



Maximum: 13°
Minimum: -1°
Humidity: 82%
SUNSET Today 05:25 PM
SUNRISE Tomorrow 07:07 AM

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NEWS DIGEST

Mughal Road Reopens After 3 Day Closure

POONCH: Mughal road was on Tuesday thrown open for load carriers three days after the thoroughfare, connecting Shopian with Poonch, was closed after snowfall in the region. DySP Traffic Rajouri-Poonch Zabir Mirza said that the load carriers were allowed to ply after the thoroughfare was cleared off the snowfall. He said that subject to fair weather and good road conditions, only downward traffic (load carriers) loaded with fresh fruit shall be allowed from Herpora in Shopian from 1100 hours to 1600 hours towards Poonch. He said no vehicle shall be allowed after cut off timing. Moreover, he said, no passenger vehicle or pedestrian shall be allowed on the road. (GNS)

Sopore Youth Found Dead

SRINAGAR: A 24-year-old youth was found dead in Sopore town of north Kashmir's Baramulla on Tuesday. A resident of Badam Bagh locality of Sopore, the youth was found lying unconscious inside his home on Tuesday morning, news agency KDC reported. He was taken to the Sub-district Hospital Sopore by his family. However, the doctors there declared him dead on arrival.

2 Women Killed In Akhnoor Accident

JAMMU: Two women were killed and four others, including two minors injured when a vehicle they were travelling in met with an accident in Akhnoor area here on Tuesday. An Alto car (JK02AE-6774) rolled down at Tungi Morh under the jurisdiction of Police Station Akhnoor, resulting into on the spot death of two women and injuries to four persons, officials said. The deceased have been identified as Sarbar Bibi and Zamoor Bibi. The injured including the driver identified as Mukhtiar Ahmed, Parveen Akhter, Ansh Mukhtiar and Alisha Naseer, all residents of Mendhar Poonch were injured and were hospitalized, they said. (GNS)

The persons had approached the Court to get these documents certified, consequently, the Hon'ble Court of CJM Handwara doubting the genuineness of these documents ordered Crime Branch Kashmir to register FIR in the case. These documents were created using forged seals, signatures etc. During the course of investigation three persons were found involved in the forgery, two persons namely, Ghulam Nabi Paray, son of Mohammad Sultan, a resident of Mandigam Handwara and Sajad Ahmad Dar, son of Ghulam Mohammad Dar, a resident of Kherwara Hajin Handwara stand arrested and remanded to judicial custody, while as third accused Javid Ahmad Najjar, son of Ghulam Ahmad Najjar, a resident of Renan Kherwara Handwara is absconding. Officials said that Crime Branch Kashmir has produced the challan in case FIR number 13/2015 U/S 420,511,467,468,471,201,120-B RPC of P/S Crime Branch Kashmir, related to forged documents provided by accused to Axis Bank Sopore for withdrawal of loan. (KNT)

2 Held While Trying To Secure Loan Fraudulently

SRINAGAR: Two persons from north Kashmir's Handwara area were arrested in a case related to producing fake documents to the court for the withdrawal of the loan from a bank in Sopore town of Baramulla. The persons had approached the Court to get these documents certified, consequently, the Hon'ble Court of CJM Handwara doubting the genuineness of these documents ordered Crime Branch Kashmir to register FIR in the case. These documents were created using forged seals, signatures etc. During the course of investigation three persons were found involved in the forgery, two persons namely, Ghulam Nabi Paray, son of Mohammad Sultan, a resident of Mandigam Handwara and Sajad Ahmad Dar, son of Ghulam Mohammad Dar, a resident of Kherwara Hajin Handwara stand arrested and remanded to judicial custody, while as third accused Javid Ahmad Najjar, son of Ghulam Ahmad Najjar, a resident of Renan Kherwara Handwara is absconding. Officials said that Crime Branch Kashmir has produced the challan in case FIR number 13/2015 U/S 420,511,467,468,471,201,120-B RPC of P/S Crime Branch Kashmir, related to forged documents provided by accused to Axis Bank Sopore for withdrawal of loan. (KNT)

Amit Shah Calls Peoples Alliance 'Gupkar Gang'

