



Maximum : 11°  
Minnum : -1°  
Humidity : 86%

SUNSET  
Today 05:25 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 07:08 AM



## NEWS DIGEST

### CRPF Man Shoots Self Dead In Sopore

**SRINAGAR:** A Centre Reserve Police Force (CRPF) trooper committed suicide by shooting self with his service rifle in Wadoora area of north Kashmir's Sopore on Wednesday morning.

Officials said that a trooper identified as Head Constable GD Rajan Kumar hailing from Chaitiana Odisha shot himself dead while he was on duty at 92 BN CRPF Headquarter Wadoora.

Soon after the incident, his colleagues rushed to the spot and found him lying in a pool of blood, they said.

A police officer also confirmed the incident and said a case has been registered in this regard and further investigation have been taken up. The officer said it was not immediately known what forced the soldier to take the extreme step.

### Electric Shock Kills Labourer In Hajin

**SRINAGAR:** A 25-year-old labourer died after receiving a high-voltage electric jolt here in Hajin area of Bandipora district on Wednesday afternoon.

Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat of Wadipora Handwara received a high-voltage shock after coming in contact with a live-wire at Kousam Bagh Hakabara of Hajin, reported news agency GNS.

Bhat, as per reports, was immediately removed to nearby hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him brought dead.

Meanwhile a police official has confirmed the incident and said that a case has been registered in this regard and further investigations taken up.

### 14 Booked For Illegal Mining In Jammu

**JAMMU:** The police have arrested 14 people including the owners of two stone crushing facilities for their alleged involvement in illegal mining on the outskirts of Jammu city, officials said on Wednesday.

A police party of Pouni Chak post while on patrolling duty found that the owners of New B N stone crusher and JK stone crusher along with others were carrying out illegal mining work, they said.

Cases were registered against the accused -- Chain Singh, Naiza Akhtar, Neeraj, Virender Gupta, Sunny, Shamsher Singh, Sham kumar, Jwala Mukhi, Romesh Kumar, Sanjay Jamwal, Kewal Kumar, Tarseem Lal, Ajay Kumar, Gopal Dass of Jammu respectively, they said. The police have seized two stone crushers, three dumpers, and two excavators from the spot, they said.

### Minor Injured In Road Accident Dies

**KUPWARA:** A minor boy on Wednesday succumbed to his injuries at a hospital here, a day after he was hit by a speedy car in Trehgam of this north-Kashmir district. Five-year-old Wasir Ahmad Wani, who was hit by a car (JK-09A-7417) in Hanjipora village of Trehgam here on Tuesday, succumbed to his injuries on Wednesday morning at the District Hospital Handwara, where he was undergoing treatment.

Meanwhile, police have registered a case and started further investigations in this regard, news agency GNS reported.

### 3 Govt Employees Suspended In Kishtwar

**JAMMU:** The administration on Tuesday ordered suspension of three employees for their indulgence in political activities in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, an official spokesman said.

District Panchayat Election Officer (DPEO) Kishtwar, Ashok Kumar Sharma, has suspended Abdul Karim, Mohammad Yousuf and Mohammad Ismail, the spokesman said.

The action was taken after the photographs were circulated on social media showing these employees participating in a political function, he said.

The DPEO has warned all the officers not to indulge in any political activity and abide by the model code of conduct in letter and spirit.

## DDC POLLS

# Centre Rushes 25,000 Troops To J&K

Press Trust Of India

**New Delhi:** Around 250 companies or 25,000 central paramilitary personnel are being sent by the Centre for providing security cover to the forthcoming eight-phase District Development Council (DDC) elections in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Wednesday.

The units have been drawn from various Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) like the CRPF, BSF, ITBP, CISF and the SSB.

A CAPF company has an operational strength of around 100 personnel.

"About 250 CAPF companies have been earmarked by the Union home ministry for the DDC elections in Jammu and Kashmir. These units are being culled out from various locations in the country, including

## Cong Demands Security For Party Leaders

**JAMMU:** The Congress raised the issue of safety concerns of its leaders with the election authorities in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday and said they should be given the basic minimum security ahead of the upcoming DDC polls in the Union Territory. [» More On P2](#)

those who were deployed for providing security during the recently concluded assembly polls in Bihar," a senior officer said.

He said the largest number of 49 companies are from the Central

Reserve Police followed by other CAPFs.

The units are now moving towards the Union Territory, the officer added.

