



P6 LIFE & TIMES

HEART DISEASE NOW KILLING MORE PEOPLE THAN EVER BEFORE: WHO

Heart disease, which has remained the leading cause of death at the global level for the last 20 years, is now killing more people than ever ...

P4 EDIT PAGE

DISOWNING OUR WOMEN -AGAIN

When it comes to feeling collectively enraged on the issues of sexual assault and violence against women ...



P8 OBSEVER OUTPOST

LAUNCH SURGICAL STRIKE ON CHINA, PAK IF THEY'RE BEHIND FARMERS' STIR: SANJAY RAUT



Wisdom Quote!
"You cannot teach a man anything, you can only help him find it within himself."
—Galileo

news DIGEST

Misfire Injures Cop In Sopore

SRINAGAR: A Jammu and Kashmir Police constable posted on security duty outside a polling station in Tujjar Shareif area of Sopore in north Kashmir was injured on Thursday after his service weapon accidentally went off, officials said.

Constable Ashraf sustained an injury in his foot after his service weapon accidentally went off outside the polling station for the District Development Council elections, the police officials said. He was taken to SKIMS hospital here for treatment, they said.

Grenade Hurlled On CRPF Camp

SRINAGAR: Suspected militants on Thursday lobbed a grenade towards a CRPF camp located in Nehama area of South Kashmir's Gulgam district.

Unidentified militants lobbed a grenade on the CRPF camp of 18 Battalion in Nehama, however, no loss of life or injury was reported in the incident, local news agency KNO reported while quoting a senior police officer. The report said that soon after the attack, the area was cordoned off to nab the attackers.

Jaish Militant Held In Budgam: Police

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Police arrested a Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militant in central Kashmir's Budgam district, officials said.

Tariq Ahmad Bhat was arrested during a 'naka' checking late on in Goripora area of Budgam on Wednesday night, the police officials said.

They said a pistol and some incriminating material were recovered from his possession. Bhat had reportedly joined militant ranks in September this year.

Drone Movement Seen Along IB: BSF

JAMMU: A drone was spotted flying over the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir's R S Pura sector, BSF officials said on Thursday.

Alert BSF troops guarding the IB at a border outpost fired on the drone Wednesday night, forcing it to return back, the officials said.

On November 29, security forces deployed on the International Border (IB) with Pakistan spotted a drone in Arnai sector of Jammu district.

On November 21, drone movement was noticed in Mendhar sector along the Line of Control (LoC) amid a surge in ceasefire violations by the Pakistani Army, according to sources.

Two drones were spotted and crossed the IB in Samba sector on November 20.

On June 20, a Pakistani drone loaded with a sophisticated rifle and seven grenades was shot down by the Border Security Force along the International Border in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.



DDC POLLS

51% Turnout Recorded In 5th Phase: SEC

JAMMU: The fifth phase of District Development Council (DDC) elections held across 37 constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir recorded over 51 percent voter turnout, State Election Commissioner (SEC), K K Sharma said Thursday.

Talking to media persons here after the voting ended, Sharma said that polling was peaceful and people participated enthusiastically despite

severe cold conditions in Kashmir division and some hilly areas of Jammu division. He said polling was peaceful in the 37 constituencies of DDC including 17 in Kashmir division and 20 in Jammu division and the turnout was recorded 51.20 percent.

He also said that polling was held in 2104 polling stations including 1190 from Kashmir

Authorities 'Helping' BJP: PAGD

SRINAGAR: The neutrality of authorities in the district development council elections in Jammu and Kashmir has come under sharp criticism on Thursday from the PAGD leaders, who alleged that the administration was helping the BJP.

The accusations stemmed from several incidents late on Wednesday and on Thursday -- including the reported beating up of three journalists in south Kashmir while covering

the polls, detention of a Congress leader's relative in Uri and a cordon-and-search operation by the Army in Shopian, allegedly to stop people from voting.

