



Maximum : 12°
Minum : -4°
Humidity : 36%

SUNSET
Today 05:24 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 07:09 AM



NEWS DIGEST

IED Defused In Kulgam: Police

SRINAGAR: Government forces on Friday detected and later defused an improvised explosive device (IED) in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

An IED fitted in a pipe was detected near a local mosque at Shurat in the south Kashmir's Kulgam district, a police officer said. He said the explosive device was later destroyed by a bomb disposal squad team on the spot without causing any loss.

Burglars Strike Shrines, Loot Cash

SRINAGAR: Unidentified burglars struck two shrines in north Kashmir's Baramulla district and decamped with cash and other valuables, reports said Friday.

Unknown burglars struck a shrine in Delina and another in Rafiabadd's Yarbugh village on the intervening night of Friday-Saturday and decamped with the cash and other valuables after breaking the lockers.

Meanwhile, Police have registered formal cases in both the theft incidents and have set investigations into motion.

19 People Stuck On Mughal Road 'Rescued'

JAMMU: Nineteen people who were trapped in snow on the Mughal road in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district were rescued by government forces, officials said on Friday.

These people were travelling from Shopian to Poonch when their vehicles got stuck in the snow accumulated on the road at Pir Ki Gali on Thursday night, they said.

As soon as the information was received, teams from Army and police launched an operation to rescue the stranded passengers, the officials said. All the persons were rescued and taken to Poshana where they were provided food and other facilities, the officials said.

Man Killed in Bandipora Accident

SRINAGAR: A middle-aged man on Friday was killed in road accident in north Kashmir's Bandipora district.

55-year-old Ali Mohammad Dar was hit by a motorcyclist on Friday evening in his native village Sarala Dangarpore in Sumbal area of the district, news agency GNS reported. Dut to the impact of the accident, Dar, the report said died while the biker identified as Feroz Ahmad Khandey of Ganderbal sustained injuries.

Khandey, the report said was removed to a nearby health facility for treatment. However, the doctors there referred him to SMHS Srinagar for advanced treatment.

Meanwhile, case has been registered into the incident under relevant sections of law and further investigations taken up, the police official said.

Nearly Million Stranded J&K Residents Evacuated

JAMMU: A total of 9.28 lakh residents of Jammu and Kashmir who were stranded due to the coronavirus lockdown have been evacuated from other states so far, according to official data.

The administration has received 155 special trains at Jammu and Udhampur railway stations with a total 1,40,292 passengers till date, while 7,87,960 people, including 948 from abroad, have been evacuated by road till date, the data said. As per the detailed breakup of the figures, 10,762 stranded passengers have entered through Lakhnau in the past 24 hours.

All necessary guidelines and standard operating procedures were strictly observed, it added.

Candidates Say, 'Confined To Hotels, Unable To Campaign'



SRINAGAR: Murmurs of discontent from candidates rather than speeches can be heard ahead of local body elections in Kashmir with most parties in the fray claiming their leaders are confined to distant hotels in the guise of security and are unable to campaign freely because of the many restrictions imposed on them.

It's just not a level playing field, several candidates said ahead of the November 28 District Development Council polls, the first democratic exercise since Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 was revoked in August last year and the state was bifurcated into union territories.

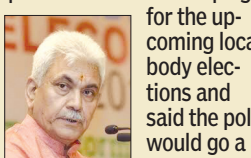
Seven parties, including the National Conference and the PDP, have come together on one platform, the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), to contest the elections. But the lack of enthusiasm is evident with political parties restricting the administration of strictly restricting the hours of campaigning and not even allowing their candidates to move out, unless it is in a government car.

"BJP and 'Kings party' candidates and their junior-level workers are provided individual personal

security and bulletproof vehicles, while all others are hounded to far away government accommodations. Is this the 'new mantra' of providing a level playing field? asked Nasir Aslam Wani, NC provincial president, Kashmir. King's party is a reference to the Apni

LG Assures Parties Of Smooth Campaign

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha has assured political parties of smooth campaign



for the upcoming local body elections and said the polls would go a long way in strengthening panchayati raj institutions in the Union Territory.

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Party, floated by businessman-turned-politician Altaf Bukhari. Wani said PAGD candidates have been locked up in hotels and guest-houses in several places and not allowed to campaign.

"I have never witnessed this kind of electioneering not since the political process started after the eruption of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir. We have always had candidates

running around. How can you expect somebody to campaign only between 12 noon and 3 pm?"

