



Maximum : 19°C
Minum : 07°C
Humidity : 41%

SUNSET
Today 05:29 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 07:01 AM



News Digest

Kulgam Murder Case Solved: Police

Srinagar: Police on Wednesday claimed to have solved murder case of a woman by arresting the accused in south Kashmir's Kulgam district after carrying out investigation in a "professional manner".

In a statement issued here, a police spokesperson said that on November 10, Police Station Kulgam received information that Mehmooda of Shurat has been assaulted at her native village and was shifted to District Hospital Kulgam for treatment. Acting promptly, the police spokesperson said a team of police headed by DySP

Tipper Crushes Teen Biker To Death

Srinagar: A teenage motorcyclist on Wednesday was knocked to death by a tipper in Dooruarea of south Kashmir's Anantnag district. 19-yr-old Shakeel-Ur-Rehman of NadooraDooru was riding his motorcycle when a tipper (JK13A-9311) hit him near Pooliarea of Verinag on Wednesday, official sources said. The injured teenager was removed to the nearby health facility for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him brought dead. Meanwhile, Police have registered a case and started further investigations.

City Traders Slapped With Rs 2.6L Fine

Srinagar: The district administration realised Rs 2.62 lakh fine from 394 erring traders during market checking drive in Srinagar City in the month of October, officials said Wednesday. They said that the Enforcement Squad of Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) has recovered a fine of Rs. 2.62 lac from 394 erring traders during market checking within the vicinity of Srinagar City in the month of October 2020. During the market checking, the officials said 1352 business establishments were

House Gutted In Eidgah Blaze

Srinagar: A residential house was on Wednesday gutted completely while another suffered partial damage in a fire incident in Eidgah area of this capital city. Fire broke out in the residential house of Tariq Ahmad Dar, son of Muhammad Amin Dar at New Colony Wanganpora area of Eidgah on Wednesday afternoon leaving it completely gutted, officials said. The fire, they said also caused partial damage to another house belonging to Ghulam Nabi Matta. The cause of fire is said to be gas leakage, officials said.

129 More Test Positive In Ladakh

Leh: The COVID-19 tally in Ladakh surpassed the 7,000-mark on Wednesday with 129 more people testing positive for the infection, according to an official bulletin. The fresh cases pushed the infection count to 7,063 in the Union Territory, the bulletin said. The death toll linked to the pandemic stands at 85 in Ladakh, while 6,058 patients have so far recovered from the infection in the UT. According to the bulletin released by the

DDC Polls: PAGD To Release Candidate List Today



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Days after deciding to contest the upcoming District Development Council (DDC) polls unitedly, the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), an amalgam of top political parties in J&K, is set to release the list of its candidates for the first phase tomorrow.

The conglomerate of seven

mainstream parties has worked out a seat-sharing pact for the first phase of the polls for which tomorrow is the last date for filing nominations, sources said Wednesday.

"The seat-sharing arrangement has been worked out for the first phase. All the parties who are part of the alliance have prepared the list of their candidates and have sent it to their respective

Mechanism In Place For Smooth Conduct Of Polls: Sharma

Jammu and Kashmir State Election Commissioner (SEC) K K Sharma on Wednesday said that elaborate measures have been undertaken for the

Apni Party, DSSP Allotted Common Symbols

Jammu & Kashmir State Election Commission on Wednesday allotted common symbols to Altaf Bukhari-led Apni Party and Lal Singh-headed

India, China To Resolve LAC Standoff?

NEW DELHI: India and China may be on the verge of a breakthrough in resolving the over six-month-long tense border standoff in eastern Ladakh with both sides broadly agreeing on a three-step process on disengagement of troops and withdrawal of weaponry from all major friction points in a time-bound manner, authoritative sources said on Wednesday.

The broad contours of the proposal include removal of armoured personnel carriers within one day of inking an agreement, withdrawal of troops from specific areas on the north and south banks of the Pangong lake in

SC's 'Outrage' On Right To Liberty Has Been Selective: Mehbooba

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Wednesday said while she agrees with the Supreme Court's "outrage" on right to liberty, it has been selective when it comes to Kashmiris.

Her remarks came in light of the Supreme Court's observations while hearing the bail plea of Republic TV editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami.



NO Photo Add Bhut

Class 10th Examinations Commence In Kashmir

'Separate Exams To Be Held For Covid-19 Infected Students: JKBOSE

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR- The annual board examinations for Class 10, conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir State Board of School Education (JKBOSE), commenced in the Kashmir valley on Wednesday with COVID-19 safety measures in place, officials said.

