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Humidity : 68%

SUNSET  
Today 05:21 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 07:19 AM

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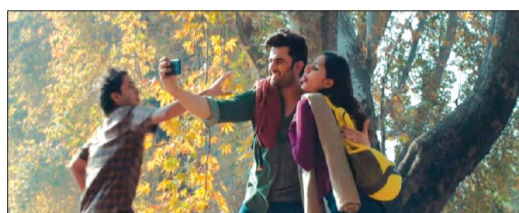


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### 'Unique Astrocytes may enhance chronic pain treatments'

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### China To Build A Major Dam On Brahmaputra River



## NEWS DIGEST

### CRPF Officer Dies In Kulgam

SRINAGAR: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officer on Monday died under mysterious circumstances in Kulgam district of south Kashmir.

Sub Inspector Shabad Kumar of CRPF 93 Battalion, was found unconscious while he was on duty at DK Marg Higher Secondary School in Kulgam at around 12:30 am Monday, official sources said. He was taken by his colleagues to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead.

Official sources said that the exact cause of the death was not immediately known.

Meanwhile, Police have initiated proceedings under section 174 CrPC in this regard.

### OGW Arrested In Kupwara: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Monday claimed to have arrested a militant associate of Jaish-e-Mohammad in Dragmulla area of North Kashmir's Kupwara district.

A senior Police officer said that Sahil Mushtaq of Babgun Handwara was arrested at a Naka along with 01 Chinese grenade and Rs.3.5 lakh.

The police officer further said that he had come from Sopore along with money to purchase weapons.

A case has been lodged under FIR no. 333/2020 US 3/4 Explosive sub act, 13,38, 40 ULAP act in Police Station Kupwara, the officer added. (GNS)

### CASO In Mendhar Enters Day 4

SRINAGAR: The government forces continued search operation for the fourth consecutive day Monday in Mendhar area of Poonch district.

Officials said that special operations group (SOG) of police and army's 37RR, 38RR, 49RR and 156 TA continued searches in Totawali Gali and forest area of Gursai in Mendhar areas after observing some suspicious movement on Friday last week.

"It is a dense forest area and the terrain is very difficult. We are on job and conducting thorough searches and so far no suspicious has been located," they said.

A local news agency KNT quoted Sub Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Mendhar Z A Jaffri as saying that search operation entered fourth day today in Mendhar.

### Two Employees Suspended Over MCC Violation

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Monday ordered the suspension of two government employees in Doda district for allegedly violating the model code of conduct (MCC) in place due to the ongoing district development council polls, officials said.

The additional district development commissioner (ADCC), who is the nodal officer for the implementation of the MMC, suspended two employees of the rural development department, served a show-cause notice to a village head, a block development council chairman and a contesting candidate, besides initiated action against four village defence committee members for violating model code of conduct guidelines, they said.

The second phase of the maiden District Development Council (DDC) elections along with Panchayat bypolls is scheduled for Tuesday, covering 43 constituencies spread over all the 20 districts of the Union Territory. This is the first major democratic exercise in J-K after the nullification of Article 370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile state into union territories.

More On P2

## DDC POLLS

# Second Phase Today, 321 Candidates In Fray

### All Polling Stations In Kashmir Sensitive: SEC



KO File Photo: Abid Bhat

SRINAGAR: As many as 321 candidates are in the fray for the second phase of the District Development Council (DDC) polls in Jammu and Kashmir for which the voting will take place on Tuesday at over 2,100 polling booths, State Election Commissioner (SEC) K K Sharma said here on Monday.

In the second phase of the polls also, 43 constituencies are going to polls in the union territory 25 in Kashmir and 18 in Jammu, the SEC said.

Sharma said 321 candidates are in the fray for the 43 DDC seats. Out of those, 196 are in the Kashmir valley and 125 in the Jammu region, he said.

The SEC said simultaneously with the DDC polls, the sarpanch elections

will be conducted in 83 constituencies and total 223 candidates are contesting in the phase two.

Similarly, he said, panches bypolls going to be held in 331 constituencies and a total of 709 candidates are in the fray.

He also said 58 sarpanchs (29 men and 29 women) and 804 panchs (548 men and 256 women) have been elected unopposed.

