

Maximum : 27°C
Minimum : 10°C
Humidity : 34%
SUNSET
Today 06:05 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 06:31 AM

News Digest

Sopore Woman Dies Of Burns

Srinagar: A week after setting herself ablaze, a woman from Sopore area of Baramulla district on Wednesday succumbed to her injuries at Srinagar's SMHS hospital. The 32-year-old woman had sustained severe burn injuries after she set herself ablaze at her in-law's house in Sidqi Colony area of Sopore in north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Thursday last week. Officials said that the woman (name withheld) set herself ablaze after pouring Kerosene oil over her body following which she was rushed to Sub **● P-02**

Woman Killed In Hit And Run Accident

Srinagar: An elderly woman on Wednesday was killed in a hit and run accident in Achabal area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district. 68-year-old Saja Begum was critically injured when a motorcyclist hit her invillage Brariangan in Achabal on Wednesday morning, a police official said. While the biker managed to flee from the spot, the injured woman was rushed to SKIMS Soura here for treatment. However, the doctors there declared her brought **● P-02**

Man Dies After Falling From Tree

Srinagar: An elderly man died on Wednesday after falling from a tree in Kanganarea of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. 60-year-old Abdul Rehman Thekrey of Hariganiwan Kangan suffered critical injuries on Wednesday after falling from a tree in Thune area of the district, reports said. The injured man succumbed before he could be taken to the hospital for treatment. An unnamed police official told news agency KDC that police have taken the cognizance of the incident and the matter was being investigated.

Ladakh Records 79 New Covid-19 Cases

Leh: The Union Territory of Ladakh reported 79 new coronavirus cases, taking the cumulative figure to 4720, an official bulletin said on Wednesday. With 50 more patients cured of the disease, the number of active cases in the region stands at 1195 904 in Leh district and 291 in Kargil district, the bulletin released by the directorate of health services said.

It said 72 people tested positive for COVID-19 in Leh and another seven in Kargil district during the past 24 hours. Ladakh had reported 61 COVID-related deaths, while 3,464 **● P-02**

Govt Sets Up 18 Paddy Procurement Centres

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir administration has established 18 centres in the current Kharif marketing season for procurement of paddy at the minimum support price across Jammu region, according to a senior official. Principal Secretary Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department Navin Kumar Choudhary said the centres were set up in Jammu (9), Kathua (8) and Samba (1). "Timely operationalisation of procurement centres will ensure that the farmers are not compelled to sell their **● P-02**

3 Militants Killed In Shopian Encounter

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Three local militants of Hizbul Mujahideen and Al-Badr were killed on Wednesday in a fierce overnight encounter with government forces in Zainapora area of south Kashmir's Shopian district.

Hizbul Mujahideen militant Sajad Ahmad Malla of Shopian and Al-Badr's Junaid Rashid Wani and Waseem Ahmad Magray, both residents of Pulwama were killed after army's 44 RR, special operations group (SOG) of police and the personnel of CRPF 178 battalion resumed anti-militancy operation in Sujan village of Shopian in the wee hours on Wednesday, a police spokesperson said.

The search operation, he said was launched around 7:00pm Tuesday by the state forces on the basis of specific input about the presence of militants in the village. During the operation, he said militants turned down surrender offer and instead fired on the joint



File Photo

Naikoo's Aide Attacked BJP Leader: DGP

Hizbul Mujahideen had deputed a close aide of slain militant commander Riyaz Naikoo from south Kashmir to carry out the attack on a BJP leader in Ganderbal district in which a police constable was killed, the top police official of Jammu and Kashmir said on Wednesday. **● P-02**

team to break the cordon.

"Due to darkness the operation was suspended and the whole

area was put under strict cordon.

Militants trapped inside made certain attempts to break **▶▶ PAGE 02**

▶▶ DUE TO DARKNESS THE OPERATION WAS SUSPENDED and the whole area was put under strict cordon. Militants trapped inside made certain attempts to break the cordon and escape from the spot," the police spokesperson said.

Panel For Fixing School Fees Gets Statutory Powers

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Government of India has carried out amendments in the Jammu & Kashmir School Education Act-2002 to grant statutory powers to committee for determining and regulating fee of students in private schools in the newly carved out Union Territory.