The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) is an alliance of several mainstream political parties, including National Conference, the PDP, People's Conference and the CPI(M), which are contesting the DDC polls together in order to keep the BJP and its allies out.

Kashmir Braces For Another Snow Spell



SRINAGAR: The minimum temperature across Kashmir, except in the famous ski-resort of Gulmarg, remained above the freezing point on Thursday even as the valley is bracing up for another wet spell from Friday.

At minus 5.4 degrees Celsius, Gulmarg in north Kashmir was the only place in the valley which recorded sub-zero minimum temperature on Thursday, Met officials said.

They said all the remaining weather stations in the valley, including Pahalgam,

recorded the minimum temperature above the freezing point. The night temperature in Srinagar settled at a low of 3.9 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

The night temperature across the valley was above the normal for this part of the season, they said. The Met office has forecast widespread moderate rain and snow at isolated places.

The rain and snow is likely to continue for two days after which the weather is likely to remain mainly dry for a few days, the officials said. (PTI)

Take Call On Review Pleas On Dec 21: SC Tells J&K HC

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Jammu and Kashmir High Court to decide on December 21 the pleas seeking review of its verdict scrapping the Roshni Act which conferred proprietary rights to occupants of State land.

A bench headed by Justice N V Ramana considered the oral assurance of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the Jammu and Kashmir administration, that no coercive action will be taken against those petitioners who have approached the top court in the matter as they are not "land grabbers or unauthorised people".

The bench, also comprising justices Surya Kant and Aniruddha Bose, said that



it will hear in January last week the appeals filed before it challenging the October 9 verdict of the high court.

Mehta apprised the apex court that the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has already filed a review petition in the high court and said that the authority is "not against bonafide and common people who are not land grabbers".

The bench said that pendency of appeals before the apex court would not come in the way of the high court in deciding the review petitions pending there.

The Jammu and Kashmir

High Court had on October 9 declared the Roshni Act "illegal, unconstitutional and unsustainable", and ordered a CBI probe into the allotment of land under this law.

The Roshni Act was enacted in 2001 with the twin objective of generating resources for financing power projects and conferment of proprietary rights to the occupants of State land.

During the hearing conducted through video-conferencing, the apex court said that to avoid conflicting orders, the petitioners should go to the high court for review.

"All petitioners should approach the review bench and all of them should be heard by the high

3 Reporters Covering DCC Polls 'Beaten' By Cops

SRINAGAR: Three journalists were allegedly thrashed by police personnel while they were covering the District Development Council (DDC) polls in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday.

Fayaz Lolu, Mudasir Qadri and Junaid Rafiq also claimed that their equipment was seized by the policemen who took them to a police post after physically assaulting them.

KPC Condemns Assault

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir Press Club (KPC) has condemned the thrashing of three freelance journalists, who work as stringers for various news organisations, by the police in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Thursday.

According to a statement, the KPC said that the incident happened when these individuals were covering the

KEG Concerned At Recurrent Attacks On Media Persons

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Editors Guild (KEG) has expressed its serious concern over the use of force against three freelance reporters, contributing to three TV channels, while covering the DDC polls in Anantnag. Three TV freelancers Fayaz Lolu (ETV Bharat) Mudasir Qadri (News 18 Urdu) and Junaid Rafiq (TV 9) alleged that they were beaten in Srigufwara in presence of the SSP. They said their equipment was

Judge Alleges Influence In Bail Application Case

SRINAGAR: A senior judge here has complained that an attempt to influence him was allegedly made on behalf of a high court judge in a matter of a bail application, following which he expressed his inability to hear the case.

In a written order, Srinagar Principal Sessions Judge Abdul Rashid Malik alleged that the secretary to a judge of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court had telephoned him to convey the directions of the judge to make sure that no bail was granted to an accused, who had been arrested in a serious criminal case.

Malik, thereafter, expressed his "inability to hear the matter" and said in an order dated December 7 that "this application is submitted to learned Registrar Judicial, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir with the request that the same may be placed before



Hon'ble the Chief Justice as the matter involves the liberty of the person".