There are about 7.90 lakh voters eligible for voting for the second phase at 2,142 polling booths 1,305 in Kashmir and 837 in Jammu, the SEC said.

"Almost all booths in Kashmir are sensitive from the security point of view. Additional security has been provided in the polling stations in the valley," he added. More On P2

### NC Writes To SEC About 'Administrative Interference'

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference General Secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar on Monday wrote a letter to State Election Commissioner KK Sharma and apprised him about the apprehensions surfaced in wake of undue administrative interference in the on-going DDC elections.

More On P2

### 17 Employees Suspended For MCC Violation

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has "temporarily" suspended 17 government employees, including seven teachers and three policemen, in Kishtwar district for allegedly violating the Model Code of Conduct ahead of the second phase of the District Development Council elections, officials said Monday.

District Panchayat Election Officer, Kishtwar, Ashok Kumar Sharma ordered the attachment of the employees of Dachhan block on Sunday following complaints against

## Another Wet Spell In Kashmir From Friday: MeT Dept



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

A boatman warming his hands with a firepot in Dal Lake of Srinagar, as mercury settled at a low of -1.3 degree Celsius on Monday.

SRINAGAR: The Meteorological department on Monday predicted another wet spell in Jammu and Kashmir from Friday during which the higher reaches would receive light to moderate snowfall and plains will receive rain.

Deputy Director MeT department, Mukhtar Ahmad said Monday that there was possibility of snowfall and rainfall from December 04 in the Union Territory. He said snowfall would occur at most of the places for two days from December 4-5. However, from December 6, he said there is a possibility of improvement in the weather conditions but the sky would remain cloudy.

"From December 7-8, there is again possibility of light to

moderate snowfall and rains in the Valley," Ahmad said.

Director MeT, Sonum Lotus said that his department has predicted colder winter this year in Jammu and Kashmir, saying that there is possibility that the temperature would settle below normal this season.

He added that the temperature as compared to previous years would go down by two-three notches.

Pertinently, the Valley witnessed three-day wet spell last week leading to the closure of vital roads including Srinagar-Jammu highway, Srinagar-Leh highway and Mughal road.

Meanwhile, Kashmir experienced sub-zero night temperature on Monday as the mercury fell below the

## Guns Roar Along LoC Pak Jet Spotted

JAMMU: A Pakistani fighter jet flew very close to the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district on Monday, hours before the troops of the two neighbouring countries traded heavy gunfire and mortar shells, officials said.

"The jet flew close to the LoC in Poonch sector in violation of international conventions which does not allow fighter jets to fly within a 10km radius of the border," a defence spokesperson said.

The spokesperson said that a jet stream was clearly visible in the sky close to the LoC in Poonch. Recently, a few drones had been spotted near the Line of Control. More On P2

## LG Admin Approves 'Panchayat Awards'

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday approved institution of 'Panchayat Awards' at the Union Territory level to recognize the ability, struggle, and excellence of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), besides encouraging competitiveness among them.

The decision about the creation of 'Panchayat Awards' was taken during the Administrative Council (AC), which met here under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, an official spokesperson said Monday. He said the awards will be conferred on Gram Panchayats, Block Panchayats, and District Panchayats under 4 categories.

"As a part of the annual celebrations of the National Panchayati Raj Day on 24th April, the winning PRIs will be presented. More On P2

## People Should Get Rid Of Abdullah-Mufti Gang: BJP



But no leader from these parties ever went to jail because there has been an understanding between the two to take turns for fillings their coffers"

JAMMU: Hitting campaign trail in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, BJP general secretary Tarun Chugh on Monday urged the people to get rid of Abdullah-Mufti duo' who have been looting J&K for the last 70 years and deprived the region of development and progress.

Addressing a meeting in Bhalla village ahead of the second phase of District Development Council (DDC) polls, he alleged that former CMS Farooq Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti have been aware of the corruption of each other.

"But no leader from these parties ever went to jail because there has been an understanding between the two to take turns for

fillings their coffers, Chugh said.

He said these leaders deliberately brought laws to favour some people, while other sections of the society like women and Gujjars were deprived of any benefits.

Calling the people to vote for the BJP in the coming elections, he said it is time power should be taken away from the Abdullah-Mufti gang and given to the common man.