The amendments are part of "The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Re-Organization (Adaptation of State Laws) order- 2020" issued by the Union Home Ministry on Monday.

According to the amendments, the committee shall be headed by a chairperson who has been a Judge of a High Court or a gov-

ernment officer who has been a financial commissioner of the Union territory or above.

"The members of the committee shall be such as may be prescribed by the government," reads the order.

According to these amendments, the panel shall exercise such powers and perform such functions as may be prescribed by the government to ensure that the private schools are not indulging in commercialisation of education and undue profiteering.

"Orders passed by the committee for fixation and regulation of fee of private Schools shall be deemed to have been duly passed by a public servant **▶▶ PAGE 02**

BJP Leader Opposes J&K Govt's Rehabilitation Offer To Militants

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Days after Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha urged local militants to give up arms and promised to help them with jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities, the Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Wednesday opposed the move saying in Modi government, there can never be any rehabilitation for militants, Hindustan Times Reported

"There can never be any rehabilitation policy for terrorists and they will be paid back in the same coin," Raina said.

Speaking after launching the third-phase of the 'Back to Village' programme in Shopian dis-



trict in south Kashmir on Friday, Sinha had said that the people of J-K, especially the youth, want to tread on the path of progress and development and appealed to the misguided youth to shun violence and return to the mainstream.

"The government is ready to

help with jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities," he had said.

However, opposing the move strongly, Raina, according to the report said that Pak-sponsored militancy has bled Jammu and Kashmir for the past 30 years.

They (militants) go to Pakistan for arms training, come back with arms and ammunition and kill innocent people and security forces personnel. They can never be given jobs," he said.

"Our army, police and paramilitary forces are combating them 24x7. In Modi government, there can never be any rehabilitation for terrorists," he added.

Raina, according to the report has also alleged many **▶▶ PAGE 02**

Eye On LAHDC Polls

BJP Promises More Than 6th Schedule Benefits To Leh

Press Trust Of India

LEH: Allaying Ladakhis' fear of losing jobs and land, Union minister Anurag Thakur on Wednesday asserted that the Centre would provide more than what was there in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, a demand which had gained momentum after the region was declared a separate Union territory last year.

The Minister of State for Finance was in Leh to kick-start the official campaign of the BJP for the upcoming polls to the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council



File Photo

(LAHDC) Leh - the first democratic exercise in the Union territory.

The 26 seats of LAHDC Leh are going to polls on October 22 and is likely to witness a keen battle between the BJP, Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) which is trying its luck for the first time in the region. None of the regional **▶▶ PAGE 02**

HC Imposes Rs 10000 Costs On Mission Director

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Observing that judicial time has been "unwarrantedly wasted", Jammu and Kashmir High Court has imposed Rs 10000 costs to Mission Director State Rural Livelihood who had filed an appeal against the court's single bench order way back in 2017.

The Mission Director had assailed the order dated 4 August 2017 whereby the court had allowed a plea by one Tariq Ahmad Bhat who had challenged an order dated 30 August 2016 issued by the Additional Mission Director SRLM Kashmir, terminating the cancellation of the hiring of an Innova vehicle along-with Driver with effect from 25th of March 2016 in the State Rural Liveli-

hoods Mission Kashmir. This hiring had been sanctioned by order dated 31.03.2016 for one year strictly as per the approved rates of Transport Commissioner, Jammu & Kashmir subject to the terms and conditions incorporated in the order.

"The learned Single Judge noted that the engagement of hiring of the vehicle was for a period of one year which period has expired on 31st of March, 2017. As such, the order dated 31.08.2016 terminating the hiring of the vehicle had lost its efficacy," a division bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Puneet Gupta.

Subsequently, the division bench said that Tariq's plea was disposed of with a direction to the Mission Director to adhere to the **▶▶ PAGE 02**



WAILING FAMILY members bid adieu to the slain policeman Altaf Hussain of Eidgah, Srinagar. Altaf died while protecting a BJP leader from a militant attack in Ganderbal on Tuesday. Photo Abid Bhat

12 More Coronavirus Deaths In J&K, Toll 1284

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least twelve people died of coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, raising the number of fatalities due to the deadly infection across the Union Territory to 1284.

