



Maximum : 11°
Minimum : -1°
Humidity : 36%

SUNSET
Today 05:23 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 07:10 AM



NEWS DIGEST

2 OGWs Held In South Kashmir: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested two Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militant associates in Tral and Pampore areas of South Kashmir's Pulwama district.

In a statement issued on Saturday, a police spokesperson said that two militant associates of Jaish-e-Mohammad were arrested from Tral and Pampore areas, who were involved in providing shelter, support, and logistics as well as in transporting of arms and ammunition of the militants in the twin towns besides passing sensitive information to the militants.

The police spokesperson identified the alleged militant associates as Bilal Ahmad Chopan of Wagad Tral and Mursaleen Bashir Sheikh of Chutlam Pampore.

"Incriminating material has been recovered from both the arrested persons," he said, adding "Case F.I.R number 96/2020 and 90/2020 stands registered against the said arrested persons in Police Station Tral and Police Station Pampore respectively under relevant sections of the law."

Police Officer Suspended For Taking 'Bribe'

SRINAGAR: Police have ordered a departmental enquiry and suspended an officer accused of taking bribe in Palhalan area of Baramulla district, reports said Saturday.

According to news agency KNO, police filed a case against an IO and ordered his suspension over the allegations that he had allegedly taken bribe at the Police Post Palhalan in north Kashmir district.

Quoting an unnamed police officer, the report said that a case has been registered against the officer and an investigation is underway.

"He has been placed under suspension and a departmental enquiry has also been initiated against him," the officer added.

Teacher Suspended For MCC Violation

DDDA: The district administration on Saturday placed a government teacher under suspension for violating the model code of conduct (MCC) in wake of the forthcoming District Development Council (DDC) elections and bye-polls.

According to an official spokesperson, Nodal officer for MCC, Surat Singh (ADDC) has placed a government teacher under suspension for the violation of election model code of conduct (MCC).

The RET teacher posted at High School Breswana, he said has been placed under suspension and the Tehsilidar Gundana has been directed to conduct inquiry into the matter and report within a week.

"Further, the order directs Chief Education officer to warn the employees and teachers not to violate the in place MCC to avoid any disciplinary action against them and to ensure smooth conduct of DDC Elections in the district," the official spokesperson added.

Biker Crushes Pedestrian In Budgam

SRINAGAR: A middle-aged pedestrian was killed on Saturday in a road accident in Sholipora area of central Kashmir's Budgam district.

55-year-old Ghulam Mohammad Lone of Haknipora village was hit by a speedy motorcycle (JK04C-2902) near Sholipora area of the district on Saturday, leaving him critically injured, news agency KDC reported.

The injured man, the report said was immediately rushed to nearby hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there referred him to SMHS Hospital Srinagar where he succumbed to his injuries.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident and started investigations.

Snow Spell From Tomorrow May Block Highways, Dip Mercury

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR, NOV 21: The weather department on Saturday predicted a fresh spell of snowfall and rain across the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir from Monday leading to the closure of Mughal Road and Srinagar-Leh Highway.

According to a MeT department official, the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir are likely to receive another spell of light to moderate rain /snow from November 23-25. As of now, he said it looks like snowfall over higher reaches of north west J&K and Sonmarg -Zojila

areas is likely to commence from the morning of November 23 and is likely to affect both UTs of J&K and Ladakh till 25th.

"The strength of this weather system is lesser than the previous spell. So there's no forecast of any widespread heavy snowfall or rain but due to low temp, slippery and treacherous road condition, the snow may lead to temporary closure of Passes like Zojila, Mugal road, LEH-Manali Road, etc. during above period," the official said.

Meanwhile, the minimum temperature according to official in Kashmir capital Srinagar was 2.1°C, while Qazigund recorded a low of

2.6°C. Gulmarg shivered at minus 7.5°C, while Pahalgam and Kokarnag recorded lows of -3.2°C and 1.2°C, respectively.

The minimum temperature in Kupwara was 1.7°C, Jammu 6.8°C, Banihal 0.4°C, Batote 2.1°C and Katra 7.6°C.

Drass was freezing with cold at minus 14°C, Leh minus 11.7°C, Kargil minus 9.2°C, Badharwah 0.8°C and Kathua recorded a minimum temperature of 7.6°C.

The maximum day temperature 23.5°C was recorded in Jammu while Kashmir capital Srinagar recorded a temperature of 10.2°C (With KNT inputs)



A VILLAGER ties a bundle of polished withies in an open field in Srinagar outskirts on Saturday. —KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Another Soldier Killed, 3 Injured In Cross-LoC Firing

JAMMU, NOV 21: A havaldar in the Indian Army was killed and three others, including two women, were injured on Saturday as India and Pakistan troops traded heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The casualties came barely a week after multiple ceasefire violations by Pakistani troops along the LoC in north Kashmir left 11 people, including five soldiers and a border guard, dead on November 13.

