



Maximum : 20°C  
Minum : 14°C  
Humidity : 83%

SUNSET  
Today 07:40 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 05:34 AM



## News Digest

### Medical Team Attacked In Kunzar

Baramulla: A medical team was on Monday attacked by the local villagers in Kunzar area of Tangmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

The incident took place when the medical team from Kunzar hospital was on COVID sampling drive, officials said, adding that a group of people attacked, abused them and damaged their vehicle in Ogmuna village of Kunzar. Block Medical Officer (BMO) Kunzar, Dr Rukaya told KNO that soon after the medical team entered into the village for COVID-19 sampling, a group of people came and attacked their vehicle. She termed the incident as unfortunate. She said they have registered a complaint in this regard in Police Station Kunzar. Meanwhile, Police Officials from Kunzar confirmed the incident and said "we have registered a case in this regard while father investigation has been taken up."

### ACR Rajouri To Head Shahdara Sharief Waqaf

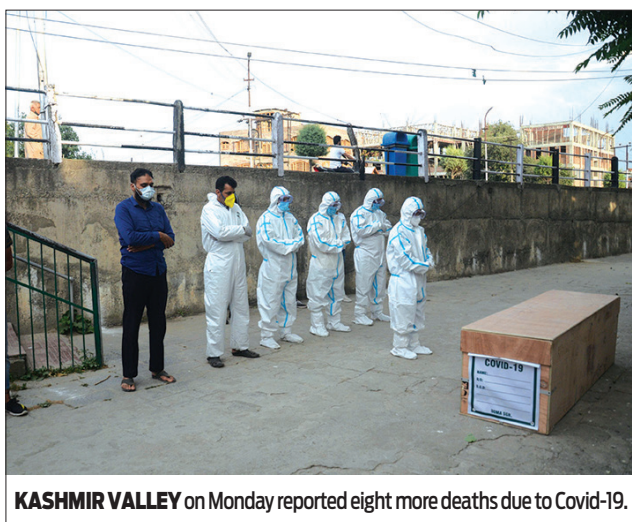
SRINAGAR, JULY 20: The government today ordered Assistant Commissioner Revenue Rajouri, Mohammad Ashraf to hold charge of administration/management of Waqaf, Shahdara Sharief Rajouri and Waqaf of all the tehsils of district Rajouri except erstwhile tehsils of Nowshera and Sunderbani with immediate effect in addition to his own duties. With the implementation of Central Waqaf Act 1995 in Jammu and Kashmir, government in another order terminated appointment of Abdul Qayoom Dar, as Administrator, Waqaf, Shahdara Sharief, Rajouri and for all the tehsils of district Rajouri except erstwhile tehsils of Nowshera and Sunderbani. He shall also be deemed to have been relieved from all the assignments related to management of Waqaf Shahdara Sharief and other tehsils with immediate effect.

### PDD Employee Electrocuted In Sopore

Sopore- A 45-year-old employee of Power Development Department (PDD) was electrocuted to death on Monday morning in Yaseen Colony Arampora in north Kashmir's Sopore. A PDD employee who was repairing High volt 11000 KV line at Yaseen colony Arampora received an electric shock and died on the spot, reported news agency KNO. The deceased PDD employee was identified as Sanaullah Dar from Selo Sopore. Meanwhile, Police Station Sopore has registered a case in this regard and started investigation into the matter.

### Advisor Khan's Mother Passes Away

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu on Monday extended his heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of Khalida Begum, mother of Farooq Khan, Advisor to Lieutenant Governor. Terming her as a noble and compassionate soul, the Lt Governor said that she was a philanthropist, always working for the welfare of the public. In a condolence message, the Lt Governor prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage for the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss



KASHMIR VALLEY on Monday reported eight more deaths due to Covid-19.

## Biggest Day Spike Of 751 Cases In J&K, Tally 14650

51 CRPF, 16 ACB Men Among New Infections; 463 More Recover

SRINAGAR: The re-imposition of restrictions in many parts of Jammu and Kashmir have failed to curb surge of Covid-19 cases, raising questions about the strategy adopted by the authorities in the district.

On Monday Jammu and Kashmir reported the biggest single day spike in Covid-19 infections with 751 additions including 51 CRPF personnel, 16 from ACB headquarters here besides ten pregnant women.

Among the fresh cases 240 were reported from Jammu and 511 from Kashmir division which also include three BSF personnel and as many policemen and seven minors including one year-old baby.

Giving the district-wise breakup of the cases, officials said, Srinagar

reported 171, Baramulla 40, Shopian 62, Anantnag 11, Kupwara 3, Pulwama 111, Budgam 94, Bandipora 9, Ganderbal 10, Jammu 12,

Kathua 13, Rajouri 23, Udhampur 33, Ramban 90, Samba 2, Doda 32, Poonch 1, Kishtwar 22 and Reasi 12.

