

Maximum : 19°C
Minimum : 03°C
Humidity : 46%
SUNSET
Today 05:35 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:53 AM

News Digest

4 J&K Cadre IPS Officers Promoted As ADGPs

Srinagar- The Jammu & Kashmir administration has ordered promotion of four IPS officers of J&K cadre as additional director generals of police (ADGPs). According to an order, Dr. S.D. Singh, Satish Khandare, Rajesh Kumar and T. Namgyal have been promoted as ADGPs with effect from 01.01.2020. The government has also ordered promotion of Amit Kumar to the grade of super time scale (DIG) with effect from 01.01.2020. It has also ordered grade promotion of Sunil Gupta, Sujit Kumar, Vivek Gupta and Mohd Suleman Choudhary to the selection grade of IPS. ● P-02

IGI Starts Covid Testing For Flyers

New Delhi: The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has now started Covid-19 testing for all domestic passengers. The facility was on a pilot run since October 28 and received a go ahead from the authorities on Tuesday after its successful trial. The airport already tests international passengers, and now the facility has been extended to the domestic passengers as well who would board from or arrive at the airport. However, the testing would be done only on demand from the passengers. The officials at Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), ● P-02

Headmaster Involved In Rice Scam Held

Srinagar: A Government School Headmaster, one of the accused in a rice scandal who was evading arrest has been arrested by police in Sumbal area of North Kashmir's Bandipora district. Pertinently, 61 bags of rice meant for mid-day meals at Middle School Sumbal were recovered from a Tata-Mobile vehicle by Sumbal police in the premises of Middle School. The rice meant for mid-day meals "was transferred from school illegally and the attempt was thwarted by police". Police had arrested three. ● P-02

6 Held For 'Cattle Smuggling' In Jammu

Jammu: Six suspected cattle smugglers have been arrested and 61 bovines recovered in Kathua and Udhampur districts of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, officials said. Based on a tip-off, a police party during checking on a highway in Tikri, Chenani and Salora in Udhampur district intercepted four vehicles on their way to Kashmir, they said. Twenty-one bovine animals were found loaded into the vehicles and being smuggled to the valley, the officials said. ● P-02

Forest Fire Rages In Lolab

Srinagar: Massive fire broke out at multiple locations in Lolab forest area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Tuesday. According to the reports, the locals from WarnowAffan hamlet were alerted this afternoon, after they saw smoke billowing from the nearby forests. On visiting the location, locals, as per reports, witnessed a major part of the forest area including vegetation razed to ashes. The fire is gradually spreading to other parts of the forest area. ● P-02

'New Land Laws Aimed To Change J&K Demography'

Gupkar Alliance Rejects Govt Claims, Say 'Facts Distorted, Lies Being Weaved'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) on Tuesday rejected the Jammu and Kashmir government's assertion that the bulk of the agricultural land will not be transferred to people from outside the Union Territory.

The PAGD termed the earlier land laws of Jammu and Kashmir the most progressive, pro-people and pro-farmer in the entire Indian subcontinent.

"PAGD rejects the statement of official spokesman on 26th October MHA order as bizarre attempt to distort facts, weave lies and mislead people," the seven-party alliance said in a statement.

It said the real object of the repeal of the basic land laws and the massive amendments to the other laws is to push in and implement the agenda of effecting "demographic change" ● PAGE 02

Congress Demands Rollback Of New Land Laws



No File Photo: Arif Butt

Delhi Will One Day Follow Mufti Sahab's Dream: Mehbooba

SRINAGAR: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday said she would go to any extent to safeguard the future of the youth of Jammu and Kashmir by striving for the restoration of the erstwhile state's special status.

"We have lived our lives... Now we have to think about

the youth and their children. We can go to any extent to safeguard the future of our youth," Mehbooba told reporters after a convention organised by the PDP's youth wing here.

The former chief minister said while her party had battled against excesses committed by the "Task" ● PAGE 02

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) on Tuesday said the government statement on new land laws in the union territory was an attempt to mislead the people and called for ● P-02

6 Months On, RBI Yet To Clear Name Of JK Bank MD

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Clouds of uncertainty continue to loom large over the appointment of J&K Bank's new Managing Director, even as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently extended the term of incumbent Chairman R K Chibber by another six months.

Zubair Iqbal, who was appointed as new Managing Director (MD) of the bank by the Jammu and Kashmir government on May 16, is waiting for the clearance from RBI while the "current dispensation" is not showing any interest to fill up the post, insiders said. After his appointment, Iqbal was asked to wait till the clear-



File Photo

ance from the RBI is received. However, since then, the much awaited clearance nod has not been received by the bank.

Insiders maintain that getting clearance is not a big deal but the present dispensation was resorting to dilly dally tactics for the reasons better known to them.

"Usually RBI issues clearance within a period of 90" ● PAGE 02

Rename Srinagar Airport After Major Somnath: BJP

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP vice president and former minister Sham Lal Sharma on Tuesday demanded renaming the Srinagar airport in the name of Major Somnath Sharma, the first Param Vir Chakra awardee who died fighting Pakistani tribesmen in 1947.

