



Maximum : 31°C  
Minum : 18°C  
Humidity : 45%

SUNSET  
Today 07:37 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 05:37 AM

## News Digest

### Govt Employees To Get July Salary Before Eid

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday ordered release of salary to its employees in advance for the month of July in view of Eid-ul-Adha festival. Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Financial Commissioner, Finance Department, has ordered that salary bills for the for the month of July shall be presented in the treasuries on July 29 for the advance payment of salary on July 30. The order has been issued on the directions of Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu.

### DC's Get Rs 50 Cr Under SDRF

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday sanctioned an amount of Rs 50 crores to the Deputy Commissioners of the Union Territory to fight Covid-19 pandemic. The State Executive Committee (SEC), headed by Mr. B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary, J&K, met here today and sanctioned an amount of Rs.50 crore under SDRF in favour of DCs of twenty districts of the UT, for further intensifying the COVID containment efforts as well as for meeting any eventuality arising on account of any notified disaster, an official spokesperson said. The meeting was attended by A. K. Mehta; Financial Commissioner. Finance: Pawan ● P-02

### Man Held After Bank 'Robbery' Attempt

Srinagar: Police on Friday claimed to have arrested a man who made an abortive bid to carry out a bank robbery in south Kashmir's Kulgam district. During the intervening night of July 23/24, a distress call was received by the police that a pistol-borne man was threatening private security guards to open the gate of J&K Bank at Yaripora, a police spokesperson said Friday. Acting swiftly, he said a police party rushed to the spot and found the alleged robber overpowered by the security guards and his toy pistol seized. "He has been arrested" ● P-02

### Biker Dies In Head-On Collision

Srinagar: A young motorcyclist was killed in a head-on collision with a car in central Kashmir's Budgam district, reports said Friday. 26-year-old Manzoor Ahmed Wani was critically injured after his bike collided with a car near Bugroo village of Khanshabad on Thursday night, reports said. The injured youth was removed to Srinagar's SMHS hospital for treatment. However, he succumbed to his injuries. Meanwhile, police have registered a case and arrested the car driver. (KNT)

### Minor Drowns In Sopore Stream

Srinagar: A minor boy died of drowning on Friday in Sopore area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Four-year-old Faizan Ahmad Lone drowned while taking a bath in a stream in Panzpora area of Sopore, officials said. However, the locals present there retrieved the minor in an unconscious state and rushed him to the nearby hospital where doctors declared him dead. Meanwhile, a police team rushed to the spot and took cognizance of the incident. (KNO)

## No 4G Internet In Kashmir For Now, Centre Tells SC

Agencies

**NEW DELHI-** People in Jammu and Kashmir will not be getting 4G internet anytime soon as the central government has decided to continue the restrictions in the region.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has informed the Supreme Court that the special committee constituted to look into the issue of restoring 4G internet in Jammu and Kashmir decided against resuming the services.

In an affidavit filed earlier this week, in response to contempt petition against the Jammu and Kashmir administration, the MHA said: "Based on a considered and wide-ranging assessment of the prevailing situation in this sensitive region, the committee arrived at a decision that no further relaxation of restrictions on internet services, including 4G services, could be carried out at present.

The home ministry also said situation in the union territory will be reviewed by other



File Pic

competent authorities for the next two months. If there is improvement, appropriate action would accordingly be taken.

MHA's affidavit follows a direction given on 16 July by a Supreme Court bench, led by Justice N.V. Ramana, to answer allegations of contempt raised against it in a petition by the Foundation of Media Professionals (FMP).

The FMP petition had sought action against government officials for allegedly defying the top court's order to form the

special committee. The bench had then observed that the government should have put the committee's decision, to not resume 4G internet services in J&K, in the public domain.

The bench had noted the decision on the services should have been put in the public domain.

According to the affidavit, the special committee had held two meetings, before arriving at the conclusion to not ease restrictions on internet services in Jammu and Kashmir. ● PAGE 02

**A READING OF THIS REPORT WOULD ESTABLISH** beyond doubt that there is no merit whatsoever in the allegations levelled against the respondents in the contempt petition", added the affidavit.

