July 12 while a 15-day-old baby from Bemina area died here on June 19.

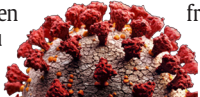
Among the ten deaths from Jammu division, four of the victims hailed from

Jammu district, two each from Udhampur and Kathua besides one each from Doda and Samba.

Five deaths were reported from Kashmir Valley include three from Srinagar and two from Budgam districts. Among the victims were a 65-year-old man from Harwan, who died at SKIMS Soura, thirteen days after he was admitted to the tertiary care hospital.

A 65-year-old man from Pakharpora Budgam died at CD hospital, one of the exclusive facilities for the management of the covid-19 patients in the Valley. The sexagenarian was admitted to the facility on September 29.

Also, an 85-year-old man from Brain Nishat Srinagar died a week after he was admitted to the



### 19 Soldiers Among 1090 New Cases

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Friday 1090 new cases of coronavirus, including nineteen soldiers and forty five travelers, taking the total number of people infected by the virus in the Union Territory to 77253. While Jammu division reported 603 fresh cases of Covid-19, the remaining 487 were confirmed by the officials from the Kashmir Valley. ● P-02

### Police Seeks Arrest Of Dr Mubeen Shah



SRINAGAR: Eleven months after revoking his detention under the stringent Public Safety Act, Jammu and Kashmir Police has initiated the process of taking NRI businessman Dr Mubeen Shah into custody and attachment of his properties.

The police had registered a case against Shah in June this year under various sections of the Indian Penal Code over his purported Facebook post against non-locals residing in the Kashmir Valley.

"Yes, we are in the process of securing an arrest warrant against him after the police station concerned found his post on social networking site was aimed at creating communal tension," Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police Dilbag Singh said.

Based out of Malaysia, where he runs his handicrafts business, Shah used to visit Kashmir once a year. Earlier, he was the

## Shun Violence, Will Help You With Jobs: Sinha To Militants

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday appealed to local militants to shun the path of violence and promised to help them with jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities.

He was speaking after launching the third-phase of the pioneering 'Back to Village' programme in Shopian district in south Kashmir.

Sinha said the people of J-K, especially the youth, want to tread on the path of progress and development and appealed to the misguided youth to shun violence and return to the mainstream.

The government is ready to help with jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities, he added.

The Lt Governor said the administration will work hard to make Jammu and Kashmir one of the most developed union territories in the country.

The administration is committed to make the UT a role model of development and prosperity, he said, adding it will empower youth and strengthen the panchayati raj institutions.

On the occasion, Sinha inaugurated a youth recreation centre and a children's library in Sermal village.

He also laid the foundation stone of a 100-bedded girls' hostel costing Rs 306.34 lakh.

Counting achievements under the ongoing activities, the Lt Governor highlighted that during the past two



### 'Gandhi Advocated Panchayati Raj, Decentralised Form Of Govt'

Commencing of the third phase of the 'Back to Village' programme across Jammu and Kashmir is a perfect way to honour Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on the occasion on Friday.

An apostle of peace and social service, Gandhi's contributions to the freedom struggle, and promoting the rights and welfare of the oppressed sections of the society have unending

● P-02

Block Diwas, impressive results have been achieved. Around one lakh students have been provided scholarships, more than 25,000 beneficiaries have been provided pensions under Integrated Social Security Scheme, more than

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### SHOPIAN 'FAKE ENCOUNTER'

## Process To Exhume, Hand Over Bodies To Be Completed Soon: DGP

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Dilbag Singh on Friday said the legal process to exhume and hand over the bodies of three persons from Rajouri who were killed in an alleged fake encounter by Army in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir in July would be completed soon.

"The process is on. We have started whatever legal process has to be undertaken and this process will be completed soon," the Director General of Police (DGP) told reporters when asked when the bodies would



be handed over to their families.

On September 30, Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said since the DNA samples matched with the families, the three bodies will be exhumed and handed over to families after due process of law.

## 2 Dead Militants Of Lashkar Among 3 Charged By NIA

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The NIA has filed a charge-sheet against three persons who allegedly underwent training in Pakistan to carry out militant attacks in India on the instructions of Pakistan-based group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), an official said.

The charge-sheet against Muneeb Hameed Bhat, Junaid Ahmad Mattoo and Umer Rashid Wani, all residents of Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district, was filed before a special NIA court in Jammu on Thursday.

It was filed under sections of the Ranbir Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), the official said.

Mattoo and Wani were killed in separate encounters in Jammu and

Kashmir in 2017 and 2018, respectively, the NIA official said.

The case relates to subversive activities of the LeT in Kulgam. It was motivating youths such as Bhat to join the militant group and organise their travel to Pakistan for training on the basis of valid travel documents following the recommendation of separatist leaders, the NIA official said.

Investigations by the NIA, which took over the case on September 25, 2018, established that LeT militant Mattoo motivated Bhat to join the LeT and go to Pakistan for arms training, the NIA spokesperson said. He added that Wani, another LeT militant, gave him funds to meet the expenses of his visit to the neighbouring country. ● P-02

## HC Dismisses Plea Against e-Auction Of Minor Minerals In J&K

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The J&K high court has dismissed plea against e-auctions of minor minerals in Jammu and Kashmir, observing that it is the most transparent and efficient method of conducting a public auction.

A bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Sanjay Dhar said that decision of the government to cancel the auction of 2017 was "bonafidely based on material on record and arrived at after application of mind and full consideration of the relevant material purely in public interest."

"The decision to change the policy and to auction mineral licences by e-auction was a reason-



able policy decision fairly made without any ulterior purpose for the discernible reasons," the court said, adding, "that e-auctions are the most transparent, maximize competition, geographically inclusive, effective, efficient method of conducting a public auction which enables maximization of the public interest and national priorities."

The court was hearing appeal to

its single bench's judgment, challenging dismissal of 16 petitions in which challenge was thrown to a communication of the Department of Industries and Commerce, scrapping open auction carried under the J&K Minor Minerals Concession, Storage, Transportation of Minerals and Prevention of Illegal Mining Rules 2016 and providing further

● P-02

## Women Burglars Gang Busted In Srinagar: Police

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Police said on Friday that they have busted a gang of women burglars in Srinagar by arresting five women thieves who were involved in pickpocketing and other theft related incidents in busy market areas of the city.

Speaking to the media here, Haseeb Mughal, SSP (Srinagar), said that a group of eight thieves has been arrested, of which five are women.

"So far, Rs 90,000 stolen cash has been recovered from the arrested group, besides a huge cache of stolen purses, LCD TVs, furnishing items etc."

"The women would get close to females shopping in busy markets like Gonikhan

● P-02

## Ex- DIG Dies While Finding Shortest Route To China LAC

NEW DELHI: A 70-year-old retired BSF deputy inspector general died in the upper reaches of Himachal Pradesh while leading a team to "explore the shortest route to China border", officials said on Wednesday.

The retired officer, S C Negi, had commanded a Border Security Force (BSF) battalion in Kargil during the 1999 war between India and Pakistan, and had retired in 2010 after putting in 33 years of service.

"He took his last breath in the mountain for the cause of the nation when he was

● P-02

## In FOCUS / Nastaliq To Devanagari: After Language, Kashmir Watching Script Campaign

Swati Joshi

After the Jammu and Kashmir Official Language Act was implemented by New Delhi recently, there has been a concern amongst civil society in Kashmir over the promotion of the Devanagari script over the Nastaliq style for the digitization of data.

Lately, in a letter issued to J&K government, the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology mentioned that the Centre wants to digitize materials of Kashmiri language in Devanagari script.

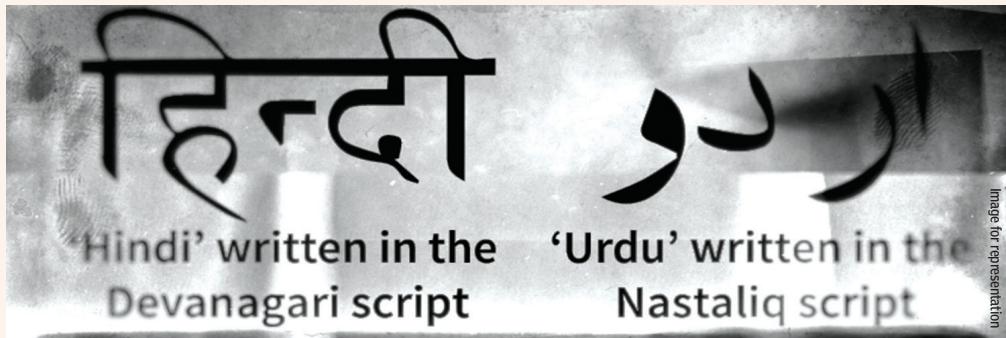
Reacting to this, the Group of Concerned Citizens (GCC) expressed its

concern over the promotion of Devanagari script instead of Nastaliq style for the Kashmiri Language.

GCC is a Kashmiri based-civil society body of former vice-chancellors, bureaucrats and academicians.

In a joint statement, the GCC members stressed that the Common Locale Data Repository (CLDR), a project of the Unicode consortium for preparation of required data, is using the Devanagari script instead of its Persian script.

"The introduction of Devanagari script in the digitized official repository raises genuine apprehensions about the future of the Persian script, which need to be allayed



through an explicit order about retention of Persian script in Nastaliq style," the civil society group said.

Pandit Pash

Recently, a letter issued by All India Kashmiri Samaj (AIKS), an apex body of Indian and Overseas Kashmiri Pandit organizations, justified

the use of Devanagari as additional/co-script for the Kashmiri language.

"The biggest advantage will accrue to thousands of young Kashmiris

in the diaspora, who have been deprived of any creative contact with their mother tongue for the last three decades," mentioned the letter, adding, "most of them, especially those who were born after 1985 or 1990 lost all that tradition and heritage give us to make us complete human beings and good citizens of this great democracy. By being tossed about in search of livelihood, their contacts were jettisoned. Devanagari Kashmiri would help them to get back on the right course."

Nothing New

According to Yasir Bashir, a resident of Bandipora and a former PhD scholar from Jamia Milia Islamia

University, the demand of AIKS or "some other Kashmiri Hindu organization" to introduce Devanagari as the script for the Kashmiri language is not new.

In 1938, the Dogra Raj appointed a committee called the Education Reorganization Committee to make the necessary recommendations for the reorganization of the existing system of education in the state at that time, explained Bashir.

He said, among numerous other issues, the committee also examined the scripts and the medium of instructions in the schools.

In this regard, the committee recommended, "If this State...

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