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## **NEWS DIGEST**

## **Car Plunges Into Chenab River,** 2 Killed

JAMMU: A day after a vehicle rolled down into river Chenab in Ramban district, the police on Tuesday said that two persons onboard it have been killed and efforts are ongoing to retrieve their bodies from the vehicle (Mahindra Bolero).

The vehicle plunged into the fast-flowing water body last night near Mehar area along the Jammu-Srinagar highway and only one of its wheels was visible. Soon a rescue operation was launched, reported news agency GNS.

SSP Ramban Haseeb-Ul-Rahman, who is overseeing the rescue operation, said that efforts are underway to pull out the vehicle and retrieve the bodies. Both of them are said to be locals from the Ramban district.

#### **Army Commanders** Call On LG

**JAMMU:** Two senior army commanders on Tuesday discussed the security situation in the Union Territory with Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha.

Lieutenant General, Upendra Dwivedi, Corps Commander, 9 Corps, and Major General, Vijay B Nair, GoC 26 Infantry Division on Tuesday called on the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha here at Raj Bhavan, an official spokesperson said.

The two army commanders, he said briefed the LG about the security situation in the area of their responsibility and further discussed various important issues relating to the overall security environment in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The LG emphasized the need for constant alertness and synergy among various security agencies to effectively deal with any emergent situation in a coordinated manner," the official spokesperson said.

The LG, he said lauded the role being played by the state forces for ensuring a safe and secure environment for the

#### **Dr Kalbe Sadiq** No More

**LUCKNOW:** Vice-president of All India Muslim Personal Law Board and prominent Muslim cleric Maulana Dr Kalbe Sadig passed away here on Tuesday night after a long spell of

The 83-year-old was admitted to the ICU of a private hospital here last week after suffering from pneumonia.

Dr Sadiq was an Islamic scholar, reformer, educationist and preacher.

## ROSHNI SCAM RETURNS TO HAUNT J&K MANTRIS, BABUS

# **Govt Names Farooq, Omar, Drabu As Beneficiaries**

JAMMU: Former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah have been named by the Jammu and Kashmir administration in a list which alleges that their residential house in Jammu is built over illegally-possessed land, a charge denied by the father-son duo.

The administration of the union territory as directed by the Jammu and Kashmir High Court to make public land given under the controversial Roshni land scheme, since scrapped by a court, came out with the list of beneficiaries. On Tuesday, it came out with a list of those who had allegedly encroached land other than those given under the scheme.

The list also highlighted the headquarters of their National Conference in both Srinagar and Jammu were legalised under the controversial Roshni Act.

Displaying the lists on its website - one showing encroached land outside Roshni Act, the divisional administration Jammu revealed that the residential house of the Abdullahs, build over an area of nearly an acre at Sunjwan, is

## **Dr Farooq Not A Beneficiary: NC**

**SRINAGAR:** National Conference on Tuesday said that party's president and former three-time chief minister of the erstwhile state of J&K was not a beneficiary of Roshni Scheme. More On P2

### **'Conscious Loot'** By Powerful **People: BJP**

**NEW DELHI:** Accusing **Congress and National** Conference leaders of encroaching large tracts of government and forest land in Jammu and Kashmir, senior BJP leader and Union

encroached state land (physically encroached but not shown in revenue record) other than Roshi Act.

Reacting to the fresh list, party vice president Omar Abdullah said, "The news attributing to sources that Dr Farooq Abdullah is a beneficiary of the Roshni Act is completely false and is being spread with a malicious intent. Both his houses at Jammu and Srinagar have nothing to do with the said Act.

"Dr Farooq Abdullah has NOT availed of the Roshni Scheme for either his residence in Srinagar or in Jammu and any one who says otherwise is lying. The fact that they are using sources to plant this story shows that it has no legs to stand on," Omar said.

The house of senior Abdullah was built in late 1990s for which timber was allocated from the government depots, which is issued only after furnishing all revenue records. officials in the know said.

Earlier, three former ministers, several politicians and a former bureaucrat figured in the list of beneficiaries who have availed land under now scrapped Roshni >> More On P2

## Maulana **Abbas Ansari** Bereaved

SRINAGAR: Wife of veteran political and religious leader Maulana Muhammad Abbas Ansari passed away here on Tuesday. She was unwell for some time and breathed her last at SKIM's Soura at 8 A.M on Tuesday.

A large number of people joined the funeral prayers of the well known pious lady who had resolutely stood behind her husband during his struggles. She was laid to rest at Gulistane-Baba Mazar, Srinagar at noon time. Besides her husband the deceased has left behind three daughters and two sons Nasir Ansari and Maulana Masroor Ansari. She was mother in law of Syed Gazanfar Ali, Abrar Hussain and senior journalist Sajjad Haider.

