



Maximum : 29°C SUNSET  
Today 06:30 PM  
Minimum : 13°C SUNRISE  
Humidity : 36% Tomorrow 06:18 AM



## News Digest

### LAHDC Elections On Oct 16

Leh: Authorities in the Union Territory of Ladakh have announced schedule of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) polls, notwithstanding opposition's demand for postponement of the exercise in view of the border tension and spike in Coronavirus cases. In a notification issued by Saugat Biswas, Secretary election department, the voting will take place on October 16 in 26 constituencies of the Council. Earlier, representatives of opposition parties—Congress, AAP and BSP—had advised for the postponement of elections in view of the escalating border. ● P-02

### 28 Shops, House Gutted In Banihal Blaze

Banihal- At least 28 shops and a residential house were gutted in a fire in Banihal area in Ramban district of Jammu region, officials said on Saturday. The fire erupted in the main market in Khari, 16 km from Banihal town, at around 10.45 pm on Friday, tehsildar (Khari) Ashok Chakravorty told PTI. He said fire and emergency services personnel put out the blaze after hectic efforts of over one-and-a-half-hour. Army personnel from the nearby camp and local residents also joined the fire fighting operation. The fire consumed 28 shops and a. ● P-02

### 2 OGWs Held In Pulwama: Police

Srinagar- Two associates of militants were arrested in Pulwama district of south Kashmir and incriminating material was seized from their possession, police said on Saturday. The two were arrested from Awantipora and Khrew areas of the south Kashmir district, a police spokesman said, without disclosing their names. He said incriminating material of outfits Hizb-ul-Mujahdeen and Al-Badr was seized from the possession of the militant associates. Cases have been registered and investigations initiated, the spokesman said.

### Security Guard's Rifle Snatched In Tral

Srinagar: Three unidentified men snatched a 12-bore rifle from a security guard at a private bank in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, police said. They entered the bank at Dadsara in the south Kashmir district on Saturday morning and attacked a security guard, identified as Showkat Ahmad Hajam, a police official said. The three men decamped with a 12-bore rifle of the private security guard, he said. The video footage of the incident has been taken as the evidence by police and efforts are on to identify the culprits involved in the commission of the crime, the official said. A case has been registered and investigations are underway, he said.

### 2 Soldiers Injured After Vehicle Overtakes

Srinagar: Two army men were critically injured on Saturday in a road accident in Awantipora town of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. According to the reports the incident occurred at Danagarpora village when an armoured vehicle turned turtle injuring two soldiers. Police and army, reports said rushed to spot and shifted the injured soldiers to Army hospital. A police official told news agency KNT that the army vehicle suffered massive damage in the accident

# LG Announces Rs 1350 Crore Package To Help Business Sector 50 % Waiver Of Fixed Charges In Electricity, Water Tariff

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha announced a Rs 1,350-crore economic package for Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday to give what the official spokesman called "a much-needed boost" to tourism and other sectors hit by the economic slowdown caused due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the security scenario.

As a part of the package, the government has also decided to provide 50 per cent waiver of fixed charges for one year with respect to electricity and water which would cost Rs 105 crore.

Sinha also hinted that the Centre is actively considering an "unprecedented and historic package" for assistance to business entities, which will cover both existing and new enterprises and will be a big boost to business and industry in Jammu and Kashmir, according to an official press release.

Announcing this, the LG said, "You know that at the



KO Photo Anil Bhat

### Package To Help Revive Businesses: Kashmir Inc

Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI) on Saturday welcomed the financial package announced by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for the revival of business in the Union Territory, saying it will give a push to the economy. "First of all, it is a very good beginning because it was on our demand that the LG formed a time-bound committee. We appreciate the work done by the committee and appreciate their efforts that they could deliver their report in time," KCCI ● P-02

### Too Little To Cover Rs 45,000 Cr Losses: NC

National Conference on Saturday termed the newly announced economic package of Rs 1350 Cr for revival of local economy a crude joke, saying the package is too diminutive to cover the whopping 45,000 Cr losses to J&K economy. The so-called revival package for the economy is just hogwash to hoodwink people, said Party Spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar. He said the losses incurred by the industries sector post August 5 clamp down and succeeding Covid induced lockdown ● P-02

## In LS, Farooq Bats For Talks With Pakistan

Says If Talks Can Happen  
With China, Why Not With  
Other Neighbour

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Speaking in Parliament for the first time since his release from detention, the National Conference president and MP Farooq Abdullah on Saturday advocated talks with Pakistan, saying if India can talk to China to defuse their border row, it can also speak to its other neighbour to deal with the situation at Jammu and Kashmir borders.