Some years ago the coalition government led by PDP had mooted the proposal of re-

christening the Srinagar airport after Sheikh Noor-ud-din Wali, the patron saint of Kashmir also known as Sheikh-ul-Alam. However central government has so far refused to accept the decision.

"Due to the martyrdom of Major Somnath Sharma, Kashmir is with India today. We appeal to the Lieutenant Governor to name Kashmir Airport after his name," the BJP leader said while paying tributes to the Major on ● PAGE 02

SOME YEARS AGO THE COALITION government led by PDP had mooted the proposal of re-christening the Srinagar airport after Sheikh Noor-ud-din Wali, the patron saint of Kashmir also known as Sheikh-ul-Alam. However central government has so far refused to accept the decision.

4 Youth Go Missing From South Kashmir

SRINAGAR: At least four youth from twin districts of Shopian and Pulwama in south Kashmir have gone missing from last two weeks, reports said Tuesday.

22-year-old Amir Ahmed Malik, son of Abdul Gaffar Malik of Zainapora and Umer Malik resident of Sugan in Shopian district left their home two weeks ago and have not returned since then, news agency KDC reported Tuesday. Similarly, in neighboring Pulwama district, Shahnaz Ahmad of Sambora and Umer Khanday of Pampore have reported gone missing in similar circumstances.

Quoting sources, the report says that Amir had left his ● P-02

Pak Rejects India's Statement On Baltistan

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan is heading towards making the official announcement of declaring Gilgit Baltistan (GB) as its fifth province, heated exchange of statements has flared up between New Delhi and Islamabad.

In a latest, Pakistan has "categorically rejected" the Indian Ministry of External Affairs' (MEA) statement regarding GB, stating that New Delhi has no locus standi whatsoever on the issue. ● P-02

25 Percent Educated Youth In J&K Jobless

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In what could be a worrying sign for the educated and jobless youth in Jammu and Kashmir, the unemployment rate in the Union Territory has reached to 25 percent, double than the national average.

Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, which was stripped off semi-autonomous states by the BJP-led government, last year, has 65 percent population under the age of 35 years. If the official figures are to be believed, 25 percent youth in the Union Territory remain unemployed, despite tall claims of recruitment drives by the successive governments.

"We are facing many challenges. Unemployment is a major concern in J&K. For a single post, thousands of aspirants are applying," an official said.



File Photo

To curb unemployment, the official said, the J&K administration has set up year 2025 as its target to create job opportunities.

"The J&K government has sought support of the national-level investors and industry experts in creating robust infrastructure and employment avenues for the youth of J&K," the official added.

Woman's Abduction Sparks Protest In Kulgam, 2 Held

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Scores of people held a protest in Poniwah village of south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Tuesday against the alleged abduction and sexual assault on a young woman by two youth.

According to witnesses, scores of people in Poniwah village hit the streets and staged a demonstration demanding punishment for the youth who abducted and sexually assaulted a young girl in Akhal village of the district last week. The protesters blocked Kulgam-Yaripora road for some time to seek action against the guilty.

The protesters said the victim was abducted and allegedly sexually assaulted by two youth

in an orchard during a wedding ceremony in Akhal village of the district on October 31.

"The girl was found in semi-unconscious state and was shifted to hospital where from she was referred to Srinagar hospital for treatment," the protesters said. They identified the accused as Adil Dar and Wasim Dar. The accused had arrived in the village as guests.

The protesters said that the girl was battling for life and demanded stern punishment for the accused.

Police assured them of action and informed them that the accused have already been taken into custody.

Meanwhile, a police spokesperson on Tuesday warned action against rumour mongers for spreading fake news about the girl's ● PAGE 02

Covid Toll Crosses 1500 Mark With 12 More Deaths

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: As many as twelve more people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, taking the numbers of deaths in the Union Territory due to the virus past 1500 mark.

Kashmir valley reported eight more deaths while four more people succumbed to the deadly infection in Jammu division, officials said. In Valley, six of the victims were residents of Srinagar city and one each from Anantnag and Kulgam districts of south Kashmir.

The victims from Srinagar include a 45-year-old male from Makhdoom Sahib, a 63-year-old from Shaheed Gunj, an 80-year-old woman from Lasjan, an 80-year-old man from Soura, a 50-year-old man from Rawalpura and a 72-year-old man from

Mehjoor Nagar, officials said.

The victim from Anantnag was a 47-year-old woman from Khanabal area, who died at SKIMS Soura, eight days after being admitted to the tertiary care hospital.

Regarding the victims from Jammu, officials said one each belonged to the winter capital of J&K, Rajouri, Doda and Ramban.

With these deaths, the fatality count has reached 1505 in J&K—1001 in Valley and 504 in the Jammu region.

