



Maximum : 9°
Minimum : 4°
Humidity : 88%

SUNSET
Today 05:26 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 07:03 AM



News Digest

J&K CID Searches 22 Places In J&K, Delhi

JAMMU: The Criminal Investigation Department (CID), a branch of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, on Saturday conducted searches at 22 places in Jammu and Kashmir, and Delhi in connection with a case pertaining to several dubious and irregular financial transactions, a police spokesman said.

Teams of intelligence officers affected searches at a total of 22 premises spread over Srinagar, Budgam and Anantnag in Kashmir, and in Jammu and Delhi which include private offices and residences, he said.

The spokesman said the searches were conducted against several suspects in connection with the investigation of a case registered under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, the Prevention of Corruption Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

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Youth Injured In Hit-And Run Accident

SRINAGAR: A youth was injured on Saturday after an army vehicle hit his car and fled from the spot in Kangan area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district.

32-year-old Muhammad Akhter Khatana of Surfraw village was injured when an army vehicle that was part of a convoy, hit his car (JK16-5434) near Haknar area of Gund along the Srinagar-Leh highway, news agency KNT reported. The injured youth, report said was taken to public health centre (PHC) Gund for treatment. However, the doctors there referred him to sub-district hospital Kangan for advanced treatment.

The report quoted unnamed sources as saying that the police have taken cognizance of the accident as the army vehicle fled from the spot after injuring youth.

Electric Shock Injures KPDCCL Employee

SRINAGAR: A Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCCL) employee on Saturday was injured after receiving an electric shock in north-Kashmir's Kupwara district.

The employee identified as Mohammad Shah Bhat of Kulangam sustained injuries after receiving an electric shock at Chotipora area of Handwara on Saturday evening, news agency GNS reported. Bhat, who sustained burns in his face and hands was rushed to District Hospital Handwara for treatment. His condition is said to be stable, the report said.

Ladakh Records 80 New COVID-19 Cases

LEH: Eighty new COVID-19 cases in Ladakh in a day took the infection tally in the Union Territory to 7,291 on Saturday, while 62 patients have recuperated from the disease during the same period, according to an official bulletin.

Ladakh had recorded a total of 89 deaths so far, of which 49 were in Leh district and 40 in Kargil district. As many as 6,213 people have recovered till date.

According to the bulletin released by the Directorate of Health Services, a total of 80 people tested positive for COVID-19 in a day, of them, 79 were in Leh and one in Kargil.

The Union Territory has 989 active cases of which 889 were in Leh and 100 in Kargil.

Haji Aspirants Told To Submit Documents

SRINAGAR: The Haji Committee on Saturday asked the pilgrims to submit all the relevant details, including bank details while uploading the online application form for Hajj 2021.

In a circular order issued today, the officials said that the intending Haji Pilgrims of Hajj 2021 while submitting the application form online shall upload copy of cancelled cheque or first page of Bank passbook depicting clearly 16 digit Bank Account Number along with IFSC Code, besides other documents like Passport, Photograph and Address Proof.

A DAY AFTER LoC BLOODBATH:

Abid Bhat

KAMALKOTE, URI: In this fear-filled village standing in the line of fire, residents on Saturday were wondering about a live shell which rested in a residence like a ticking bomb.

Some scattered shells on streets, courtyards and fields equally sounded an alarm.

A few panic calls were made to an army helpline number for bomb hunters to diffuse some tensions, which once again reared their ugly heads as the winter arrived in the valley.

The scenes were telling.

Some women returning from a "long night" were embracing each other in sheer joy and wonder. A baker was inspecting his glass-shattered shop. A grocer was assembling his scattered rice stock from ground. A handicapped was standing in the backdrop of shell-shattered structure. A boy was gazing from a shell-bored wall.

Men were wondering about another possible round of shelling. Women were mourning another loss.

All these scenes made Kamalkote a



Family mourns Irshad Ahmad Gangyal, who was killed by a mortar shell outside a ration depot in Kamalkote on Friday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

lamenting landscape, craving for a break from LoC fireworks once again erupting here a day before Diwali.

Rattled, villagers abandoned their homes, sheds and barns, fearing for their lives. On the panic-filled streets, kids

screamed in fear, while women beat their chest in anxiety.

Officials stated that at least 30 residential houses have suffered partial damage in Friday's cross-border shelling in Uri.

A desperate run—glimpses of which

“These shellings have flattened our graveyards, triggered migrations from our village and made people handicapped.”

were seen in viral videos—once again became the hallmark of a helpless life caught in the throes of uncertainty at LoC.

“Like always, shelling started so sudden that we had to abandon everything,” said Rehman, an elderly villager in Kamalkote.

