



Maximum : 19°C
Minimum : 02°C
Humidity : 42%

SUNSET
Today 05:33 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:55 AM



News Digest

Cop Found Hanging From A Tree

Srinagar: A policeman was found hanging from a tree in Magam area of central Kashmir's Budgam district, hours after he went missing, police said. A police official said that body of the constable was found near BatporaKanihama area of Magam. The slain constable has been identified as Mohammad Ashraf son of Abdul Majeed Rather of ArchanderhamaMagam. Sources said the constable was posted at Parihaspora Pattan and was missing since last night from his home. Further details of the incident are awaited, the official added.

Kotwal Posted IGR, Kabra Gets Revenue

JAMMU- According to a government order issued here today, Dr. PawanKotwal, Principal Secretary Revenue Department, holding additional charge of Financial Commissioner, Revenue, J&K and Inspector General of Registration, J&K, has been posted as Inspector General of Registration (IGR), J&K. Likewise, ShaleenKabra, Principal Secretary, Home Department, shall hold the charge of Principal Secretary, Revenue Department and Financial Commissioner, Revenue, J&K, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

3 Houses Guttred In Gurez Fire

Gurez: At least three residential houses and two cowsheds on Thursday were damaged in a massive blaze that broke out in Gurezvalley of north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Thursday evening. Locals said fire broke out in a double-storey residential house belonging to GhulamRasool Lone of BudgaamTulail and immediately engulfed nearby houses. They said that the fire tenders failed to reach on time due to the congested roads, resulting in damage to three residential houses and two cowsheds. However, an official said that a police team along with

3 Teenagers Injured In Budgam Accident

Srinagar: Three teenagers on Thursday were injured in a road accident in Pymus area of central Kashmir's Budgam district. Aqib Farooq Dar was riding his motorcycle when he lost control over his bike in Pymus area of district, officials said. In the accident, Dar's pillion riders identified as AbrarGulzarBhat son of Gulzar Ahmed and Arshad Ahmed Lone son of Abdul Rashid were also injured. The injured trio, all between the age group of 18 to 19 years, were rushed to a nearby hospital.

Bear, Cub Found Dead In Awantipora

Srinagar: A bear and a cub on Thursday were found dead on Srinagar- Jammu highway near Awantipora. The bodies were found lying on the highway near Noorpora, officials said. They said it was believed that a speedy vehicle might have crushed the wild animals to death during the intervening night of November 4-5. An official from the Wild Life Department told news agency KNT that a team removed the bodies of the bear and cub from the road.

'Stop The Count', Trump Tweets As Biden Inches Closer To Victory US Presidential Election In Limbo



Rachael D'Amore

WASHINGTON: Two days after Election Day, the fate of U.S. President Donald Trump and former vice-president Joe Biden still hangs in the balance.

Over the last 24 hours, Biden has turned a corner. The Democratic candidate, who has been steeped in American politics for nearly a half-century, secured victories in Wisconsin and Michigan and retaining his electoral college vote lead over Trump. Biden currently has 264 of the 270 electoral votes, while Trump

sits at 214.

There are still hurdles to cross. Biden's victory in Michigan means he's technically one battleground state away from achieving his White House hopes, but calls for recounts could further delay determining a president-elect.

Much of the attention has now turned to Nevada, where the Biden campaign is leading slightly. A victory would clinch the state's six electoral votes — and the presidency — for the Democrats.

Trump faces a bigger challenge at this point. To achieve

LoC Heats Up In Poonch

JAMMU: India and Pakistani troops traded heavy gunfire and mortar shells ON Thursday along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Pakistan army violated the ceasefire thrice on Thursday by resorting to heavy firing and shelling on forward areas and posts in three sectors along the LoC in Poonch district, officials said.

The Pakistani side also resorted to firing along the International Border (IB), targeting hamlets and border outposts in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district overnight, they added.

"At about 1730 hours today, Pak army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling with mortars along LoC in Shahpur, Kirni and Qasba sectors in district Poonch," a defence spokesman said here.

He said the Indian Army mounted a befitting retaliation.

On October 1, an Army jawan was killed and another injured when Pakistani troops resorted to heavy firing and mortar shelling along the LoC in Krishnagati area of Poonch district.

A soldier was killed and two others, including an officer, were injured on September 5 in Pakistani firing and shelling along the LoC in Sunderbani sector of Rajouri district.