The examinations are the first

major school-related activity in the valley since the pandemic broke out, the officials said.

They said 1,06,465 students -- comprising 74,465 from the valley and 32,000 from Jammu winter zones -- are expected to appear for the examination to be held at 1,145 centres - 814 in the valley and 331 in the winter zones of Jammu.

The examination centres have been almost doubled from the previous year to ensure adherence to social distancing norms, the officials said.

In order to prevent the spread of the infection, the authorities have put in place various preventive measures including social distancing norms and the use of masks and hand-sanitisers, they said.

"WE WILL CONDUCT EXAMINATION FOR THE INFECTED students separately. They just need to inform the BOSE with proper bio data and medical certificate,"

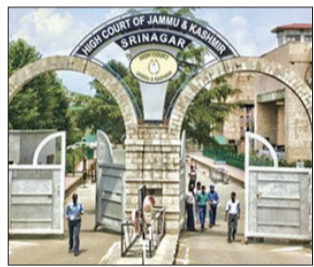
Bar Puts Off Election, Forms Ad Hoc Committee

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association (JKHCBA) on Wednesday cancelled its yearly election and formed an ad hoc committee, days after authorities here barred it from holding any polls until it clarified its position on terming Kashmir a disputed territory.

On Monday, Srinagar District Magistrate Shahid Choudhary issued three notices to the president of the bar association asking them to explain its Constitution which terms Kashmir a disputed area.

Choudhary barred the bar association from holding any elections until it clarified its position



and also asked them to submit relevant documents, including the article of the association and registration papers.

The Srinagar district magistrate also imposed prohibitory orders in the district court complex here.

Post the imposition of prohibition by the district

Eviction Of Ex-Mantris, Babus HC Gives Govt 'Last Opportunity' To Disclose Policy

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Wednesday gave "last opportunity" to government to file compliance report, disclosing the policy regarding retention or otherwise of the ministerial bungalows and other accommodation of the estates department by the former ministers, ex-MLAs, retired IAS Officers, MLCs and political persons in J&K.

As soon as the case came up for hearing, Senior Additional Advocate General B. A. Dar sought some more time to update the compliance report regarding eviction of

Ex-JKB Chairman's Plea Against Dismissal Rejected

Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Wednesday dismissed a petition by Pervaiz Ahmad Negroo, challenging his dismissal as Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the Board of Directors of the Bank last year.

the former ministers, ex-MLAs, retired IAS Officers, MLCs and political persons who are still unauthorizedly residing in ministerial bungalows as well as A, B and C-type accommodation of the Estates Department, both at Jammu as well as Srinagar and recovery of outstanding amount from the autho-

rized and unauthorized occupants.

On being asked as to why time was sought again and again for updating the compliance despite there being repeated directions from the Court, B A Dar submitted that he was making such request only on the instructions of the authorities in the Estates Department.

10 More Corona Deaths In J&K, Toll 1561

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: As many as ten more people succumbed to coronavirus infection in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, taking the number of Covid-19 related fatalities across the Union Territory to 1561.

In Kashmir Valley, six more people died of coronavirus, while four others lost the battle with the deadly infection in Jammu division, officials said Wednesday. Among the six victims from Valley, three were residents of Srinagar, two from Baramulla and one from Kupwara in north Kashmir.

According to the officials, a 67-year-old man from Alamgari Ba-

zar here, who was admitted to SMHS hospital with bilateral community acquired pneumonia on October 24, died this morning. Besides him, a 60-year-old man from Nawa Kadal also died at SMHS hospital, four days after he was admitted to the hospital with bilateral CAP. Also, officials said a 58-year-old man from Safa Kadal Srinagar died at SKIMS Soura, officials said. "He was admitted on October 17 and died this afternoon," they added.

Regarding the deaths from Jammu region, officials said two were from winter capital of J&K and one each from Udhampur and Doda districts.

Srinagar district with 385 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (273), Baramulla (153), Budgam (94),

Cases Cross 1L Mark As 507 More Test Positive

Coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir crossed one lakh mark on Wednesday as 507 more people, including 35 travelers in Union Territory tested positive

Pulwama (84), Kupwara (76), Anantnag (76), Rajouri (48), Kulgam (48), Bandipora (48), Doda (49), Shopian (35), Ganderbal (35), Udhampur (33), Kathua (33), Samba (25), Poonch (23), Ramban (18), Kishtwar (15), and Reasi (8). (With GNS inputs)

India to Regulate Online News, Social Media Sites

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government has brought films, audiovisuals, news and current affairs content on online platforms under the domain of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

According to a notification issued by the Cabinet Secretariat on Tuesday night, online content made available by online providers such as Netflix will also come under the ministry.