Meanwhile, 463 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals. They include 64 from Jammu Division and 399 from Kashmir. With them, 8274 have recovered including 1800 in Jammu and 6474 in Kashmir.

A large number of cases were confirmed at SKIMS diagnostic lab and among them Anantnag ones include female (20) from Pushu Market, two males (26, »PAGE 02

**THE BANDIPORA CASES INCLUDE** female (29) from Naaz Colony, two males (32, 29) from Bsf Camp Madder Bandipora, two males (55, 28) from Wangipora, male (30) from Shadipora Bandipora, male (51) from Sumbal.

## Covid-19 Claims 8 More Lives, J&K Toll 254

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Valley on Monday reported eight more deaths attributed to Covid-19, taking the fatality count due to the microbe to 254 in J&K.

Those who succumbed to the virus include a 60-year-old man from Tankipora, 70-year-old-man from Zoonimar, a 65 year-old resident from Zakura area, a 65-year-old woman from Shadimarg Pulwama, 60-year-old Neehama Pampore, a 65-year-old from Pootshah Rafiabab in Baramulla and two Kupwara residents.

Regarding the man from Rafiabab, they said, he died at 9:40 a.m., on Monday morning. "He was suffering pneumonia besides other underlying ailments," they said.

About Neehama Pampore resident, they said he had tested positive for the virus on July 14.

Meanwhile, a 65-year-old woman from Shadimarg area of Pulwama died at SMHS hospital last night.

Admitted on July 7, she was diagnosed with "bilateral pneumonia" and came out to be positive for the virus subsequently, they added.

The others died during the course of the day. With these deaths, 234 people in Kashmir and 20 in Jammu have died so far due to the covid-19.

Srinagar district with 63 deaths has the highest fatalities followed by Baramulla (53), Kulgam (24), 19 each in Shopian and Budgam, Anantnag (18), Pulwama (14), Kupwara (15), Jammu(12), »PAGE 02

## After 'Strike', Both People And Doctors 'Need To Own Up To Their Faults'

After some emotionally-charged attendants roughed up healthcare workers in a Srinagar hospital lately, the medical staff responded with a shocking strike amid Covid crisis. Even as doctors are back on duty, the move has triggered a mixed response at a time when unavailability of some 'vital drug' is leaving the valley breathless.

Sajad Bhat

SOME recent broadcasted images from hospital chambers reminded many of the vintage valley's dissenting streets strewn with bruised bodies. Certain roughed up Covid-designated medical staff walked out of the ward turned war-turf on shoulder support. Others could be seen writhing in pain.

According to some eyewitnesses, ire erupted in Srinagar's SMHS hospital and targeted the health workers after some attendants—whose patients were



gasping for breath in the Covid-cramped chambers—were told that the hospital is devoid of the "vital drug": Remdesivir.

Following another attack, doctors went on a strike. While demanding security from administration, the protesting medical staff said they can't face public anger for government's inability to stock up hospitals with the vital drug.

"We are here to tackle the current warlike situation," said a senior doctor from SMHS hospital. "But it seems the twitter-savvy administration is hell-bent to make punching bags out of us. If only it could've stockpiled Remdesivir in hospitals, people wouldn't have resorted to violence against us." »PAGE 02

**WE ARE HERE TO TACKLE THE CURRENT WARLIKE SITUATION," SAID A SENIOR** doctor from SMHS hospital. "But it seems the twitter-savvy administration is hell-bent to make punching bags out of us. If only it could've stockpiled Remdesivir in hospitals, people wouldn't have resorted to violence against us."

### US Lawmakers Urge China To Step Back From Ladakh

WASHINGTON: Voicing concern over the recent Chinese military aggression against India, a bipartisan group of nine influential Congressmen have introduced a resolution in the US House of Representatives, urging Beijing that it should work towards de-escalating the situation at the border through existing diplomatic mechanisms and not by force.

The troops of India and China are locked in a standoff in several areas along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh since May 5. The situation deteriorated last month following the Galwan Valley clashes that left 20 Indian Army personnel dead.

Led by Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, other co-sponsors of the Congressional resolution are Indian-American Congressman Ro »P-02

### Preventing Burial Of Covid Dead Un-Islamic: Mufti Nasir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Kashmir's Grand Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam Monday declared objections to bury the dead Covid-19 victims in local graveyards by some people as un-Islamic.

"Objection to the burial of those who die due to Covid-19 pandemic in local graveyards is totally against the basic tenets of Islam and the principles of humanity", Mufti said on Monday.

Mufti Nasir said that he has received scores of complaints from the residents of various areas of Srinagar that the patients who succumbed to the pandemic at various hospitals are later denied burial in their respective graveyards. "I couldn't sleep for the whole night after

coming to know that our own Muslim brothers are objecting to the burial of those who die of Covid-19 in graveyards. I received complaints on phone and also various delegations visited my office seeking my opinion on the issue," he said.