On September 2, one JCO was killed in another ceasefire violation along the LoC in Keri sector of Rajouri.

According to official sources, 3,589 ceasefire violations by Pakistan were reported

2 Civilians Injured In Ongoing Pampore Encounter

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two civilians were injured, one among them critically in the ongoing encounter between government forces and militants in Pampore town of south Kashmir's Pulwama district, officials said Thursday.

Acting on inputs suggesting presence of militants, army's 50 RR, special operations group (SOG) of police and CRPF appeared in Lalpora village of Pampore and started a cordon and search operation, a police spokesperson said. He said while cordon was being laid, the militants hiding in the village fired "indiscriminately" leaving at least two people injured.

A local news agency KNO identified the two injured civilians as Abid Nabi and Kifayat Ahmad, both residents of Pampore.

Block Medical Officer (BMO) Pampore, Gulzar Ahmad said that two persons—one with head injury and another with thigh injury were received at SDH Pampore and both were referred to Srinagar.

"Abid Nabi with critical head injury is undergoing treatment at SMHS Srinagar while Kifayat Ahmad is undergoing treatment at Bone and Joint hospital," a health official said.



Ko File Photo Abid Bhat

Gunmen Kill Shopkeeper, Injure Driver In Pulwama

Unidentified gunmen on Thursday shot dead a shopkeeper and injured a cab driver in two separate attacks in Pulwama district of south Kashmir. According to the officials, unidentified gunmen appeared in Tral town on Thursday evening and fired upon the shopkeeper identified as Mohammad Ayoub Ahangar. The shopkeeper, they said was critically injured in the attack. He was taken to the nearby hospital where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

Taking to its official Twitter page, police wrote the hiding militants have been tracked by the combined forces and the encounter between the two

sides was going on.

According to the reports, the state forces have tightened the cordon in the village and have installed lights to foil any attempts of the holed-up militants to escape.

Right Wing Groups Protest Mehbooba's Jammu Visit, Wave Black Flags

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti was shown black flags at the Jammu Airport on Thursday by local Shiv Sena and Rashtriya Bajrang Dal activists protesting against her remarks on the national flag.

The activists asked the former chief minister to go back and threatened to disrupt law and order here if she was allowed to carry forward her Gupkar Agenda in Jammu.

Led by youth leaders Rakesh Kumar and Manish Kumar, the Shiv Sena Sena and Rashtriya Bajrang Dal activists blocked the road on



Ko File Photo Abid Bhat

the Jammu Airport and showed black flags on her arrival.

However, police later cleared the road to facilitate passage of Mufti. Amid chants of

PDP Leaders Refuse To Sign Surety Bonds

Over a dozen Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leaders on Thursday declined to sign a surety bond before the Executive Magistrate stating that they will not indulge in "unlawful and anti-national activities". At least 19 PDP leaders, who were detained and booked last week under

Notifications Issued For DDC Elections, Panchayat-Municipal By-Polls

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir State Election Commissioner K K Sharma issued the first notification on Thursday for conducting the maiden election to the district development councils (DDCs) in 20 districts and by-polls to panchayats.

The DDC elections, the first major political activity since the abrogation of Article 370 provisions on August 5 last year, will be held in eight phases from November 28 to December 22.

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO)

Hardesh Kumar also issued the first notification for conducting an eight-phase bypoll for the civic bodies.

According to the notification, the last date for submitting nominations is next Thursday, followed by scrutiny a day later and withdrawal of candidature on November 16.

He said the polling would be held from 9 am to 1 pm on November 28 and the counting of votes will be taken up on the same day for panchayat bypolls and on December 22 for the DDC polls.

The date before which the election shall be completed

Gunmen Loot Rs 60L From JKB Cash Van In Shopian

SRINAGAR: Unknown gunmen on Thursday looted Rs 60 lakh cash from a bank van in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

Around 10:30 am, several unknown gunmen looted cash from a van of Jammu and Kashmir Bank branch Shopian near Jamia Masjid area in south Kashmir, a police official said.

He said the gunmen took away about Rs 60 lakh rupees from the bank van.

Police have registered a case and investigation has been set into motion, the official said.

No Construction Within 200-Mts Of Wular Lake: HC



Ko File Photo Abid Bhat

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has banned constructions within 200 metres of the boundaries of the Wular Lake, one of the largest freshwater lakes of Asia.