“Most of us thought our end is near,” he said. But then, Rehman continued, the villagers can't even complain now.

“Our righteous demand for bunkers is repeatedly falling on deaf ears. If army can update its infrastructure at LoC, why isn't any effort being made to secure our civilian lives here?”

After braving horrors for 24 hours, villagers including women and children sat with worried faces and flashed refugee-like looks in their own home.

While many predicted another round of LoC firing, others were cursing their luck for “living in hell”.

“Woe unto them who brought this situation upon us,” a young man said.

“These shellings have flattened our graveyards, triggered migrations from our village and made people handicapped.”

“Why can't they allow us to live in some peace?” What's stopping these two nations to resolve this cursed issue for once and all and spare us from this constant death and destruction phase?”

Amid anguish came the disturbing projection of the life near LoC. The other day, as hills echoed with bangs, the villagers saw many structures shattering into pieces.

One fallen civilian's home had become a solidarity shelter.

“In this renewed LoC tension between India and Pakistan, mourners are us Kashmiris,” says an elderly woman.

Apart from death, the LoC guns have left behind another trail of human wreck behind. Kamalkote has now another handicapped addition to its long list.

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'INDIA WILL GIVE 'PRACHAND JAWAB' IF TESTED'

PM Modi's Diwali with soldiers at Longewala: Tank ride, sweets, and stern message for Pak, China

Press Trust Of India

LONGEWALA (RAJASTHAN): Delivering an unambiguous message to India's enemies, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday asserted that it will give a “prachand jawab” (fierce reply) if provoked, as he flew to Longewala Post to celebrate Diwali with soldiers, a custom he has been observing since assuming office in 2014.

Addressing soldiers at the forward post, which has become a part of military legend after troops here successfully thwarted numerically higher Pakistani forces in the 1971 war, Modi took a swipe at China without naming it, saying the world is troubled by “expansionist forces” and expansionism shows a “distorted mindset” that belongs to the 18th century.

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“Today, if the need arises, India doesn't hesitate to go in and take the enemy out. Be it ground strikes or air strikes; our decisions have sent a clear message to those who don't understand the goodwill of peace.”



LoC FLARE-UP

India Summons Pak Charge d'Affair

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: India on Saturday summoned the Charge d'Affaires of the Pakistan High Commission and lodged a strong protest over the unprovoked ceasefire violations by Pakistani forces on multiple sectors along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said India also condemned, in the strongest terms, the “deliberate targeting” of innocent civilians by Pakistani forces.

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2G Remains Suspended In Kupwara

SRINAGAR: Mobile internet services remained suspended for the second consecutive day in north Kashmir's Kupwara district after Friday's deadly clashes along the Line of Control (LoC) in which five soldiers and five civilians were killed.

According to the locals, low speed internet services remained suspended for the second consecutive day

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Cracks In PDP As Co-Founder Muzaffar Baig Quits Party



Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Senior pro-India politician and former Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Muzaffar Hussain Baig on Saturday announced his disassociation from People's Democratic Party (PDP) over the party's seat sharing agreement with the constituents of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) for the upcoming district development council (DDC) polls.

Baig, who co-founded PDP with Mufti Mohammad Sayed in 1999, said that he has apprised party President Mehbooba Mufti about her resignation as a member and a patron of the party.

“NC is fighting on majority seats. It is not in the interests of the PDP. I respect Farooq Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti and I wish them luck. I am leaving PDP on principle,” Baig said.

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Mehbooba Asks India, Pak To Initiate Dialogue

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday asked India and Pakistan to rise above their political compulsions and initiate dialogue, saying it was sad to see mounting casualties on both sides of the Line of Control (LoC).

Mufti's remarks came after the two countries traded heavy fire on the LoC on Friday. The firing resulted in loss of lives on the both sides.

The former Jammu and

Kashmir chief minister said restoring the ceasefire that was agreed upon and implemented by former prime minister A B Vajpayee and ex-Pakistan president General Pervez Musharaf is a good place to start.

“Sad to see mounting casualties on both sides of LoC. If only Indian and Pakistani leadership could rise above their political compulsions and initiate dialogue. Restoring the ceasefire agreed upon and implemented by Vajpayee ji and Musharaf sahab is a good place to start,” she said in a tweet.

Not Joined PAGD Yet: J&K Cong

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of Congress party on Saturday said it is not yet part of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration, a multi-party amalgam formed for the restoration of the Union Territory's statehood.

It, however, said it is in consultation with 'like-minded parties' for

seat adjustments for the upcoming District Development Council elections in J&K.

The mainstream parties, including the National Conference, PDP, Peoples Conference and CPI(M), formed the PAGD last month and are fighting the maiden DDC elections together.