The notification, signed by President Ram Nath Kovind, said the decision has been taken in ex-

ercise of the powers conferred by clause (3) of article 77 of the Constitution, by amending the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 and it will come into effect immediately.

With this, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has the power to regulate policies related to news, audio, visual contents and films available on online platforms.

These rules may be called the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Three Hundred and Fifty Seventh Amendment

India, Pak Troops Trade Fresh Shelling

JAMMU: For the third consecutive day Wednesday, India and Pakistani troops continued to trade heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch and the International Border (IB) in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistani troops resorted to heavy firing and mortar shelling in forward posts and villages along the LoC in Poonch besides the IB in Kathua, officials said Wednesday.

The Indian Army and the Border Security Force (BSF) retaliated effectively. There was no report of any casualty or damage on the Indian side, they said.

"Around 0915 hours, the Pakistani army initiated unprovoked ceasefire violation by firing with small arms and shelling with mortars along LoC in Kirni,

Prez Grants More Powers To LG Ladakh

SRINAGAR: The President of India has empowered the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Union Territory to exercise the powers and functions exercised by the State government under "The Protection of Human Rights Act-1993".

"In pursuance of clause (1) of article 239 of the Constitution, the President hereby directs that the powers and functions of the State Government under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 shall, subject to the control of the President and until further orders, be exercised and discharged by the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Ladakh," reads a notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

'Murdered' Soldier's Family Seek CBI Probe

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The family of an army man who was allegedly abducted and killed by militants in August this year, staged a protest here on Wednesday demanding CBI probe in the mysterious disappearance of their son.

The family and relatives of Territorial Army rifleman Shakir Manzoor appeared in Srinagar's Press Colony on Wednesday and staged a protest against the alleged indifference and failure of the state authorities, especially the police in tracing the whereabouts of the soldier. The family alleged that the soldier was abducted in broad day light and paraded in several villages but police have no clue of his abductors.

On August 2, Rifleman Shakir Manzoor of 162 Battalion (TA) went missing and his vehicle was found abandoned and burnt in south Kashmir' Kulgam district. Shortly after his alleged abduction, an unverified audio clip surfaced on social media in which a person, suspected to be a militant, claimed to have killed and buried Manzoor discreetly.

Narrating the sequence of events, Shakir's father Manzoor Ahmad Wagay told journalists that his son was abducted and paraded through several villages in full public glare, days after he was transferred from Rangreth to Shopian.

"Since his abduction, I have been aimlessly and tirelessly looking for my son. I even put to risk

In FOCUS Crisis Teams Can Counter Surging Suicides In Kashmir

Zeenish Imroz

A part from 'growing cases' of cardiac arrests targeting young Kashmiris, sudden suicides involving preteens have already sent chilling signals across the valley.

The suicidal tendencies, Crime Branch's fresh figures now reveal, have soared in Kashmir, as around 390 suicide attempts were made in the valley till September 2020, compared to 284 and 330 attempts in 2019 and 2018 respectively.

Among others, Dr Syed Aqeel Hussain, a Consultant Psychiatrist and a Fellow of the Royal College of

Psychiatrists London, is keeping a close eye on his homeland's rising suicide graph.

"There's clear evidence if we've a crisis team which includes people working in the primary health care and if they provide basic support, counselling at that time and do basic assessment, it might reduce the risk of suicide by 20 percent," says Dr Hussain, who has been working as the international coordinator for WHO Mental Health Gap Action Programme.

According to the mental health specialist, if crisis teams are established in all districts, they could be helpful in collecting data, as the suicide numbers from Kashmir



aren't available on the WHO map of age-standardized suicide rates.

"The crisis teams could be helpful in making recommendations to

the government based on ground based knowledge with regards to the management of suicide in young population," the mental health expert says.

Twin Strategy

During his 2017 Geneva visit to launch his first suicide report, Dr. Hussain had bumped into a Tamilian professor namely Vijay Kumar Lakshmi and learned about a twin strategy which had curtailed suicide rate in Tamil Nadu.

"One being setting up of pesticide banks," Dr Hussain continues. "Instead of taking pesticides home, farmers stored it in the pesticide banks in the