The NC leader said the claims of the UT administration and Union Home Minister Amit Shah about the situation being peaceful in Jammu and Kashmir were either wrong or they were trying to influence this election.

"If we listen to what the home minister or the state administration has to say, militancy has been wiped out. Then is this being done to influence the election? You cannot run with the hare and hunt with the hounds. You have to go one way about it.

"Either the situation is safe, as they claim, and let the candidates campaign. Or else, the security scenario is so bad that they cannot create a conducive environment. In that case, why have the polls then?" he added.

It is not just about the campaigning not taking place, Wani said. The party, he added, is also worried it may not get candidates to file their nominations for the rest of the eight-phase polls.

The administration, on its part, said collective security is necessary given the resource limitations.

Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said providing security to each candidate contesting the polls is difficult. "We are providing them collective security and they are being put up in secure areas," he said.

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Polls In GB To Hide 'Occupation': India



NEW DELHI: India on Thursday slammed Pakistan for holding elections in Gilgit-Baltistan, saying it was aimed at hiding

Pakistan's illegal occupation of its territory.

Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava asserted that Gilgit-Baltistan was an integral part of India since 1947.

Asked at an online briefing about elections held in Gilgit-Baltistan and protests against the poll process there, he said, "I had given a few answers before the elections. Elections in Gilgit-Baltistan are nothing but a sham and their aim is to hide Pakistan's illegal occupation of areas of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir."

"We reiterate that along with Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan is an integral part of India since 1947," Mr Srivastava said.

India had earlier also slammed Pakistan for its decision to hold elections in Gilgit-Baltistan and said any action to alter the status of the militarily-occupied region has no legal basis. —PTI

'Nefarious' Plot Defeated: PM Modi On Jammu Encounter

Says Killing Of 4 Militants Foiled Efforts To Wreak 'Major Havoc And Destruction'



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held a review meeting with top security brass in the wake of the killing of four JeM militants in Jammu and Kashmir, and asserted that security forces have thwarted their efforts to wreak "major havoc and destruction".

Government sources said that the militants were planning "something big" on the anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai attack.

In his tweets following the meeting, Modi said, "Neutralising of 4 terrorists belonging to Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed and the presence of large cache of weapons and explosives with them indicate that their efforts to wreak major havoc and destruction have once again been thwarted."

Hailing the state forces, he said they have once again displayed utmost bravery and professionalism.

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Pension Not Bounty To Employee: HC

Orders Release Of Pensionary Benefits To Ex-CGM of J&KSPDC

SRINAGAR: Observing that payment of pension is not a bounty to the employee, the J&K High Court has directed authorities to release pension and retiral benefits in favour of a former Chief General Manager of J&K State Power Development Corporation who had superannuated in 2014.

Disposing of a petition filed by the former CGM, Abdul Rashid Makroo, a bench of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey said that law was well settled that pensionary or retiral benefits become the principal source of sustenance to an employee after his retirement. "The payment whereof is not a bounty being paid to the employee concerned, but these are paid in recognition of the service rendered by an employee to his employer,"

the court said and underlined that the purpose for grant of pensionary or retiral benefits is to ensure the employee is in a position to sustain himself.

"Besides, any delay in settlement and disbursement of pension has to be visited with the penalty of payment of interest at the current market rates till actual payment is made," the court said.

The liability to pay penal interest on these dues at the current market rates commences at the expiry of two months from the date of retirement, the court said.

"The delay of depriving retiral benefits, in this case, is clearly attributed to the (authorities concerned) and, thus, entitles the petitioner to interest on the dues at the current market rates

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Govt Forms Panel On Doodh Ganga Pollution

Agencies

Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday ordered constitution of a committee for preparing an action plan to prevent pollution of the Doodh Ganga Stream and Doodh Ganga Filtration Plant.

Headed by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, the 8-member panel has been tasked to prepare an action plan with timelines to prevent pollution of the Doodh Ganga Stream and Doodh Ganga Filtration Plant.

It has been also tasked with to synchronize and monitor the action plan, according to an order issued here.

"Further, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir shall be Nodal Officer to apprise the Hon'ble Court on the Action Plan as per the Court directions."

4 More Lose Battle With Corona, J&K Toll 1622

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least four more people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, raising the number of virus related fatalities in the Union Territory to 1622.

In Kashmir Valley, two more people lost their battle with the deadly infection, while two others died of the infection in Jammu division, officials said Friday. Among the victims from the Valley, officials said were a 65-year-old woman from Shahlaal Kupwara and a 67-year-old man from Pran Bawan Anantnag. Two other victims from the Union Territory were residents of Jammu city.