While seven more people succumbed to Covid-19 in Jammu division, the remaining five lost battle with the virus in Kashmir valley, officials said.

Among the victims in Jammu division, three were residents of Jammu district, two from

621 New Cases Include 37 Travelers

Jammu and Kashmir reported on Wednesday 621 fresh cases of coronavirus, including thirty seven travelers, taking the total number of people infected by the virus to 1284. Among the fresh cases, 260 were from Jammu Division and 361 from Kashmir **● P-02**

Rajouri and one each from Doda and Samba, they said. The victims included a 52-year-old from Jeewan Nagar, a 67-year-old from Kotli Shah Doula and a 62-year-old from **▶▶ PAGE 02**

Chhibber's Term As JK Bank CMD Extended For 6 Months

NEW DELHI: Jammu & Kashmir Bank on Wednesday said the RBI has extended the term of RK Chhibber as the Chairman and Managing Director for a period of six months.

"We wish to intimate that the Reserve Bank of India has extended the term of R K Chhibber, Chairman and Managing Director of the bank by a further period of six months with effect from 10th October, 2020 or till the appointment of MD & CEO, whichever is earlier," Jammu & Kashmir Bank said in a regulatory filing.

In June 2019, the Reserve Bank had approved the appointment of R K Chhibber as interim **● P-02**

JK Govt To Recruit 1,700 Doctors: LG

UDHAMPUR: The Jammu and Kashmir government is all set to recruit 1,700 doctors to strengthen the healthcare system, Lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday.

"There is a shortage of paramedics and doctors in J-K. There are vacancies. We are going to start the recruitment of 1,700 doctors soon," Sinha told an event organised as part of the "Back-to-Village-3" campaign in Udhampur district's Kud area.

"Since we are facing a pandemic and new lifestyle diseases, we have ensured universal life and health cover for all **● P-02**

In FOCUS Promise To Make J&K A Hub Of Solar Power Remains A Hoax

Mrinal Pathak

In the last few years, Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) has proposed many mega solar power projects in few districts of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), but the completion of these projects is far from reality.

Concerns over the safety and viability of these projects in J&K are raised from time to time.

Experts suggest that such projects may help in boosting job opportunities and electricity production that ultimately will benefit the local population.

While it is a challenging task for

engineers to set up power grids on tough terrains of the region but, many say, the innovative solutions may help in yielding promising results.

Interestingly, the successive central and state governments over the past few years promised to make J&K a hub of solar energy production but the study conducted by the Centre for Science and Environment has placed J&K at bottom of the list.

J&K was placed even below Bihar which has managed to install 20 MW Solar Roof Top (SRT) power.

Notably, ever since Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy launched the Jawaharlal Nehru So-



lar Mission in 2010, J&K has been lagging behind.

According to the official figures

released by Jammu Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA), SRT panels of 8 MWs were installed

in different parts of J&K.

The primary reason for the lack of growth in the solar sector in J&K is the shortage of resources.

According to the agreement between the centre and the states, J&K was bound to pay 40 percent of the total funds but a majority of the projects were scrapped, subjecting to J&K's inability to pay its share of funds.

As per an estimate, a 70 percent subsidy is provided by JAKEDA to any household installing SRT panels on rooftops of their homes.

It's believed that since the cost of electricity is very less in J&K, majority of households hesitate in

investing in solar panels.

The lack of cooperation from the various authorities concerned is equally proving to be a major stumble in developing solar power infrastructure in J&K. The red-tapism is also being blamed for not helping the cause.

In past, a 200 KW plant was installed by JAKEDA at Sher-E-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, but no progress had been made on it so far.

The only department that has been utilising the benefits of renewable energy is the J&K Police department.

A good number of SRT panels are installed on the rooftops of many police stations over the past few years.

Many environmental experts advocate the use of unconventional or renewable sources of energy such as solar energy as a means to combat the impact of climate change.

Experts suggest that the process of generating solar power is way cheaper than building a hydropower plant of similar capacity.

The time taken to build a solar power plant is also very less than building a hydropower plant.

At the beginning of 2019, an Economic Times report says, the total installed power capacity in the J&K was 3393.74 MW.

The same report states that though J&K is the second largest state in terms of having the potential for solar power generation, yet solar power has very little contribution in this region.