Omar Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti Hit Back

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: As the maiden District Development Council (DDC) polls in Jammu and Kashmir draw closer, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday took pot shots at the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) calling it a 'gang' and evoking sharp response from Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti. In a series of tweets, Shah also described the PAGD, a newly formed conglomerate of political parties, as the "Gupkar Gang" that is going global and wants foreign forces to intervene in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Congress and the Gupkar Gang want to take JK back to the era of terror and turmoil. They want to take away rights of Dalits, women and tribals that we have ensured by removing Article 370. This is why they're being rejected by the people everywhere," he said. **More On P2**

BJP Using 'Gupkar Gang' Euphemism to Project Us Anti-Nationals"

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Not Part Of Gupkar Alliance: Congress

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Tuesday asserted that it was not a part of the Gupkar alliance and was contesting the district development council elections in Jammu and Kashmir to "expose" the BJP through democratic means. Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said in a statement that the party was against any foreign intervention in the internal affairs of India, including in Jammu and Kashmir. "The Congress party is not part of the 'Gupkar Alliance' or the 'People's Association for Gupkar Declaration'," he said in a statement. Surjewala attacked Home **More On P2**

Covid Fear Drive Dr Farooq, Omar Into Self Isolation

SRINAGAR: Member Parliament and National Conference (NC) Patron Dr Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar on Tuesday went into self-quarantine after coming into contact with a person who was putting up with a relative of a coronavirus infected person. The announcement about self-isolation was made by the former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah on his personal Twitter account. "My father & I have been in contact with a person who was in turn staying with a relative who tested COVID positive. Based on medical advice, we will be self-isolating for a week before getting a precautionary COVID test," Omar Tweeted. **More On P2**

6 More Covid Deaths Push J&K Toll Past 1600 Mark

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: At least six more people died of coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, taking the total number of fatalities since the outbreak of pandemic in the Union Territory past 1600 mark. In Kashmir valley three people lost the battle with the deadly infection while three others succumbed to virus in Jammu division, taking the total fatality count to 1604, officials said. The three victims from the Valley, they said, included a 75-year-old woman from Noorbagh Baramulla, a 70-year-old from Kokernag Anantnag and a 62-year-old woman from Sumbalr Bandipora.

Regarding the deaths from Jammu division, they said, the one victim each belonged to Udhampur, Kathua and Samba. With these deaths, the total fatality count in the Valley has reached 1063 and 541 in the Jammu region. Srinagar district with 399 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (283), Baramulla (158), Budgam (97), Pulwama (85), Kupwara (78), Anantnag (76), Doda (50), Rajouri (48), Kulgam (48), Bandipora(49), Shopian (36), Ganderbal (37), Udhampur (36), Kathua (34), Samba (26), Poonch (22), Ramban (18), Kishtwar(16), and Reasi (8). **More On P2**

2 Kashmiris Held In Delhi For 'Militancy Links'

Families Refute Charges, Urge J&K LG, DGP To Intervene

Observer Monitoring Desk

NEW DELHI: Two Kashmiri youth have been arrested by the special cell of Delhi Police on charges of being Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) militants, a charge strongly contested by their families back home. Abdul Latif of Dooru village in Baramulla district and Mohammad Ashraf of Hatmulla village in Kupwara district were arrested by the sleuths of special Sarai Kale Khan area in southeast Delhi, officials said on Tuesday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said, "On the basis of the information received, a trap was laid near Millennium Park, Sarai Kale Khan, and two suspected [militants] who are residents of Jammu and Kashmir, were apprehended around 10.15 pm." Two semi-automatic pistols along with 10 live cartridges have been recovered from them, the DCP claimed. However, the families of the arrested youth strongly contested the police claim saying their sons were not even remotely connected with militancy. Ashraf's father Bashir Ahmad Khatana told a local news gathering agency KNO that his son left for New

Delhi on November 4 to buy clothing and other personal material for his marriage that was scheduled to take place November 11 and 12. "He contacted me for the last time on November 5 from an unknown number and stated that he will reach the next day. His arrest is a shocker for the entire family and his in-laws as well," he said. He said he spoke to the local DySP and other officials and pleaded innocence of his son, after learning that his son has been picked up by Delhi police on charges of militancy. The family of another arrested youth also rebutted the claims of special cell. Latif's father Sanaullah Mir said that he lost contact with his son, barely two days after he left for New Delhi on November 4. "My son is Hafiz-e-Quran. I came to know about the arrest of my son through a news channel. I was shocked to see my son being arrested on the pretext of being a militant associate," Mir said.