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661 More Test Covid-19 Positive

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Friday 661 new cases of coronavirus, taking the total number of people infected by the virus across the Union Territory to 105376.

While Kashmir Valley reported 408 new cases on Friday, the remaining 253 were confirmed by the officials from Jammu division.

Giving district-wise details, they said Srinagar reported 169 cases, Baramulla 63, Budgam 53, Pulwama 22,

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Snowfall Blocks Mughal Road

SRINAGAR: The Mughal road, connecting Shopian and Poonch districts, has been closed even as authorities rescued 19 persons including a minor who had got trapped amid fresh snowfall along the thoroughfare last night, officials said on Friday.

"19 persons have been rescued by teams of police and Army from Pir Ki Gali area during a rescue operation last night," reported news agency GNS SSP Poonch Ramesh Angral said that all the persons were provided food and other logistic facilities at Poshana. DySP Traffic Rajouri Poonch said that the road has been closed due to slippery condition. "The road would be opened depending upon weather conditions

BJP Says Article 370 'Buried', It Will Never Return

KO Photo: Abid Bhat



SRINAGAR: The BJP on Friday asserted that Article 370, which was revoked by the Centre last year, would never be restored in Jammu and Kashmir, and alleged that parties of 'Gupkar alliance' were befooling people by making promises over its restoration.

Addressing a press conference here, BJP national spokesperson Shah Nawaz also said the upcoming District Development Council (DDC) polls were being fought over local developmental issues and its results would not be a referendum on the Centre's last year's decision of revocation of the special status of the erstwhile state.

"We believe that when someone dies, he cannot return from the grave. Article 370 has also been buried and it will never return. It can never be restored and no world power can help in its restoration," he said.

The BJP leader, who is the party's incharge for Kashmir for the polls, said NC president Farooq Abdullah and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti were befooling people by showing them dreams, but asserted their dreams would never come true.

"They are showing the people dreams and befooling them. There is no big a lie than that. These are the same leaders

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BJP Leader Guilty Of Contempt: ANC

Awami National Conference vice President, Muzaffar Shah on Friday said that the matter pertaining to abrogation of Article 370 is 'Subjudice' and passing remarks over it amounts to the contempt of court.

Shah according to the news agency KDC was responding to the statement of BJP leader and its national spokesperson Shanawaz Hussain, which he gave during a press conference in Srinagar

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Journalist Mudasir Ali Passes Away

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Mudasir Ali, a prominent journalist associated with 'Greater Kashmir', passed away due to cardiac arrest early Friday morning. He was 37.

Reports said that Mudasir, a resident of Charar-e-Sharief, Budgam, complained of pain in his chest and was driven to a hospital in Srinagar at around 2 am on Friday, however he passed away on the way to hospital.

His brother Jehangir Ali, who is also a journalist, shared the news of sudden death of Mudasir on social media. "My brother Mudasir Ali has left

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In Mudasir Ali, Kashmir Lost A People's Journalist

Kaisar Mir

As his teary-eyed tribe-members swarmed NundReshi's town of Charar-e-Sharief on the icy cold Friday morning to pay their condolences, they couldn't make believe that the humble heart has stopped beating forever.

The town wore a mournful look over the sudden death of native Mudasir Ali, the smiling and easy-going scribe, who left behind a legacy of upright penmanship during his 15-year-long untiring journalism career.

The fun-loving journalist who would always crack jokes with his colleagues triggered a tsunami of tribute on social media sites. Leading from the front, his

colleagues termed him a thorough professional and adown-to-earth human being.

A Topper

"When we sat for the entrance exam to join MERC in 2005, Mudasir topped the list," wrote Showkat Nanda, Kashmir's award-winning photo journalist, in his tribute to Ali who lost his life to a massive cardiac arrest.

"He left us behind in all the subsequent semester exams. Never knew he would be ahead of us in leaving this world too."

A Shining Star

Veteran media coach, Prof. Nasir Mirza, termed Ali as a shining star, an honest journalist and an asset in his tribute.

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KEG Shocked Over Death

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Editors Guild (KEG) expressed shock over the untimely death of young journalist Mudasir Ali.

"This is the second such demise witnessed over the past two months when a young scribe died due to cardiac arrest", KEG said in a statement.

"KEG is paying rich tributes to these reporters who left us at the peak of their career. We sympathise with their families", the editors body said in a tweet.