



Maximum : 16°
Minnum : -1°
Humidity : 68%

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



P6 LIFE & TIMES

Plastic pollution threatening Ganges wildlife, study finds

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Indian Madrassas – A Need for Reorientation



P7 NEWS

Pandemic to fan surge in humanitarian needs in 2021: UN



NEWS DIGEST

Mughal Road Reopens After 9 Days

POONCH: The Mughal road, connecting Shopian and Poonch districts, reopened after 9 days closure due to snowfall along the thoroughfare, officials said on Tuesday.

“Subject to fair weather and good road condition (only downward traffic) load carriers carrying fresh fruits/vegetables shall be allowed from Herpora (Shopian) from 1100 hrs to 1500 hours towards Poonch,” a police officer told news agency GNS.

“No vehicle shall be allowed after cut off timing. Moreover, no passenger vehicle or pedestrian shall be allowed on Mughal Road,” he added.

CASO Launched In Sopore

SRINAGAR: Government forces on Tuesday launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Sopore town of north Kashmir's Baramulla district.

According to reports, special operations group (SOG) of police, army's 22 RR and 179 CRPF on Tuesday evening cordoned off Model Town -B locality of Sopore and conducted house to house searches following inputs about the presence of militants in the area. Searches were going on in the area when last reports came in.

7 Officials Suspended In Budgam

BUDGAM: District Panchayat Election Officer (DPEO) Budgam, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza on Tuesday placed seven officials under suspension for dereliction of Election duties till further orders.

The officials in question had failed to report on poll duties scheduled for Phase 2nd at Beerwah, Budgam.

Meanwhile, the said officials have been directed to remain attached in the office of Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam till further orders.

Man Ends Life In Srinagar

SRINAGAR: A man on Tuesday allegedly ended his life by hanging himself to death in Shalimar area of this capital city.

The 50-year-old man identified as Bashir Ahmad son of Ghulam Mohammed of Banigam Shalimar, allegedly hanged himself to death at his home on Tuesday morning, news agency KDC reported. Meanwhile, Police have taken cognizance of the incident and have set investigations into motion.

House, Shops Gutted In Bandipora Blaze

BANDIPORA: A residential house besides at least two shops were completely gutted even as considerable damage dealt to two other shops in a blaze incident in Hajin area of Bandipora district on Tuesday.

According to eyewitnesses, the fire which broke out from a provision store and spread in no time resulting in damage to at least three other shops besides a residential house at Rekhi Hajin area in the district.

The raging fire was brought under control after hectic efforts made by Fire and Emergency department, however by then the fire had already razed a residential house and two shops belonging to Ghulam Mohiuddin Ganaie to ashes, they said.

Two other shops belonging to Bashir Ahmad Ganaie also suffered considerable damage in the incident, they added. When contacted a police official told GNS that the cause of the fire could not be immediately ascertained.

“A case in this regard has been taken up and further investigations are underway to enquire into the cause of mishap”, the official said.

DDC POLLS

49.5 % Voter Turnout In Second Phase

KO Photo: Abid Bhat

SRINAGAR: A 49.5 percent turnout was recorded in the second phase of polling in District Development Council (DDC) elections in Jammu and Kashmir which passed off peacefully on Tuesday.

Jammu region witnessed 65.54 percent voting, while Kashmir valley recorded an average of 33.34 percent turnout, state election commissioner K K Sharma told reporters here.

Bandipora district recorded the highest turnout in Kashmir at 69.66 percent which was the third-highest in the union territory.

A turnout of 51.76 was recorded in the first phase on November 28--64.2 percent in the Jammu division and 40.65 percent in the Kashmir division.

Tral Boycotts Ballot Box

TRAL: Residents of Tral in south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Tuesday stayed away from ballot box owing to the lack of development in the area from the last seven decades. [More On P2](#)



‘Voting To Keep BJP Away’

Unlike the voters at other places, the electors at one of the polling booths in Amira Kadal constituency here had turned up at the booth to “ensure that their votes will keep the BJP candidate away.” [More On P2](#)

PDP Leader ‘Detained’ Briefly By Police

A People's Democratic Party (PDP) leader on Tuesday was allegedly detained by police when the municipal elections were in progress in this capital city. [More On P2](#)

ECI Will Take Final Call On Assembly Polls: Sharma

SRINAGAR: The Election Commission of India will take a final call on holding the first assembly polls after the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir as a union territory, state election commissioner K K Sharma said on Tuesday.

“It will not be appropriate for me to comment on it. The Election Commission (of India) will take a final decision on assembly elections,” Sharma told reporters here.

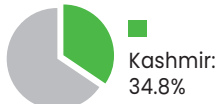
He was replying to a question whether the situation was conducive in Jammu and Kashmir for holding the elections to the legislative assembly of the union territory

Sharma said as state election commissioner, his mandate was

limited to holding polls to urban local bodies and panchayati Raj institutions.

“We held deliberations with the law and order machinery and other agencies involved in holding the elections for District Development Councils before deciding on it.