### HC Notice To Govt On 'Detention' Of NC Leaders

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Friday issued a notice to government on separate petitions filed by National Conference Party President and Member of Parliament from Srinagar Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President Omar Abdullah, challenging the "unconstitutional and illegal house detention" of party senior leaders and functionaries.

While the duo had filed sixteen petitions, thirteen ● P-02

## Passengers Await Refund On Cancelled Flight Tickets

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** In a clear violation of Supreme Court orders and the directions of the Civil Aviation Ministry, the airline companies are not refunding the passengers for the flight tickets booked since March 25 when lockdown across India was imposed to combat coronavirus pandemic.

Tens of thousands of people have been left in lurch by airline companies like Go Air, Spice Jet, Vistara, Air India and Indigo after their flights got cancelled due to the lockdown.

The airlines have failed to refund for the cancelled flights to the passengers even after a gap of four months. Many passengers allege that



Image for representation

the airline companies were resorting to dilly-dallying tactics and mischief to grab their money.

"How can an airline withhold passengers' money unendingly and force them to purchase fresh tickets?" Zamrooda Dar, a flier told Kash-

mir Observer.

Dar along with three others had booked an Indigo flight from Bangalore to Srinagar for March 31. However, the flight was cancelled due to the lockdown. She later rescheduled the flight for May 7. ● PAGE 02

### CJ Okays Internship For Law Students In HC

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Justice, Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Justice Gita Mittal on Friday approved the scheme for Internship and e-Internship in the J&K High Court.

Responding to the need to put in place a proper scheme in the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir for engagement of law students (unpaid), either on a regular basis and/or e-internships, who may be remotely located as well, the Chief Justice has conceptualized this scheme, an official spokesperson said.

Under the scheme, the Chief Justice and the Judges of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir can permit internships to law students, either regular or by way of e-internship.

Pertinently, prior to the approval of this scheme, ● P-02

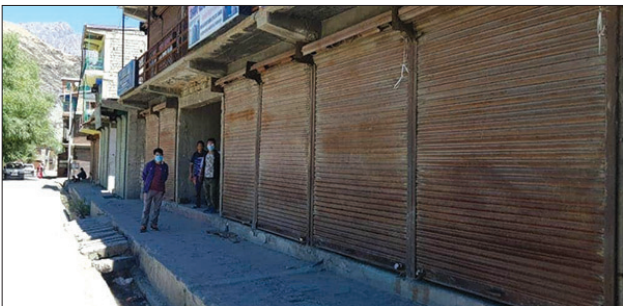
## 'Non-Eligible' For Bank Jobs, Delayed Results Trigger Shutdown In Ladakh

Auqib Javeed

**SRINAGAR:** On Friday, life got crippled in the cold desert, cut from the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir last summer, after Ladakhi youth observed a complete shutdown against their "non-eligibility" in the bank jobs.

The shutdown was observed nearly a year after the abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories—Jammu Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Ever since Ladakh became a new union territory of India, the protesting youth said they have been getting anxious about their job security.



Friday's shutdown was against the "non-eligibility" of Ladakhi youth in Jammu and Kashmir Bank Recruitment for Probationary Officer, Banking Associates and delaying in result of District Service Se-

lection Recruitment Board Kargil. The shutdown call was given by All India Kargil Ladakh Students Union (AIKLSU) and supported by various religious organizations, political parties, Trade and ● PAGE 02

## Azad Pitches Statehood Demand With PM, Calls For Polls In J&K

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and senior Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Friday demanded restoration of statehood followed by assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir during a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"I raised issue of downgrading of security of politicians and demanded security, vehicles and accommodation of all political leaders irrespective of their party affiliations," Azad told a local news agency KNS.