The troops will be deployed along with the local police and other CAPF units already present in the UT for counter-terrorist operations and law and order duties, he said.

The elections will be held from November 28 to December 22. Results will be declared on December 22.

These polls will be the first major political activity in Jammu and Kashmir since August 5 last year, when the Centre revoked the special status of the erstwhile state under Article 370 of the Constitution and split it into two Union territories -- Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

## HC Quashes PSA Detention Of Masarat Alam



Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has quashed a 2017 order of detention of separatist leader Masarat Alam Bhat, but he will continue to remain behind bars in connection with a militancy financing case.

In the 2017 militancy funding case, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a charge sheet against Bhat, currently lodged in Tihar Jail in Delhi.

[» More On P2](#)

# Couple, 10 Others Injured In Pulwama Blast

Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** A couple and a non-local were among twelve civilians injured on Wednesday in a grenade blast in Kakpora area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Around 5:40 pm Wednesday, suspected militants lobbed a grenade towards the bunker of CRPF 41 battalion in Kakpora town of the district, officials said. However, the grenade, they said, missed the intended target and exploded on the road leaving at least a dozen people injured, including a couple and a non-local.

All the injured were removed to the nearby hospital for treatment. However, three of them identified as Habibullah Sheikh, Mohammad Shafi Dar and his wife Raja Begum, all residents of Kakpora were

referred to Srinagar's SMHS hospital for treatment. The other injured persons have been identified as Adil Ahmad of Samboora, Amir Ahmad of Uttar Pradesh, Mushtaq Ahmad of Anantnag, Bashir Ahmad Dar, Ghulam Nabi Sheikh, Abrar Dar, Bashir Ahmad, Muhammad Ayoub Digo Shabir Ahmad and Ghulam Mohi-ud-din—all residents of Kakapora.

Soon after the attack, reports said the area was placed under cordon to nab the attackers. However, no arrests were made when the last reports came in.

Meanwhile, a police spokesperson said that a case has been registered under relevant sections of law over the grenade attack.

"Investigation is in progress and officers continue to work to establish the full circumstances of this crime. Area has been cordoned and search in the area is going on," he added.



## 'GANG' WAR CONTINUES

# Soz Slams Amit Shah, Says His Remark Shows India In 'Poor Light'

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** Congress leader Saifuddin Soz on Wednesday said by describing the alliance of mainstream political parties of Jammu and Kashmir as a "gang", Union Home Minister Amit Shah has shown India and its democracy in poor light.

In a tweet on Tuesday, Shah asserted that Jammu and Kashmir has been and will always remain an integral part of India and termed the alliance of political parties of the Union Territory as 'Gupkar Gang' saying it is an "unholy global gathbandhan" against the country's national interest.

In a series of tweets, he also questioned Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi whether they support the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), a conglomerate of regional and national political parties in Jammu and Kashmir formed to demand the [» More On P2](#)

## Candidates Not Allowed To Campaign: Omar, Mehbooba

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah on Wednesday alleged that candidates in fray for the District Development Council (DDC) polls beginning later this month in Jammu and Kashmir were being stopped from campaigning.

Taking to Twitter, Abdullah asked whether this was the safe and militancy-free Jammu and Kashmir Union Home Minister Amit Shah had tweeted about earlier. [» More On P2](#)

## PAGD Accuses Returning Officer Of Bias

Srinagar: The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) on Wednesday accused the returning officer of a district development council (DDC) constituency in Khanmoh of bias and alleged that he tried to reject the nomination of their candidate a few hours after accepting it.

"Our candidate was given an acceptance form after scrutiny at 12:15 pm (Tuesday). He was given an authority letter to open a bank account and was also given an expenditure [» More On P2](#)

## Avalanche Hits Army Post, Kills Soldier

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** A soldier was killed and two others were injured after an avalanche hit an Army post in Tangdhar area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said on Wednesday.



avalanche hit the Army post near the Line of Control (LoC) at Roshan

Post in Tangdhar area of the frontier district late on Tuesday night, the officials said.

They said an Army soldier was killed and two others were injured in the incident.

The deceased soldier has been identified as Rifleman Nikhil Sharma (25) of army 7 Rashtriya Rifles. The injured soldiers- Ramesh Chand, Sepoy Gurvinder Singh- have been admitted in the hospital.