Srinagar district with 366 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (260), Baramulla (146), Budgam (94), Pulwama (83), Kupwara (73), Anantnag (75), Rajouri (48), Kulgam (48), Bandipora (47), Doda (47), Shopian (35), Ganderbal (34), Udhampur (32), Kathua (31), Samba (25), Poonch (23), Kishtwar (15), Ramban (15), and Reasi (8). (With GNS inputs)

Cases Cross 96K Mark As 478 More Test Positive

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Tuesday 478 new cases of novel coronavirus, including 28 travelers, taking the total number of people infected by the virus across the Union Territory past 96000. While 283 new cases were detected on Tuesday from Kashmir valley, the remaining 195 were reported ● P-02

Bid To Hoist Tricolour On PDP Office Foiled

JAMMU: A Sikh activist, who tried to hoist tricolour atop the PDP office here during a protest against remarks by its chief Mehbooba Mufti on the tricolour, was detained by police on Tuesday, officials said.

On October 24, Amandeep Singh had hoisted the tricolour on the boundary wall near the main entrance of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) office and a day later, he along with some youths attempted to hoist it on the party's headquarters, but were stopped by police.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Jammu, Sridhar Patil confirmed Singh's detention.

He has been detained under some other case and not for disturbance to law and order, the officer said. ● P-02

Elderly Dies Of Cardiac Arrest During Scuffle

SRINAGAR: An elderly man died of cardiac arrest in south Kashmir's Shopian district on Tuesday during a clash triggered by the land acquisition drive by the district authorities.

Some residents of Hermain village, including women resorted to stone pelting when a team of officials led by Tehsildar Hermain, Block Development Officer (BDO) reached the village on Tuesday to take possession of a piece of land that was supposed to be converted into a sports ground, news agency KNT reported quoted witnesses.

Due to the stone pelting, an elderly man suffered cardiac arrest and died on the spot ● P-02

In FOCUS

Tracing Missing History In Kashmir's Abridged Archives

Zaid Bin Shabir

Fuelled by his grandfather's homeland history lessons, Tawqeer recently decided to visit some renowned libraries to unravel the valley's remorseless past. The 22-year-old journalist was told that the archival data about Kashmir's chequered history calibrates itself among the richest in the world.

It was the crispy cold morning of October 19 and the first stop for the millennial was the Allama Iqbal Library located in the foothills of the Zabarwan Mountains surrounded by the still surfaced

beauty of the Dal-Lake.

With the end of the Chak dynasty's "generous" reign in Kashmir and with the dawn of the Mughal rule in the valley, the chroniclers write, the history of Kashmir transformed into a decades-long conflict and carnage. Kashmir never witnessed a "peaceful reign" after the imprisonment of Yusuf Shah Chak the last Kashmiri Badshah of Shah Chak dynasty by Akbar in 1586 AD.

As Tawqeer stepped into the library, the smell of books and outdoor placed archived photos were enough to coerce the young boy to hasten towards the capitated premises of the library. The millen-

nial's eyes were all set to dig up the historical documentation on Dogra reign in Kashmir. He found only four books in the sea of paper.

After perusing the index of all the four, the only information Tawqeer could perceive was the commerce sector under the Dogra rule.

Notably, the archives on Laws, treatment of Kashmiris, and punishments for crimes were still unfound. Once again the impassioned boy's hasten search for archives flared up.

Fervent Tawqeer searched every "nook and corner" of the most presti-

gious library in Srinagar, but the only archive of the Dogra rule were these books with a very limited amount of information engraved in them.

The budding journo was in disdain, but the desire to read about Kashmir's persecuted past and its vicious laws wouldn't let him relinquish. After reaching the Library help desk, the salty faced receptionist asked him

to see another official of the library who in return asked him to meet the Librarian-who in return had asked him to meet the Head of the Histories department.

The boy soon realized that the majority of archives on Kash-



Image for representation

mir's history had no sign of visibility in the Library or anywhere in the histories department and the officials of the library had no answer to the queries of this young book reader.

"No nation can move forward while destroying their own history," says Tawqeer while reading the "Hindu Rulers and Muslim Subjects", a book based on the persecution of Kashmir's local population by the Dogra rulers.

Disappointed Tawqeer had to leave the library premises in a hysterical manner. While his eagerness had no end, the only place Tawqeer could think of was the SPS Library located on the brink of swarmed M.A. road

Srinagar, a road that once catered to a number of Sheikh Abdullah's child militia-who drilled with the wooden rifles towards the famous Ghanta Ghar during the Pathan Tribesmen invasion period in the fall of 1947.

As Tawqeer accelerated towards the main entrance of the library, the newly constructed interiors of the building were astonishing for him. After a long disappointing day for the young book lover, there was finally something to cherish his mood up. The receptionist insisted him to have Nun-Chai (Salt tea), that he had brought from his home while the young enthusiast was waiting for the library official who could have briefed him on his prerequisites.

A young female library official invited Tawqeer to the library office where he learned a dismaying truth. The libraries' archival data ● PAGE 02