"Border skirmishes have been rising and people are dying... A way has to be found to deal with this. Except for talks... As you are talking to China

to attempt that it withdraws (from Ladakh border), we should also talk to our (other) neighbour to find a way to get out of this situation," he said in Lok Sabha during the Zero Hour amid protests from treasury benches. The Srinagar MP also expressed his happiness at the findings of an Army inquiry into the killings of three men in Shopian in an encounter.

"I am happy that the Army has admitted that three Shopian men were killed mistakenly. I hope the government gives a hefty compensation," he said. Officials had said on Friday the Army has found "prima facie" evidence that its troops "exceeded" powers under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act during the encounter in July and has initiated disciplinary proceedings.

## NIA Attaches House Of 'Jaish OGW's' Father

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday ordered attaching the property belonging to the father of alleged Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) over ground worker (OGW) Irshad Ahmed Reshi, who was arrested by the agency in connection with an attack on a CRPF Group Centre in south Kashmir in 2017

The property, which is a house, is in the name of Irshad Reshi's father Nazir Ahmad Reshi in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The house along with 17 marlas of land, situated in Ratnipora village of Kakapora area in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, was attached as a property that rep-



resents proceeds of militancy and that which has been used for furtherance of activities of the JeM militant organisation, an NIA spokesperson said in a statement.

The attaching of the property has been made in exercise of powers granted under Section 25 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967.

The accused, Irshad Reshi, was an active Over Ground Worker (OGW) of the JeM militant group. He was also a close associate of slain militant and JeM

commander Noor Mohammad Tantray alias Noor Trali.

The attack on the CRPF Group Centre at Lethpora in south Kashmir was executed under a conspiracy to avenge the death of Noor Trali, who was killed in an encounter with state forces in December 2017.

Irshad Reshi, who was arrested by the NIA in April 2019, was a key conspirator who provided logistic support like shelter and transport to the militants and conducted reconnaissance of the CRPF Group Centre before the attack.

Five CRPF personnel were killed when JeM militants carried out the attack on the CRPF Group Centre during the intervening night of December 30 and 31, 2017.

Three militants were killed retaliatory fire.

## 3 'Lashkar Militants' Held With Drone Dropped Arms: DGP

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Pakistan dropped weapons and some cash in Indian currency using a drone in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, Director General of Police Dilbag Singh on Saturday said, announcing the arrest of three alleged LeT militants who had picked up the consignment near the Line of Control.

Singh said the major success was achieved on Friday evening, following a well-coordinated joint operation by police and 38 Rashtriya Rifles in Rajouri sector of Jammu region.

"All the three Lashker-e-Taiba militants were residents of Kash-

### 'DNA Sample Report In Shopian Case Expected Soon'

Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police Dilbag Singh on Saturday said the DNA sample report of three youths killed in an alleged fake encounter in Shopian district is expected soon and subsequent action will be taken accordingly. On July 18, the Army had claimed that three militants were killed in Amshipura village in the higher reaches of ● P-02

mir and had come to pick up the consignment, which was dropped by Pakistan on this side using a drone," the DGP, who was flanked by Inspector General of Police (IGP), Jammu Division, Mukesh Singh, told reporters in Rajouri district. The IGP informed this was

the third successful operation in the twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch since September 11.

Earlier, a huge consignment of arms and ammunition was recovered from two people in Balakote sector of Poonch three days later 11 kg of heroin worth ● PAGE 02

## J&K Govt Amends Domicile Certificate Rules

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday introduced amendment in the Grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rules, 2020, authorising Naib Tehsildar in addition to Tehsildar to issue the certificate to the PCR holders and their children.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by Article 309 of the Constitution of India, read with Section 15 of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Decentralization and Recruitment) Act, 2010, the Government hereby makes the following amendment in the Jammu and Kashmir Grant of Domicile Certificate (Procedure) Rules, 2020," a GAD Notification issued today stated.

According to an official spokesperson, the amendment in Rule 5, Clause 1 authorizes both Tehsildar and Naib

### Plea Seeks Separate HR Bodies For J&K, Ladakh

A PIL has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking direction to the Centre to immediately set up separate Human Rights Commissions for the two Union territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The plea filed by advocate Asim Sarode said that after ● P-02

Tehsildar for issuing the Domicile certificate to Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC) holders and their children, while naming Deputy Commissioner as the appellate authority. ● PAGE 02

## J&K Reports 21 More Covid-19 Deaths, Toll 989

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus death toll in Jammu and Kashmir inched closer to a thousand mark as the Union Territory on Saturday recorded 21 more deaths, including that of a 25-year-old youth.

While 14 more deaths due to coronavirus were reported from Jammu division, the remaining seven were residents of Kashmir valley, officials said.

Among the fatalities from Jammu includes a 68-year-old woman from Gadigarh Jammu, a 57-year-old woman from Rehari Colony, a 55-year-old from Surankote Poonch, a 25-year-old youth from Ramgarh and a 60-year-old from Janipur, they said.