# Govt To Implement Forest Rights Act In J&K

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir government will implement the Forest Rights Act, 2006, which was not applicable in the union territory for the last 14 years, to grant and safeguard the rights of forest dwellers, an official spokesperson said on Wednesday.

Forest Rights Act provides for the granting of rights of forest lands to forest dwellers. However, the rights conferred under this act shall be "heritable but not alienable or

transferable", he said.

This step is being taken in view of the large scale encroachment of huge forest lands and its illegal sale in Jammu and Kashmir.

Chief Secretary B V R Subrahmanyam on Wednesday chaired a meeting to review the implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act and Rules, which became applicable in the union territory post the enactment of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, the spokesperson said. [» More On P2](#)

# HC Seeks Govt Report On Evicting Ex-Mantris, Babus

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir high court has directed the authorities to take steps for the eviction of illegal occupants including former ministers and bureaucrats from government accommodations.

Hearing a Public Interest

Litigation, A division bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Puneet Gupta directed the authorities to file the details of properties, official accommodations which are under illegal occupation of the erstwhile allottees including ex-ministers, ex-legislators, bureaucrats in Jammu and Kashmir. [» More On P2](#)



# 5 Women Among 9 More Die Of Corona

Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** At least nine more people, including five women succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, taking the fatality count since the outbreak of pandemic in the Union Territory to 1613.

In Kashmir valley, the deadly infection claimed lives of five more women while in Jammu division four more people died of

coronavirus, officials said. Among the victims in the Valley, two were from Srinagar and one each from Baramulla, Pulwama and Budgam districts.

According to the officials, the victims included a 54-year-old woman from Khanyar, a 59-year-old woman from Batwara, a 70-year-old woman from Wuyan Pulwama, a 65-year-old woman from Khansahab Budgam, and 59-year-old [» More On P2](#)

## 13 Security Men, 2 Cops Among 574 New Cases

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir reported on Wednesday 574 fresh cases of novel coronavirus, including thirteen CRPF men and soldiers, two policemen and 36 travelers, taking the total number of people infected by the virus in the Union Territory to 104155.

In Kashmir valley, 333 more people tested positive for coronavirus on Wednesday while the remaining 241 were confirmed by the officials from Jammu division.

Giving a district-wise breakup, officials said Srinagar reported 136 cases, Baramulla 50, Budgam 46, Pulwama 17, Kupwara 24, Anantnag 12, Bandipora 17, Ganderbal 28, Kulgam 1, Shopian 2, Jammu 96, Rajouri 7, Udhampur 50, Doda 25, Kathua 16, Poonch 6, Samba 9, Kishtwar 20, Ramban 10, and Reasi 2. [» More On P2](#)

# Young Techie's 'Mission Robotics' Is Ending Kashmir's Remote Reliance

Arbeena Shah

A Kashmiri engineer is simplifying Robotics in the valley by providing a platform to students aspiring to make a career in the adventurous field

As a campus routine, engineering students of Kashmir would rely on remote relief till recent past to complete their project work.

But such desperate degree completion bids—promoting a culture of foreign reliance—would often prove a bumpy ride for aspiring techies.

When Tahir Showkat Bazaz became mindful of this despairing dependence, he decided to make Robotics a feasible project for Kashmiri students.

A merit-holder who clinched



gold upon completing his engineering degree in 2015, this 28-year-old Kashmiri techie brought smiles to distressed students with his proactive self-starting endeavour.

"Engineering students of Kashmir would prefer to go outside for their project work due to lack of expertise and proper guidance in the valley," Tahir says, as we meet in his office chamber filled with projects and tech vibes.

"Those who couldn't afford to go outside ended up facing a tough time. But now, Kashmiri students have guidance available back home."

That guidance has already created



a sweeping campus change, as since 2015, Tahir has successfully made more than 500 innovative and exciting projects with his students. He has also conducted several Robotics workshops in various schools.

Some of his prominent projects

include Wireless Robotic Hand, Smart 'Tashnear', Tricopter, Medicine Box, Smart Pen, 3D Printer-based abrasive Jet, Bot, Miners Helmet, and AI based Home Automation System.

"Despite being a topper in my academic career," Tahir, who has won awards in Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, says, "I always knew that I had to assist my tribe struggling to submit their crucial engineering projects."

He finally became a helping hand for the campus-deprived students—about whom he says, "Kashmiri students possess an unmatched IQ level and have [» More On P2](#)