Hearing a Public Interest Litigation, a division bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Sanjay Dhar also directed authorities to ensure that no garbage was "at all"

dumped within the boundaries or within such distance of the Lake as is mandated by the law as well as the International and National Protocols for such area.

Rejecting the "excuse" by the government that garbage was dumped within the boundaries of the Wular Lake "for want of land for the dumping of the garbage."

"We make it clear that this is no excuse at all for

24 Years Later, Papa Kishtwari's Death Concludes Srinagar Man's Campaign

Auqib Javed

A struggle-hardened campaigner from Srinagar—whose father became one of the victims of the former renegade chief Papa Kishtwari—is now looking forward to live rest of his life in peace after his family's 'tormentor' passed away.

WITH tears in his eyes and smile on his parched face, 50-year old Zahoor Ahmad Mir walked inside Srinagar's Press Enclave on Thursday afternoon to announce an uncanny closure of his two-decade-old campaign.

After losing his lawyer Baber Qadri to assassins this past September,



Zahoor 'got rid of his tormentor' to cardiac arrest on Thursday.

Zahoor said his father, Ali Mohammad Mir, a contractor from Nishat

area of Srinagar city, was killed by Ghulam Muhammad Lone alias Papa Kishtwari in 1996. His body was not returned till date, he added.

Kishtwari, the onetime dreaded Ikhwani commander operating from saffron town Pampore, his stronghold back in nineties, was facing a trial in series of killings and was currently lodged in Srinagar's Central Jail.

He died in a Srinagar hospital on Thursday.

"He died under trial, not before killing over 236 innocent people," Zahoor told Kashmir Observer.

"I was fighting against him alone for the last two decades and it really hurts that he wasn't punished for the heinous crimes he committed despite all the evidences against him."

In Srinagar's Press

6 More Coronavirus Deaths In J&K, Toll 1521

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus claimed six more lives in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, taking the death toll since the outbreak of pandemic in the Union Territory to 1521, officials said.

Kashmir valley reported four more Covid-19 deaths, while two more people also succumbed to the infection in the winter capital, they said. In Valley, three of the victims were residents of Srinagar, while another one was from Ganderbal district of central Kashmir.

Among others, the victims from Srinagar include an 80-year-old man from Lal Bazar, who died at SKIMS Soura, three days after he was admitted to the tertiary care hospital, they said. Also, they said, a 60-year-old woman from Ganderbal died at SKIMS, a week after she was admitted to the hospital.

31 Security Men Among 524 More Test Positive

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Thursday 524 fresh cases of Covid-19, including six CRPF men, as many BSF personnel besides 19 army soldiers and two minors. Among them, 185 cases were confirmed from Jammu and 339 from Kashmir Valley, officials said.

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In FOCUS / Junked As 'Surplus', Teachers Becoming Tillers In Kashmir

Bisma Bhat

Every morning, Arshid Ahmad, a 40-year-old contractual college lecturer readies himself not for his routine classroom teaching session but to work in one of the relative's land as a farm labourer.

Soon after the Jammu and Kashmir lost its special status on August 5, 2019, Arshid was disowned by the higher education department. Sans job and salary, he was forced to do land tilling to feed his family.

Hailing from south Kashmir's Kulgam district, Arshid—a post-graduate in Political Science and National



Eligibility Test (NET) qualifier—was appointed as a contractual lecturer in 2004 and since then he has been serving the higher education department with a hope that his services would be regularized one day.

"For the first 10 years of my

career, I was solely running the department of Political Science," Arshid said. "I was going out of my way to serve the department."

However, after August last year, the department told him that they do not need his services anymore.

"After taking 15-years of services from me, the government has now categorized me as 'surplus candidate' and discarded me as deadwood of the department," Arshid rued, adding that he was left with no option other than to work as a tiller to support his family.

"School fee of my children is pending since March because I've not received my pending salary. What will I feed my family, if I won't work as a tiller now," he lamented.

Not eligible for any other job

Arshid is among the 500 senior-most college contractual lecturers who've served the department for nearly two decades and are not eli-

gible for any other job, as they've crossed the upper age limit.

After giving their youth to the department, the government has issued an order categorizing them into "surplus candidates". The order has come as a big blow for these teachers awaiting regularization since years now.

Since 1995, Dr. Fayaz Wani, a senior-most college contractual lecturer, has already served the Arabic Department for 25 years.

Hailing from Magam area of district Budgam, 52-year-old Wani is currently posted at Government Degree College Kanshab. Like others in his contractual