“I am sure a similar process will be followed for holding assembly elections but the Election Commission will decide on it,” he said. The last assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir were held in November-December, 2014, which led to the formation of the PDP-BJP government in the erstwhile state for the first and the last time. [More On P2](#)



Srinagar	33.8 %
Budgam	43.9 %
Kupwara	58.6 %
Baramulla	30.2 %
Bandipora	70.8 %
Ganderbal	49.1 %
Anantnag	30.9 %
Shopian	17.2 %
Pulwama	8.6 %



Kishtwar	61.6 %
Rajouri	60.2 %
Poonch	75.1 %
Udhampur	62.5 %
Doda	64.8 %
Kathua	60.1 %
Ramban	66.2 %
Reasi	69.2 %
Samba	66.4 %

Youth Shot At By Gunmen In Srinagar

SRINAGAR:A 24-year-old youth on Tuesday was critically injured after unknown gunmen fired upon him in Soura area of this capital city.

Unidentified militants fired upon a man identified as Nadif Khan son of Muhammad Hanief Khan of Bilal colony Soura, leaving him critically injured, a senior police officer told news agency GNS. The injured youth, he said was immediately rushed to SKIMS for treatment.

Medical Superintendent SKIMS Dr. Farooq Jan said that the youth has firearm injury and his condition was serious.

Meanwhile, the area has been cordoned off to nab the attackers.

8 More Corona Deaths In J&K, Toll Crosses 1700 Mark

OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

SRINAGAR: At least eight more people succumbed to coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, taking the death toll due to virus in the Union Territory past 1700-mark.

In Jammu division, five more people died of Covid-19 while three others lost their battle with the deadli infection in Kashmir Valley, officials said Tuesday.

Among the victims from Jammu division an 82-year-old man from Udhampur, an 86-year-old from Trikuta Nagar Jammu, a 52-year-old from man from R S Pura and a 44-year-old man and a 35-year-old from Kathua. [More On P2](#)

454 More Test Positive

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Tuesday 454 fresh cases of novel coronavirus, including thirteen travelers, taking the total number of people infected by the virus in Union Territory to 110678.

While Kashmir division reported 237 new cases of Covid-19, the remaining 217 were detected in Jammu division, officials said Tuesday. Giving district wise details, they said, Srinagar reported 118, Baramulla 18, Budgam 45, Pulwama 9, Kupwara 10, Anantnag 10, Bandipora 13, Ganderbal 6, Kulgam [More On P2](#)

Govt Forms Committees To Implement Forest Rights Act



SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor-led dispensation on Tuesday accorded sanction into constitution of committees on various levels for implementation of Forests Rights Act (2006) in Jammu and Kashmir. An order in this regard reads that “Sanction is hereby accorded

to the constitution of UT Level Monitoring Committee, Sub-Divisional Committee and District Level Committee(s) for implementation of Forest Rights Act, 2006 in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.”

The UT Level Committee, as per the order, will have a total strength of eight persons with Chief Secretary J&K as its Chairperson.

The District Level Committee will have a constitution of four persons with Deputy Commissioner as Chairperson, the order reads.

The Sub-divisional committee(s) will also have a total strength of four persons which, as per the order, will be headed by Sub-Divisional Level Officer of Revenue Department (SDM/ADC).

BSF Officer Killed In Pak Firing

JAMMU: A sub-inspector of the Border Security Force (BSF) was killed on Tuesday in a cross-border firing along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

“The Pakistan army resorted to unprovoked ceasefire violation in Rajouri sector on the LoC again, in which BSF Sub-Inspector Paotinsat Guite, who was deployed at Forward Defence Location, was killed,” a statement issued by the BSF said.

The incident took place at Tarkundi area of Mendhar in Poonch district. It said the BSF has retaliated strongly and effectively on Pakistan army posts.

The mortal remains of the deceased would be sent by air to Maphoukuki village in [More On P2](#)

‘It’s Becoming Harder Day By Day’: Campus Life Outside Kashmir

ROMAAN ARORA

It's another cold morning of the winter season, and a group of young Kashmiris is busy discussing their holiday plans with each other in the IT hub of India.

One of them, Junaid Nazeer, is a third-year student of Bachelor of Engineering (BE) from Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU).

Junaid plans to go to his homeland, once the official announcement regarding the vacations is made. Speaking

“People here are filled with a huge amount of anger for Kashmiris, as they hold us responsible for the killings of their soldiers.”

about his journey, he says that his family wanted him to pursue B.Tech from Chandigarh, but he never agreed, keeping his family's low income in mind.

Yet, in the second step of the Prime Minister Special Scholarship Scheme, he finally got the opportunity to complete higher studies.

Coming to Bengaluru, the first thing Junaid noticed was the highly developed



Representation picture

Every rally was marked with hate speeches against Kashmiris, and there were incidents of violence against Kashmiri students and workers.”

city space, and huge skyscrapers. Speaking about the people of the city, he claims that the residents there don't interfere in each other's affairs. As a result of which, there is no reason to fight.

“Even after the Pulwama attack of 2019, there was a complete sense of peace and calmness in Bengaluru,” he says. However, he remembers one incident in Haryana, where a shopkeeper denied him entry for being a Kashmiri.

At this point, Abdul Wahid Peer, Junaid's senior and a resident of North Kashmir's Handwara, jumps into the conversation. [More On P2](#)