The matter was heard by the registrar of the high court who directed the second district and sessions judge to hear the bail application, a state law officer said.

He added that the accused was granted bail in the matter on Wednesday. (PTI)

8 More Covid-19 Deaths In J&K, 366 New Cases

SRINAGAR: At least eight more people died of coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday while 366 fresh cases of Covid-19, including seven BSF personnel were detected across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours, officials said.

Among the victims, five were residents of Kashmir Valley and three others from Jammu division, taking the total number of fatalities since the outbreak of pandemic in J&K to 1775, they said. In Valley, the five victims included a 75-year-old man from Avantipora, a 70-year-old man from Budgam, a 75-year-old man from Anantnag, a 70-year old man from Zakura, and an 80-year-old woman from Hawal here.

Regarding the deaths from Jammu, officials said, two were reported from the winter capital of the J&K and one

HAAJ-2021

Last Date For Submitting Forms Jan 10

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Hajj Committee on Thursday announced extension in the last date of submitting application forms for Hajj-2021 till January next year.

As per a notification issued here, the Executive Officer, J&K Haj Committee has hereby informed the intending Haj pilgrims that in pursuance of Circular issued by Haj Committee of India, the last date for Submission of Haj Application Forms is hereby extended upto 10th January, 2021, an official spokesperson said.

He said that the notification further informs that the applicants possessing machine readable valid Indian International Passports issued on or before 10th January, 2021 and valid up to 10th January, 2022 will be eligible to apply for Haj - 2021.

Shopian Lawyer Held For 'Ferrying Militants'

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday arrested an advocate and slapped him with unlawful activities prevention act (UAPA) for allegedly ferrying militants in Shopian district of south Kashmir.

Gowhar Ahmed Wani of Imamsahab Shopian, who was allegedly held while ferrying militants on December 7, was arrested and booked under UAPA, news agency GNS quoted an unnamed police officer as saying.

Quoting sources, the report said that forces had inputs that militants were traveling in a car and when 44 RR of Army intercepted it at Baba Khader Rampura

Covid Ending 'Trust' Of Dark Eyes In Kashmir

ZAID BIN SHABIR

Before Covid changed the pulse of life in the valley, Mohammad Ashraf Wani was busy organizing psychiatric counseling sessions for pellet survivors of Kashmir grappling with the post-traumatic stress disorder.

These sessions helped these survivors to read just among the normal working class without calling themselves "victims".

"To organise these sessions, our Pellet Victims Welfare Trust (PVWT) would collect funds from public during

Friday congregational prayers," Wani, himself a pellet survivor, said.

"But after Covid, neither we could collect funds nor organise counselling sessions for our distressed pellet brethren."



M. ASHAF WANI (R) WITH PELLET VICTIM

BEGINING OF THE TRUST

It was five months after he suffered a pellet barrage on his body including in his eyes that Wani was provoked to change his tribe's traumatic lives.

"I remember it was March 2017," the 24-year-old pellet survivor from Rahmoo Pulwama said. "Before walking inside the SMHS Hospital's Patient-Centred Care Room that day, I saw familiar and friendly faces of six pellet

survivors waiting for their turn."

They were anxious, their bodies were shaking bodies, Wani, wearing black glasses, face mask, and mint green Khan dress, recalled.

"Their plight set me thinking," he continued. "We were strangers, yet a family sharing the same torment."

After his fifteen-minute-long consultation, Wani stepped out of the room and saw all the six

obscure-looking faces gone. He couldn't make sense of their sudden disappearance.

"Later that evening," Wani recounted, "I received a call. And what I learned shook me. Those six pellet survivors were planning a mass suicide in Srinagar that day!"

Wani was told that the financial crisis, societal indifference, family pressure, and the mental constraints had coerced those six eldest sons of their families towards that extreme step.

On his part, Wani had nothing to offer except his consoling

Before injury, my financially-weak family was dreaming to see me a KAS officer one day"