Havaldar Patil Sangram Shivaji, who was manning a forward post, was critically injured in the Pakistani firing in the Lam area of Rajouri district's Nowshera sector around 1 am, the officials said, adding he later

Pak Diplomat Summoned Over Jammu Encounter

New Delhi: India on Saturday summoned the Charge d'Affaires of the Pakistan High Commission and lodged a strong protest with him over attempts by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed to carry out attacks in Jammu and Kashmir ahead of local elections there.

Referring to the Nagrota incident, the ministry said the huge cache of arms, ammunition and explosive material indicate detailed planning

succumbed to injuries.

Another soldier also sustained injuries and is currently undergoing treatment at a military hospital, they said.

The officials said the Indian Army retaliated effectively to silence the Pakistani guns, and the cross-border firing between the two sides continued for quite some time.

In a statement, a defence spokesperson said Havaldar Shivaji, a resident of Nigave village of Kolhapur in Maharashtra, was a brave, highly motivated and sincere soldier.

"The nation will always remain indebted to him for his supreme sacrifice and devotion to duty," he said.

J&K Bank Money Laundering Case

ED Raids Multiple Locations In Kashmir

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday conducted multiple raids in Kashmir in connection with a money laundering probe linked to alleged suspicious transactions in the J&K Bank.

The central probe agency covered a total of seven locations-- six in Srinagar and one in Anantnag district-- as part of the searches conducted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The ED said it raided Mohammad Ibrahim Dar, Murtaza Enterprises,

Azad Agro Traders, M & M Cottage Industries and Mohammad Sultan Teli who are "involved" in the hospitality and agro-based industries, civil construction and real estate businesses.

"The searches resulted in the recovery of evidence of money laundering as the bank accounts have been found to be used for routing suspicious transactions," it said.

The ED is probing the case after studying an earlier FIR filed by the CID of the UT Police in Srinagar

against officials of J&K Bank, unidentified public servants, private persons and others for suspicious transactions in various bank accounts.

The CID FIR, the ED said, alleges that bank accounts were used for routing money of public servants as well as some private parties.

Certain bank officials, in connivance with these public servants, deliberately omitted to raise the alerts as required under anti-money laundering norms, the ED said quoting the CID FIR.

J&K Reports 2 Corona Deaths, 608 New Cases

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR, NOV 21: At least two people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, even as 608 fresh cases of Covid-19 were detected in the Union Territory, taking the total number of people infected by the virus to 105984

Among the two victims, officials said one was a 75-year-old woman from Bandipora in Valley and another a 58-year-old man from Shiv Nagar Udhampur.

With these deaths, the total fatality count in the Valley has reached 1073 and 551 in the Jammu region.

Srinagar district with 402 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (287), Baramulla (159), Budgam (98), Pulwama (86), Kupwara (80), Anantnag (77), Doda (52), Bandipora (50), Rajouri (49), Kulgam (48), Ganderbal (37), Shopian (36), Udhampur (37), Kathua (35), Samba (26), Poonch (22), Ramban (18), Kishtwar (16), and Reasi (9).

Meanwhile, the reports of 608 more people, including seven minors, a doctor and 26 travelers, came out to be Covid-19 positive in the Union Territory today.

Kulgam Siblings Go Missing In U.P

SRINAGAR, NOV 21: A trucker and his brother hailing from Mohammad Pora of south-Kashmir's Kulgam district, on way from Kanpur to Jalandhar with a truckload of animal hides have gone missing on November 18, family of the duo has said.

26-year-old Younis Ahmad Dar and his younger brother 18-year-old Faisal Hassan left for Kanpur on November 14 at around 10:30 pm with a truckload of animal hides, wherefrom they were supposed to reach Jalandhar, a close relative told local news agency GNS. On the following day, he said the duo reached Jalandhar at 10:30 am, and after snacks they took their way, however were e-challenged of Rupees two-thousand near Etah adjacent Secundra Rao.

"Upto that spot, we were in touch, however soon after, their phones reflected false bells and came switch off. Once we approached the local police station, they cited the eyewitness and said that the duo may have been most probably intercepted by a group of dacoits near

VDC Members Up In Arms, Demand Salary

JAMMU, NOV 21: Members of Village Defence Committees (VDCs), which serve as security arch to defend remote and hilly villages in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday staged a protest demonstration outside the BJP headquarters here demanding the release of their pending salaries.

The VDC members claimed that they were not given salaries for the last three years.

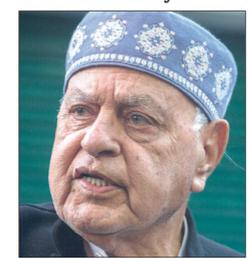
The protesters, who have come from different districts, threatened to boycott the District Development Council (DDC) elections, scheduled to be held in eight phases beginning November 28, if their pending salaries were not released by then.