Mufti Nasir said that there is no opinion or a need to issue a fatwa. "What treatment should be meted out to those who object to burial of Covid-19 patients, if they themselves die of the same virus? Should they be burnt?", he questioned.

He urged people across Kashmir to wake up and instead of objecting to the burial of such patients, facilitate their burial while following proper guidelines which include wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). »PAGE 02

## 14,000 Non-Local Labourers Arrive in 1 Week

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Health experts in Kashmir Monday warned of a big 'catastrophe' if the free flow of non-local labourers arriving from different parts of mainland India in Kashmir is not checked.

Official figures suggest that more than 14,000 non-local labourers have arrived in Kashmir between July 14 and July 20 and the number is set to rise in the days ahead as bus loads of them are on their way to Kashmir valley, as per videos circulating on social media.

Health experts have already sounded an alarm, saying the situation would turn ugly in case the arrival of non J&K workforce is not controlled or at least regulated. What is more dangerous is that the non-local workers spread to all over Kashmir and they don't



Image for representation

stay at a one particular place or in a district given the nature of work they are involved in.

Authorities have already declared all the ten districts of the valley as containment Red-Zones earlier this month and imposed fresh restrictions on locals to slow

down the spread of COVID-19. However, the influx of non-local labourers from different parts of India including Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Orissa continue.

A Government spokesman on Monday claimed that »PAGE 02

### Omar Threatens To Sue Over Congress Leader's Sachin Pilot Dig

SRINAGAR: NC vice president Omar Abdullah on Monday reacted angrily to comments attributed to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bupesh Baghel apparently linking his release from nearly nine months' detention to the revolt by Sachin Pilot against the Congress government in Rajasthan.

Abdullah, a former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, and his National Conference (NC) have threatened to initiate legal action for defamation against Baghel.

Congress leader Baghel was quoted by a prominent English newspaper saying that "...and as far as Sachin Pilot is concerned, not that I have been tracking the Rajasthan events so closely, but it does make one curious why »P-02

## Is Pandemic Cause Of New Spurt In CRPF Suicides In Kashmir?

Abid Bashir

SRINAGAR: Amid Covid-19 pandemic, suicide and fratricidal incidents among security forces especially paramilitary CRPF men have shown an upward trend in the Kashmir Valley with ban on availing leave to go home and meet families being cited one of the major reasons for suicidal tendencies among forces personnel.

On Monday morning, a CRPF personnel committed suicide by shooting himself dead with his service rifle at his unit in Pantha Chowk area of Srinagar. "An inquiry has been ordered to find out the reason that led him to take this extreme step," a CRPF official said. Today's incident came just three days after a CRPF man posted at a hotel in Dalgate area of Srinagar 'accidentally' shot himself with his service rifle. He was critically injured and is battling for life at

Army's 92 base hospital in Srinagar.

On July 6, two Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) men were killed in a fratricidal incident in a court complex in Kulgam district of south Kashmir. The duo had resorted to an argument before shooting each other dead with their service rifles. Earlier on May 12, two CRPF personnel committed suicide by shooting themselves with their service rifles in two separate incidents in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

On the same day, a CRPF Assistant Sub-Inspector, Bengali Babu, committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle at his 49th battalion camp in Srinagar. Furthermore, on March 21, a CRPF jawan posted outside Civil Secretariat in Srinagar, committed suicide by shooting himself dead with his service rifle.

The rise in suicide cases among CRPF personnel have, however been directly linked with the »PAGE 02

## 13 Years On: Family Of 13 Year Old Rape Victim Awaits Justice

HANDWARA: The family of a teenage girl who was gang raped and murdered in North Kashmir's Kupwara by four men still await justice. The family demands capital punishment for the rapists on the pattern of Delhi's famous Nirbhaya case.

On this day in 2007, the 13 year old Tabinda Ghani was raped and murdered by four men after abducting her when she was on her way to home from school. The criminals were later identified as Sadiq Mir alias Saeda Tsoor, Azhar Mir alias Billa, both residents of Langate, Mochi Jahangir of West Bengal and Suresh Kumar of Rajasthan.

A case vide FIR number 152/2007 U/S 302, 376 and 34 RPC was registered and after investigation, police had filed charge



Image for representation

sheet against the accused. Kupwara District Court judgment gave a verdict on April 24.

2015 and the accused were sentenced to death for offences under section 302/34 RPC.

"Each of the convicts was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment of seven years for offence

punishable under section 363/34 RPC. The convicts were also sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for 10 years for the offence punishable under sections 376(G)/34 RPC. They were also sentenced to simple imprisonment of one month for offences punishable under section 341/ 34 of RPC. The sentences shall run concurrently," judgment reads.

The culprits approached the High Court where the single bench upheld the judgment of the district court. The case is now pending with the double bench of the High Court.

The family of the Tabinda said that there is undue delay and they eagerly wait for the day when all the criminals will be hanged to death. "When Nirbhaya's rapists were executed, »PAGE 02