Meanwhile, the family members of both the detained Kashmiri youth have urged Jammu and Kashmir LG, Manoj Sinha, and Director General of Police, Dilmagh Singh to intervene and seek the early release of their innocent sons. "My son is Hafiz-e-Quran. I came to know about the arrest of my son through a news channel. I was shocked to see my son being arrested on the pretext of being a militant associate" **More On P2**

ROSHNI SCAM

Jammu Admin Directs DCs To Cancel Land Mutations

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu divisional commissioner in a third advisory has directed deputy commissioners to cancel all mutations of land transferred under the Roshni scheme and submit details, an official spokesman said on Tuesday. The Jammu and Kashmir administration on November 4 had directed deputy commissioners of Jammu division to cancel all mutations of illegally encroached land, including those under the Roshni scheme, from revenue records and upload details of encroachers on websites. Jammu Divisional Commissioner Sanjeev Verma had issued directives to DCs of 10 districts of Jammu region in this regard on November 6 and 12. During a video conference, the DCs informed Verma about the progress made in the process of cancellation of mutations and assured early completion and furnishing of the details of the same. The divisional commissioner also asked the DCs to share details of other state land encroached in their respective districts, the spokesman said.

He also reviewed the progress on finalisation of stamp duty rates of immovable property in the districts. In some districts, the stamp duty rates have been finalised, while the process is on to finalise the revised stamp duty rates in other districts, the spokesman said. The scheme initially envisaged conferment of proprietary rights of around 20.55 lakh kanals of land (1,2,50 hectares) to occupants of which 15.85 per cent of land was approved for vesting of ownership rights. But against the expected revenue from such occupants, the revenue actually generated was meagre, thereby failing to realise the objective of the scheme that was finally repealed by Satya Pal Malik, the former governor of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, on November 28, 2018.

On October 9, a division bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Rajesh Bindal ordered the CBI probe into irregularities in the scheme and directed the agency to file a status report every eight weeks.

Nomads Being 'Harassed': Mehbooba

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday said it was disconcerting to see nomads being "harassed and displaced" across Jammu and Kashmir and sought Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's intervention to ensure that this stops. On Monday, Mehbooba visited the upper reaches of Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district and met people whose 'Dhoks' (temporary shelters) were demolished by authorities as part of an anti-encroachment drive. During her visit, she warned the government against evicting the members of Gujjar-Bakerwal community from forest areas in Jammu and Kashmir, saying the consequences will be dangerous if they are harassed. In a tweet on Tuesday, Mehbooba said, "Disconcerting to see nomads across J&K being harassed & displaced. They've been the rightful inhabitants & are now being evicted on discriminatory grounds. Kindly intervene @manojsinha_ & ensure that this stops."

On Monday, Mehbooba had also alleged that the Centre has failed to implement the Forest Act which could have protected the nomad community. (PTI)

Non-Muslim Youth Tops Islamic Studies Entrance List

Says Important To Study Each Other's Religion

Press Trust Of India

JAIPUR: In a break from the past, a non-Muslim candidate from Rajasthan has topped the all-India entrance exam for a master's course in Islamic studies at the Central University of Kashmir. Islam is portrayed as a radical religion and there is lot of misconception about it. The division in the society is growing today and it is really very important to understand each other's religion, said Shubham Yadav, who would join the course in Kashmir for two years. The result of the common entrance test, held on September 20, was declared on October 29. The university, which had set up the religious studies department, which oversees the course, in 2015, confirmed that Yadav is the first non-Muslim candidate to top the exam. "This is the first time a non-Muslim has topped the entrance exam. We've had non-Muslim scholars in the past," Professor Hamid Naseem Rafiabadi told PTI.



