



Maximum : 29°C SUNSET  
Today 06:25 PM  
Minimum : 13°C SUNRISE  
Humidity : 37% Tomorrow 06:20 AM

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## News Digest

### 3 Die After Vehicle Falls Into Gorge

Jammu- Three people were killed and four others injured after a vehicle in which they were travelling skidded off the road and rolled down a deep gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district, officials said on Wednesday. The Tata mobile vehicle was on its way to Kumat in the district from Kastigarh when the incident occurred at Chellai Chuchatar Tuesday night, the officials said. Police and locals reached the spot and shifted the injured to a hospital here.

### 4 Grenades Found In Rajouri

Jammu: Four hand grenades were found near a field in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Wednesday, police said. A bomb disposal squad of the Army destroyed the hand grenades at the spot, they added. A villager from Meharika-lakote informed the police about the hand grenades, after which a team from the Kalakote police station rushed to the spot. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Rajouri, Chandan Kohli said. Police is investigating the matter, he added.

### Bear Injures Man In Handwara

Srinagar- An elderly man on Wednesday was critically injured in an attack by a bear in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. 65-year-old Wali Mohammad Sheikh of Dolipora village in Tehsil Villgam was outside his home when the bear attacked him during the wee hours today, official said. In the surprise attack, the elderly man sustained serious injuries. SHO Villgam Mohammad Suleiman told news agency GNS that the injured has been shifted to a Srinagar hospital for advanced treatment.

### Boniyaar Teen Drowns In Jhelum

Baramulla: A teenager on Wednesday drowned in river Jhelum in Boniyar area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. 14-year-old Shahid Ahmad, of Khudalan locality of Nowshera in Uridrowned in Jhelum while taking a bath with his friends on Wednesday afternoon, news agency KNO reported. His friends, the report said informed the passerby about the incident and sought their help. "A few local youth jumped into the river to rescue the boy but couldn't spot him," an official said. He said that police also reached the spot and launched a search operation to trace the boy.

### Man Held For Assaulting Naib Tehsildar

Baramulla: A Naib Tehsildar in Kreeri area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district was on Wednesday injured after he was allegedly thrashed by a local youth when he was removing the encroachment in Wanigampayeen area. ANaib Tehsildar along with other officials reached Wanigampayeen area to remove illegal encroachment where he was attacked by a local youth with axes, leaving him injured, officials told KNO. They said the official has received minor injuries and his condition is stable. Meanwhile, police have arrested the accused in connection with the case and identified him as Muhammad Ashraf of Wanigampayeen on basis of a complaint lodged by ● P-02

## Parliament Passes J&K Official Languages Bill, 2020

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI- Parliament on Wednesday passed a Bill for inclusion of Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi in the list of official languages in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, in addition to the existing Urdu and English.

The Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020 was passed by Rajya Sabha through voice vote. Lok Sabha had cleared the legislation on Tuesday. Replying to a debate on the Bill, Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said it was a long-standing demand of the people of Jammu and Kashmir that the language they speak should be included in the list of official languages.

The minister pointed out that around 74 per cent people in the Union Territory spoke Kashmiri and Dogri languages.

He said that according to 2011 census, only 0.16 per cent population in Jammu and Kashmir spoke Urdu, while 2.3 per cent spoke Hindi.

Reddy said the government would

### Bill Against Constitutional Propriety: NC

National Conference Member of Parliament from Anantnag retired Justice Hasnain Masoodi on Wednesday said the Jammu and Kashmir official Languages Bill, 2020 is against the constitutional propriety because the law is a consequence of the J&K State Reorganization Bill which is under the judicial scrutiny of Supreme Court of India. While speaking on the J&K official languages ● P-02



### Huge Anomaly Corrected: Jitendra Singh

Hailing the passage of the Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill in Parliament, Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Wednesday said a huge anomaly stands corrected with official recognition being accorded to Kashmiri and Dogri. He said it was a "gross injustice" to not have included these two languages, which are spoken by over 73 per cent of Jammu and Kashmir's population, in its ● P-02



also take steps to encourage other local languages like Punjabi, Gurjari and Pahari in the region. Participating in the debate

on the Bill, Naresh Gujral (SAD) termed it "unfortunate" that Punjabi was not included in the Bill ● PAGE 02

IT HURTS THE FEELING OF THOSE WHO ARE SETTLED there. I would urge the government to reconsider because language is the basis of cultural heritage of the community."