As many as 4,125 VDCs exist in J-K and their work is to ensure the safety and security of the identified villages along the borders as well as in interior areas besides guarding the infrastructural installations in and around the villages.

Dr Farooq Shoots Letter To SEC

Says, 'PAGD Candidates Whisked Away, Barred From Canvassing'

SRINAGAR, NOV 21: Former chief minister and president of newly cobbled up People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) Dr Farooq Abdullah on Saturday objected to the treatment meted out to the amalgam candidates, saying security is being used as a pretext to impede and customize democracy in the Union territory.



In a two-page letter to J&K Election Commissioner K K Sharma, Abdullah, who is at present a Lok Sabha member from Srinagar, said providing security to a select few and literally interning the rest is a gross interference in democracy.

"I am taking the liberty of writing to you about the upcoming DDC elections. A strange and a unique feature has come to the fore. Candidates put up by the PAGD are immediately whisked away to 'secure locations' in the name of security and confined to those 'secure locations'. They are not allowed to canvass, they are completely out of touch with those from whom they are supposed to seek votes," Abdullah said in the letter.

He said the parties part of the PAGD have been in power in the past and have had the opportunity to head and run the government and are aware of the challenges posed in the realm of security in a place beset by violence.

"These challenges are not new, but have been painfully persisting for the last three decades. But, the government had structures in place which ensured security for all contestants

Mehbooba: BJP Doesn't Want Others To Contest

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday accused the Centre of "sabotaging" the participation of political parties other than the BJP in the District Development Council (DDC) polls in Jammu and Kashmir by not allowing them to campaign freely.

Mehbooba's allegations came as major political parties in the Valley, including the

SEC To Visit Kashmir Today

JAMMU: The State Election Commissioner (SEC) Jammu and Kashmir, K.K.Sharma will be arrive in Kashmir on Saturday. The SEC will be reviewing the election related arrangements with Divisional Administration, an official spokesperson said. "Briefings by Divisional Commissioner, IGP, DCs who function as District Panchayat Election Officers (DPEOs) are part of agenda of State Election Commissioner," he added.

Congressman Taj Mohi-Ud-Din To Contest DDC Polls

SRINAGAR: Senior Congress leader and former minister Taj Mohi-ud-Din on Saturday announced to contest upcoming District Development Council (DDC) polls, scheduled to be held in Jammu and Kashmir from November 28.

The powerful Congressman said that after deliberating upon the ongoing political situation in J&K in wake of an "offensive assault of communal and divisive forces", he has decided to contest the DDC elections.

"I have decided to give tough fight to those dividing people on communal lines,"

Retirement Age Of Hr Edu. Teaching Faculty Panel To Decide, No Time Line Fixed

SRINAGAR, NOV 21: Government has accorded sanction to the constitution of a Committee to examine the issue of enhancement of retirement age of Teaching Faculty working in the Government Colleges of Higher Education Department.

The committee as per an order issued by the government on November 21 is headed by Advisor to lieutenant governor, in-charge Higher Education Department. The seven-member panel also includes Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department, Commissioner Secretary to the Government, Higher Education Department, Secretary Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Director General (Codes) Finance Department, Director Colleges J&K (member secretary) besides representative of University Grants Commission, New Delhi.

Two Heart Attacks Lay Bare Stressful Lives Of Journalists In Kashmir

Hours after senior journalist Muddasir Ali passed away due to a massive heart attack on Friday night at his residence in Char-i-Sharief, the debate on the distressed lives of Kashmiri journalists started on social media circles.



Auqib Javeed
Ali was the second journalist who died due to cardiac arrest in the Covid-plagued, and in yet another lockdown-ridden, year in Kashmir. Earlier, on October 1, Javed Ahmad working with the daily Rising Kashmir, died after suffering a cardiac arrest while he was on way to office from his home in north Kashmir's Baramulla. "The hearts of our youthful friends and colleagues are stopping suddenly," renowned journalist Muzamil Jaleel wrote in his tribute to Ali. "There is so much grief in our lives.

There is so much unbearable pain that we see and feel every day. Living, working, existing is a never ending struggle. And the good among us, those who aren't numb already, can't take it anymore. When will we start living again, when will our land stop seeing the frail shoulders of parents carrying the coffins of their young children... when will we resume dying of old age... when will we start telling the happy stories..."

"It is to do with a changed work environment post August 5 or Covid related financial stress or silent Covid itself?" he said. None of the two deceased journalists—who covered stories related to politics, defence and human rights besides raising the issues of daily public interest—had an underlying medical problem that could be linked to their heart attacks. "Then why did they suffer cardiac arrest?" many media-men wondered after condoling the death of their "hale and happy" colleague, Muddasir Ali, on Friday.