Yadav (21) has done BA honours in philosophy from the Delhi University and hails from Alwar where two lynching cases of Pehlul Khan in 2017 and Akbar alias Rakbar Khan in 2018 took place. Such kind of incidents also made me think and gave motivation to read about the religion (Islam). I convinced my parents to pursue Islamic studies by making them understand that it will be about Islamic history and culture and they agreed, he said. Yadav said that he developed an interest in Islamic studies during his college days and has informally studied about the Arab spring, Iran issues, early days of Islam and Prophet Muhammad and is looking forward to learn more about it in the formal course. Some of my friends who are from Muslim community are studying global Islamic politics, said Yadav, who is also preparing for the civil services exam. Yadav has a younger brother studying in class 11 while his father runs a general store in Alwar.

KPDCL Refutes Tariff Revision Reports

Says Electricity Tariff Remains Unchanged From Last 4 Years

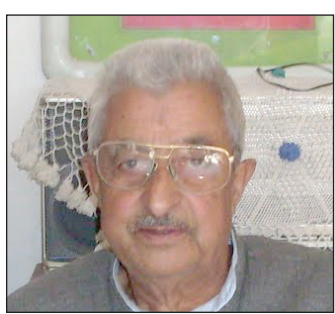
Observer news Service



SRINAGAR: Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL) on Tuesday contested reports appearing in a section of media about revision in the electricity tariff in Jammu and Kashmir saying that no revision of tariff, whatsoever, has been carried out in the Union Territory. In a statement issued to the media here, a KPDCL spokesperson said that no revision in electricity tariff has taken place in Jammu and Kashmir during the last four years. He further clarified that the DISCOM on its own is not authorized to revise the tariff and the only authority vested with the powers to revise consumer tariff is the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) of Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh. "It further clarified that even the JERC has neither revised tariffs nor has it notified any new tariff slabs," the KPDCL spokesperson added.

Sajood Sailani No More, His Plays Will Go On

Counted among the legendary drama writers of Kashmir, like Akhter Mohi Ud Din, Som Nath Sadhu and Pushkar Bhan, Sajood Sailani believed in the silent workmanship and enthralled his captive audience during the golden theatre movement in the valley.



He wrote over 150 radio plays, 27 full length stage dramas and 40 comedies in Urdu and Kashmiri languages.

Sadaf Mushtaq

Before becoming Kashmir's legendary dramatist who used his pen as means of social reform, Sajood Sailani (1936-2020) had worn many caps in his colourful career spanning over decades. His peers in State Garage still recall how the famous play-writer would pen dramas in his 'hideout'. As artist and cartoonist, his famous theatre movement of yore ended the cultural academy's monopoly in the valley. The defiant dramatist had also taken theatre to grassroots in a bid to engage masses. He went on to write more than

150 radio plays, 27 full length stage dramas and 40 comedies in Urdu and Kashmiri languages. But after surviving a stroke and remaining unwell for many years, Sailani finally breathed his last on Tuesday at his ancestral residence, Srinagar. He was 85.

"His style of writing plays for stage gave a new direction to theatre in Kashmir" Back in the day, Sailani as a fresh-faced boy—fond of famed Hawa Mahal programme **More On P2**

Rs 223 Crore Bank Fraud

ACB Charges Ex-Registrar Cooperatives, Deputy

Observer news Service

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday filed a supplementary charge sheet against two people, including former Registrar of Cooperative Societies in a whopping Rs 223 Crore loan fraud unearthed in J&K State Cooperative Bank Srinagar in March this year. The ACB filed a supplementary charge sheet against the then Registrar of Cooperative Societies J&K Mohd Mujib-Ur-Rehman and his deputy Aशीq Hussain in the Rs 223 Crore J&K State Cooperative Bank loan scam, an ACB spokesperson said

Tuesday. He said both the accused were produced in the court when the charge sheet was filed. "Both accused were remanded to judicial custody by the Court," he said. According to the Bureau spokesperson, the 223 crore scam was unearthed by the Bureau in March this year, involving many bank officials, including the ex-chairman Mohammad Shafi Dar and Hial Ahmad Mir, the chairman of non-existent Cooperative Society named River Jhelum Cooperative house Colony at Shivpora Srinagar, who was arrested on May 18. The ACB has already filed a charge **More On P2**