Family sources said the condolence will be received at their residence Khanqahe-Sokhta, Nawa Kadal for next three days and 4th day Fateha shall be offered at her resting place at 7.30 AM on Friday. No congregational Fateha is slated because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

## **Weather To Improve** From Tomorrow: MeT

SRINAGAR: The Meteorological department predicted dry weather conditions in Jammu and Kashmir from Thursday, even as many places in the Union Territory received intermittent snowfall and rains for the second day on Tuesday.

Most of the higher reaches of the valley received moderate to heavy snowfall over the past 36 hours, while many areas in the plains experienced light snowfall and rains, a MET official said.

He said intermittent snowfall and rains continued at many places on Tuesday. The famous ski-resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir recorded seven inches of fresh snowfall during the night, while Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir recorded six inches of snow, the official said.

There are reports of snowfall in other areas in the higher reaches, including the Sonamarg-Zojila axis on the Srinagar-Leh road which connects the valley with Ladakh, he said. The road was closed for traffic on Monday.

The MET Office has said intermittent light to moderate rain/ snow, with isolated heavy falls in the higher reaches, will continue till Wednesday afternoon. The weather is likely to improve afterwards and stay dry for a few days from Thursday

## **Banihal Highway Reopens For Traffic**

**SRINAGAR:** The traffic was on Tuesday restored on 270-kmlong Srinagar-Jammu highway, which connects Kashmir valley with rest of the country, after remaining suspended on Monday due to landslides. shooting stones and slippery road conditions following fresh snowfall and rain.

Meanwhile, historic 86-kmlong Mughal road, connecting Shopian in south Kashmir with Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu region, remained closed since Monday morning following slippery road conditions due to fresh snowfall.

"Kashmir highway was reopened for one-way traffic on Tuesday after remaining closed on Monday," said a traffic police official.

He said traffic will ply from Jammu to Srinagar. "About 250 to 300 Kashmir-bound vehicles, which were stranded at various places on the highway on Monday, were also on the way to the valley," he added. Traffic was suspended >> More On P2

## **Vote Us For The Sake Of Special Status: Dr Farooq**

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) president Faroog Abdullah on Tuesday appealed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to vote for the candidates of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) in the District Development Council (DDC) nolls beginning on Saturday

In a video released by the PAGD, Abdullah, who is under self-isolation after a member of his household staff tested positive for COVID-19, urged the people to ensure the victory of the alliance candidates by huge margins so that it succeeds in its aim of restoration of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir which was revoked by the Centre in August

My countrymen, the election bugle has been sounded. I appeal to you to vote only for the alliance candidates. The others, who are

saying they are also alliance canthe president of the PAGD, said.

you should vote only for the alliance. This alliance was formed to restore our identity, restore statehood and that which was taken away from us the Articles 370 and 35-A. We have come

arrangement between the constituent parties which are contesting the polls on their

So, I appeal to you not to vote for anyone

didates, are not of the alliance, but its enemies, Abdullah, who is also If we have to succeed, then

together to keep this state united," he said. The PAGD has announced a seat-sharing respective symbols.

else and come out in large numbers to vote for the alliance candidates. I appeal to you to ensure the victory of the alliance candidates by huge margins. I hope you will pay heed to our appeal, Abdullah said. —PTI

# **POLLS**



## Corona Claims 10 **More Lives In J&K**

**OBSERVER MONITORING DESK** 

**SRINAGAR:** At least ten more people succumbed to coronavirus infection in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, taking the number of virus related fatalities across the Union Territory to 1651.

In Kashmir Valley, six more people lost their lives to Covid-19, while in Jammu division four more people succumbed to the deadly infection, officials said Monday. More On P2

#### **8 Security Men Among 431 New Cases**

Union Territory to 107330. → More On P2

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir

reported on Tuesday 431 fresh cases of novel coronavirus, including eight security men, two minors and sixteen travelers, taking the total number of people infected by the virus in the

# **High Court Dismisses Plea Challenging SMC Mayor's Poll**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Tuesday dismissed an application, seeking a stay on the notification for election of Mayor Srinagar **Municipal Corporation.** 

Two persons from National Conference-Nuzrat Ara and Ali Mohammad Tantray, claiming to be contesting for Councilor in the by-elections of the Municipal Corporation, had filed the petition to challenge notification issued by the Secretary Srinagar Municipal Corporation Srinagar for the Mayor's election scheduled on Wednesday (August 25).

"Looked from any angle, the

## **Election Today**

**SRINAGAR:** After remaining vacant for more than five months, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) is holding election for the post of Mayor on Wednesday. The voting will take place on Wednesday at 11:00 AM onwards. Pertinently, the seat fell vacant after former Mayor More On P2

contentions raised on behalf of the petitioners to stay the operation of the impugned Notification and consequently the process for holding the election of Mayor cannot prima facie sustain in the eyes of law," a bench of Justice Puneet Gupta said and dismissed the plea being without merit, as per an order.

Among others, the petitioners had contended that the notification was in violation of the Municipal Corporation Act and the Rules as well as in violation of the Model Code of Conduct as the elections are being held for Urban Local Bodies including Municipal Corporations. More On P2