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Hurriyat Asks India, Pak 'Shun Belligerence, Resolve Kashmir'

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Coming down heavily on the leadership of India and Pakistan following Friday's deadly clash along the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) said on Saturday asked the two nuclear neighbours to shun belligerence and to put an end to the “senseless bloodshed” of humans on all sides.

In a hard hitting statement issued to media here, a Hurriyat spokesperson said that the deaths of innocent Kashmiri civilians on both sides of the LoC as well as soldiers of both nations, caught in the lingering conflict, was very “sad and shameful”. He said the sufferings of the people of Jammu and Kashmir remain unending, even as the two neighbouring countries have been claiming for last 73 years that things have changed.

“Wars, going nuclear and constant upgradation of their military

arsenals have failed as a policy on both sides in settling the issue. Unilateralism and prolonging of the conflict has only complicated it and now China has also emerged on the scene,” the Hurriyat spokesperson said.

The separatist conglomerate, he said reiterated its appeal to both India and Pakistan that for the sake of humanity and the millions of human lives involved in the J&K conflict to and address and resolve the dispute through peaceful means rather than use the conflict for their political expediency and upmanship domestically.

“APHC once again urges government of India and Pakistan to give up belligerence and come to the table to resolve the J&K dispute for times to come and end the senseless bloodshed of humans on all sides,” the Hurriyat spokesperson added.

He said that the escalation along the LoC has claimed lives of over 15 civilians on the two sides of Kashmir.

“APHC once again urges government of India and Pakistan to give up belligerence and come to the table to resolve the J&K dispute for times to come and end the senseless bloodshed of humans on all sides”

First Snow Brings Down Mercury, Closes Highways



File photo

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh received fresh snowfall on Saturday, forcing the closure of the Srinagar-Leh road for traffic, while the plains were lashed by rains, officials said.

Many areas in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir, including the famous ski-resort of Gulmarg, north Kashmir's Baramulla district, and the tourist resort of Sonamarg in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district received snowfall which was going on when last reports came in, the officials said.

They said there were reports of snowfall from other areas in the higher reaches, including Gurez in north Kashmir's Bandipora district, besides in Zojila Pass and Drass (in Ladakh UT).

Razdan pass, which is the gateway to Gurez Valley, has also

received season's first snowfall, officials said.

The district administration Bandipora has already closed the 84-km Bandipora-Gurez road for traffic movement in view of weather advisory issued by the Meteorological department.

WEATHER WOES

They said due to the snowfall, authorities closed the Srinagar-Leh road, which passes through Zojila pass and connects Jammu and Kashmir with Ladakh union territory, for traffic.

“The road has been closed for traffic as a precautionary measure in the wake of snowfall,” the officials said.

Meanwhile, most of the areas in the plains of the Kashmir valley received rains, bringing down the temperature.

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Mughal Road, Zojila Closed For Traffic

JAMMU: The Mughal Road, an alternate link between the Kashmir Valley and Pir Panchal region was closed for vehicular traffic on Saturday following snowfall, officials said.

The road, connecting the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri with south Kashmir's Shopian, was closed as a precautionary measure in view of snowfall in the high altitude Peer Ki Gali and adjoining areas, they said.

A few inches of snow had accumulated on the ground, rendering the road unsafe for vehicular traffic, the officials said, adding given the prediction of moderate to heavy snowfall, the road was closed as a precautionary measure to avoid any untoward incident.

The road usually remains closed for winter owing to heavy snowfall in the Peer Ki Gali area.

“Subject to fair weather and good condition of road, only load carriers carrying fresh fruit would be allowed from Shopian towards Poonch between 11 am to 4 pm on Sunday,” a traffic department official said.

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COVID-19

J&K Reports 6 More Deaths

SRINAGAR: At least six more people succumbed to coronavirus in Kashmir Valley on Saturday, taking the number of Covid-19 related fatalities across the Union Territory to 1573.

According to the officials, the victims from the Valley included two each from Srinagar and Baramulla and one each from Budgam and Kupwara districts. In Srinagar, a middle-aged man from Rainawari and a 75-year-old man from Bemina lost their lives to the deadly infection.

Besides them, a 48-year-old male from Charar-e-Shareef, a 57-year-old woman from Baramulla, a 65-year-old man from Badibera Lolab and a 70-year-old man from Kaitangan Baramulla also succumbed to coronavirus infection at the various hospitals.

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42 Travelers Among 565 New Cases

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Saturday 565 fresh cases of novel coronavirus including 42 travelers, taking the total number of people infected by the virus in the Union Territory to 102159.

According to the officials, 306 new cases of Covid-19 were detected in Kashmir valley, while 259 more people tested positive for coronavirus in Jammu division.

Giving the district wise details, they said that Srinagar reported 152

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