The victims, among others

from Kashmir Valley include a 45-year-old man from Stadium Colony Baramulla who with was diagnosed with "T2DM, HTN and B/L CAP" by doctors at SMHS hospital where he succumbed a week after being admitted.

A 67-year-old woman from Kandiyal Gurez in Bandipora district died at SKIMS Bemina, one of the exclusive facilities for the management of the covid-19 patients in the Valley. She was admitted to the facility on September 15, they said.

A 60-year-old man from Anchidora Anantnag and a 67-year-old man from Bagwanpora Lal bazar died at CD hospital, also among the exclusive facilities for the management of ● PAGE 02

### 70 Security Personnel Among 1492 New Cases

At least seventy security personnel, 35 travellers and five minors were among 1492 fresh cases of coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, taking the total number of people infected by the virus in Union Territory to 62533. hile 831 more people tested Covid-19 positive in Jammu division, the remaining 661 new cases were confirmed by officials in Kashmir valley. Giving district-wise breakup of the cases, officials said, ● P-02

## Police Station Built On Canal: HC Seeks Report

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High court has directed Divisional Commissioner Kashmir to examine the matter regarding construction of a police station allegedly raised on an irrigation canal in Qimoha area of the southern Kashmir's ● P-02

## HC Sets-Up Arbitration Centres At Srinagar, Jammu

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Saturday accorded approval to setting up of its annexed Arbitration Centers at Srinagar and Jammu in order to provide an institutionalized framework for speedy and expeditious ● P-02

## Govt Reshuffles Administration

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday ordered transfer of seven officers with immediate effect in the interest of administrations. According to an official spokesperson, Bipul Pathak, Principal Secretary to the ● P-02

## LG's Whirlwind Tour Of Anantnag

ANANTNAG: Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir government is witnessing a visible change, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday urged youth to embrace the path of development and be the drivers of a developed and prosperous Union ● P-02

## In FOCUS

## Batamaloo Gunfight: 'No Tweet, Probe Can Get My Mother Back Now'

Hibah Bhat

WITH an expression of misery etched on his face, Aqib Riyaz looks haggard as he recalls the horrific morning of August 18. It was almost like any other daybreak. He was awoken by his 45-year-old mother, Kousar Riyaz Sofi, who had already been up for hours to pray her midnight subjugatory prayers.

At around 4am, the mother-son duo left for their bakery shop in Baranpathar area of Batamaloo, distanced at almost 2-3 kms from their house.

A few bakery shops had already opened as usual, and the air was filled with the early morning bird chirping and faint sounds of moving vehicles.

"Everything seemed normal until I sensed some disturbance around us," recalls Aqib, who had then decided to take a U-turn. "But as I turned back, a bullet pierced our car and straightaway bore a hole in my mother's head." She was sitting in the passenger seat.

Suddenly, a new dawn turned into an eternal dusk in Aqib's life when his mother's face sank into his arms like the setting sun into the sea. Even before he could fathom what had happened, his mother had already lost her heartbeats leaving her 25-year-old son, in his white Santro car, numb and frozen in his seat.

The incident happened in the congested locality, where tensions had already flared up due to the search operation followed by an exchange of fire between the

militants and armed forces. Acted on a tip-off, a battery of counterinsurgents had earlier shown up in Firdausabad locality to pursue three insurgents in a house.

Terming Kousar's killing "unfortunate", J&K DGP Dilbag Singh expressed his "sympathies" with the bereaved family in a post-gunfight presser. Further, in an of-

fensive, he said he was "not ready to be

hesitant to face the truth, hurriedly, Aqib packed his emotions and decided to take his mother to a hospital but soon understood that it was going to be bootless.

"She was dead," he laments while surrounded by long-faced mourners in his home. "I just wanted to be with her at that moment"

In five minutes or so, two cops came

Control Room (PCR) and later to the Batamaloo Police Station—where I was kept waiting in blood-soaked clothes along with my mother's dead body for hours," the grieving son recounts.

Before taking her dead mother for a final homecoming, Aqib says, his bereaved family members were asked to sign "an

**"WE WERE TAKEN TO A NEARBY POLICE CONTROL ROOM (PCR) AND LATER to the Batamaloo Police Station—where I was kept waiting in blood-soaked clothes along with my mother's dead body for hours," the grieving son recounts.**

ficial statement, J&K police said that the woman died in the wake of "indiscriminate firing by terrorists".

No moment to grieve

running towards his car and ordered him to get into a police van along with his mother's body.

"We were taken to a nearby Police

undertaking" that no protests would happen if the body would be handed over.

"Around 25 people signed a bond before they gave us the body," ● PAGE 02