"I also informed Prime Minister the need for political activities in J&K. The political activities pave way for development and people participation in development increases which is not case during Governor's Administration," he added. The former Chief Minister ● PAGE 02

## Pak Ceasefire Violations Up By 60% In 2020: J&K DGP

Agencies

**UDHAMPUR:** Jammu and Kashmir's Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbag Singh on Friday said that ceasefire violations committed by Pakistan in the Union Territory have increased by 50-60 per cent as compared to last year.

"There was an increase of 70 per cent in incidents of ceasefire violations in 2019 in comparison to 2018. If we compare with the last year, there is an increase of 50-60 per cent. Pakistan and its agencies aim to send more militants while they violate ceasefire," Singh told reporters.

He, however, contended that the number of militants has reduced in the area and that the police force is committed to reduc-

ing it even further.

"The number of militants has gone down and we are committed to reducing the numbers further. The border grid has strengthened from earlier times and working better than before due to which cases of infiltration have reduced. One of our police officers lost his life in Anantnag but we have to continually engage in the battle against militancy," Singh added.

Earlier on July 13, the DGP had informed that two militants from Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) were killed by the security forces in an encounter at Anantnag.

"Both militants were killed in the Anantnag encounter. They belonged to Jaish-e-Mohammed. As per preliminary identification, one was a local and ● PAGE 02

Swati Joshi

**W**hen Acacia flowers withered in Pulwama's Khrew area this summer, Bilal Ahmad Pir decided to migrate the bee colonies to north Kashmir's Bandipora district.

But the fear of COVID and the long process to get clearance has left the beekeeper stationed at Khrew with no nectar and pollen to feed the bees.

Since June 1, Pir is struggling to feed the bees, as no natural source of food is available for them.

"We are giving them sugar every week since the acacia flowers withered," says the apiarist.

Pir was lucky to reach Kashmir when Acacia flowers were blooming, unlike other apiarists who were stuck in other states due to the coronavirus lockdown.

From November to December

he stayed in Rajasthan and then he moved to Pathankot. When he started migrating to Kashmir in mid-April, he was faced with the heat of the lockdown.

"Only one person was allowed inside the vehicle," says Pir, adding, "how can one person handle all the colonies by himself?"

It was a tall task but he managed to reach Kashmir on time when Acacia flowers were blossoming.

The apiarists migrate to different places with their bee colonies in search of blossoms and to provide a suitable environment for the bees to thrive.

The migratory beekeepers traditionally move outside Jammu and Kashmir to states like Rajasthan and Punjab, in December every year and return in March-April to



Jammu before moving to Kashmir in the last week of April.

**No Honey Takers**

The demand is less this year as

compared to last year, complains Pir who has been working as an apiarist

for 15 years.

While Pir was able to sell honey to locals in Khrew, he incurred a huge loss in Pampore, where he did not get any customers this time.

"When the market is closed, how will we earn?" questions the apiarist.

Like Pir, Muhammad Yaseen Bhat, a beekeeper based at Kathsoo, Anantnag, has incurred huge losses during the lockdown.

"I used to sell 1-kg honey at Rs. 500 and earn around 4-5 lacs per year," Bhat says, "but this year there is no customer."

While the quantity of honey produced by Bhat is better than the previous year but with no customers, his business has come to a standstill.

Jammu and Kashmir constitute one of the most important beekeeping zones. It provides suitable cli-

matic conditions and exceptionally long season during which pollen and nectar is available in one or the other parts of the region.

Migration is a very important aspect of commercial beekeeping. According to a study done by researchers, "the migratory system of bee-keeping is more economical than the stationary bee-keeping system as it not only helps in boosting income of the individual beekeeper but also helps in increasing productivity of cross-pollinated crops and generates employment."

According to the National Bee Board report 2019, J&K has 22,340 bee colonies. The lockdown has affected thousands of people who have been linked to the honey trade directly or indirectly.

**Lockdown Sting**

"Almost 2 out of 5 beekeepers either ended up with no bees or had to auction them at 1/5th of their market price because they ● PAGE 02