"The people should get rid of Abdullah-Mufti duo who have been looting Jammu and Kashmir for the last 70 years and deprived the people of development and progress, Chugh asserted.

The second phase of the DDC polls will be held on Tuesday.

## BJP Campaigners 'Fabricating Facts': NC

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference on Monday said that despite running a high-pitch electoral battle in Kashmir, BJP campaigners have failed to impress the electorate in the ongoing DDC elections.

In a statement issued here, a party spokesperson said that the "internally displaced" leaders of BJP are resorting to "mistruth mongering and fabrication of facts" in order to get coveted positions in the central cabinet.

"The self anointed strategists of BJP who have landed in Kashmir are the last persons to comment on the political aspirations and aspiration of the people of Kashmir as they themselves failed to pick up the mood of people in their respective constituencies in Bihar and elsewhere in the country, where their political careers have

## Shehla's Father Levels Allegations Against Her

Shehla Terms Allegations 'Absolutely Disgusting And Baseless'



Many of you must have come across a video of my biological father making wild allegations against me and my mum and sis. To keep it short and straight, he's a wife-beater and an abusive, depraved man. We finally decided to act against him, and this stunt is a reaction to that."

JAMMU: Abdul Rashid Shora, the estranged father of student activist Shehla Rashid, on Monday levelled serious allegations against her, demanding that a probe be initiated into her NGOs and also accused her of having taken a huge amount of money for joining politics in Kashmir valley, a charge denied by her.

Shehla termed her father's statement "absolutely disgusting and baseless" and said this was his reaction after a court

barred him entry into their Srinagar house on November 17 in response to a complaint filed by the family against him under domestic violence.

Releasing a three-page letter addressed to the Director General of Police at a press conference here, Shora claimed that he is facing a threat to his life from Shehla, her security guard, sister and her mother.

"She had taken Rs three crore to join politics in Kashmir from (former MLA) More On P2

## 9 More Corona Deaths In J&K

SRINAGAR: At least nine more people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday, taking the number of Covid-19 related fatalities across the Union Territory to 1694.

In Jammu division, six more people lost their battle with the deadly infection while in Kashmir Valley, three others died of Covid-19, officials said. Two among the deaths from Jammu region were reported from the winter capital of J&K, taking its count to 300 while Kishtwar reported two fatalities besides one each from Kathua and Samba.

## 19 Soldiers Among 370 New Cases

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Monday 370 new cases of coronavirus, including 19 soldiers, two minors and twenty-five travellers, taking the total number of people infected by the virus in the Union Territory to 110224.

While Kashmir Valley reported 189 fresh cases of Covid-19 on Monday, the remaining 181 were detected from Jammu division, officials said. More On P2

# 'Mea Kath Chu Doad': Is Trauma Fading Memory In Kashmir?

ZEENISH IMROZ

In one frozen November day in Kashmir, a classic consultation scene—where doctor usually tries to break the sullen silence of patients—unfolded inside Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (IMHANS).

On the doctor's chair sat Kashmir's prominent psychiatrist, Dr Arshid Hussain. And on the patient's side, an unsound policeman flanked by an attendant wore a dead-panned face.

"What's your name?" Dr Hussain

Much of this has to do with our mindset which considers forgetfulness as a part of normal aging. Mostly patients from the affluent class of the society come forward for the treatment."

asked. The patient merely responded with blank eyes.

"WHAT'S THE TIME?"

Only silence came as a resounding reply from Wali Ahmad, a cop from Mattan in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

The doctor handed over prescription to Imtiyaz, Wali's brother-in-law, and soon the dazed cop followed his attendant's directions like a robot.



Once an active lady who used to keep everyone in the family on toes now needs support for movement"

"Janaab, where were you?" Imtiyaz asked Wali, in order to demonstrate his mental state. The cop repeated his attendant's words: "Janaab, where were you?"

Wali has been suffering from dementia for last three years now. Medics define dementia as a neurocognitive disorder leading to progressive memory impairment, difficulty in recognition, way finding difficulties and eventually to complete dependence on caregivers.

Symptoms like forgetting were first noticed after the 50-year-old cop was traumatized by the death of his colleague. More On P2