## IFJ, IJU Ask J&K Govt To 'Stop Persecuting' Journalists



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Four days after a Kashmiri journalist was reportedly thrashed and abused by police over a news story, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and its India affiliate Indian Jour-

nalists Union (IJU) on Wednesday asked Jammu and Kashmir authorities to stop "persecuting" journalists for doing their jobs.

Auqib, an accredited journalist with Kashmir Observer, was verbally summoned by the Cyber Police station on September 18 over his story titled, 'The real cyberbully: Police in Kashmir question Twitter Users' which appeared in 'Article 14' a New Delhi based web portal.

According to Auqib, he was slapped twice by a masked cop outside the room of Superintendent of Police of the Cyber Wing, Tahir Ashraf Bhatli when ● PAGE 02

## Protests In Leh After BJP Leader Terms Sixth Schedule Demand 'Nonsense'

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) National General Secretary Ram Madhav On Wednesday faced a strong protest in Leh after his party leader termed the demand of sixth schedule by social, political and religious groups of the Union Territory as 'Nonsense'.

According to reports, scores of people under the banner of People's Movement for Sixth Schedule for Ladakh, an amalgam of different political parties and socio-religious organizations this evening staged a demonstration against BJP General Secretary of Ladakh, Ashok



Koul's statement that the demand of sixth schedule for the UT was 'Nonsense'. The protests, reports said happened at a time when BJP

National General Secretary Ram Madhav arrived in Leh town.

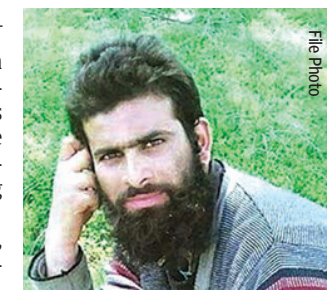
The protesters were chanting slogans against Koul ● PAGE 02

## Militant Killed In Budgam Encounter Had Saved 19 Soldiers During 2014 Floods

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The militant killed in an overnight encounter by the government forces in central Kashmir's Chrar-i-Sharif quarter was once hailed by the authorities after he rescued at least 19 army soldiers during the devastating floods of 2014.

26-year-old Asif Muzaffar Shah, a resident of south Kashmir's Pulwama district was killed in an encounter by a joint team of army, police and CRPF in Nowhard village of Chrar-i-Sharif on Tuesday. However, his death in the gunfight has also revealed an unheard story of his wit, valour and courage.



Coming from a modest family, Shah was the eldest among two siblings. He completed his graduation in Arts subject from Government Degree College Pulwama. His father was a retired teacher of Zaf-

fran Public High School, Samboora, while his mother is a housewife.

Before taking up arms this year in August, Shah was running a cosmetic and stationary shop at Kakpora area of the district to support his family, including his ailing mother, a close neighbor told Kashmir Observer.

However, prior to joining militancy, Shah, according to him had won widespread accolades for saving nearly 19 soldiers, who were caught in ravaging floods of 2014 in Samboora.

"When the gushing waters were sweeping villages one after another, two army ● PAGE 02

## J&K Posted Revenue Surplus Of Rs 7,595 Cr In 2017-18: CAG

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir had marked a revenue surplus of Rs 7,595 crore in 2017-18, while the total expenditure increased to Rs 51,294 crore, a CAG report said on Wednesday.

Its 'Own Tax Revenue' also showed a steady increase, particularly in tax on sale of goods and services and GST which increased from Rs 4,579 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 7,104 crore in 2017-18, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) said in the report presented in Parliament.

The report on the finances for

the year ended March 31, 2018 revealed Jammu and Kashmir had a revenue surplus which increased from Rs 2,166 crore in 2016-17 to Rs 7,595 crore during 2017-18.

"The Fiscal Deficit (FD) decreased from Rs 6,177 crore in 2016-17 to Rs 2,778 crore in 2017-18. The State had a Primary Deficit of Rs 1,610 crore in 2016-17 and Primary Surplus of Rs 1,885 crore during 2017-18," it said.

The report said the growth rate of revenue receipts decreased from 17.31 per cent to 15.56 per cent, which was higher than the growth rate of GSDP during 2017-18.

Share in Union taxes ● PAGE 02

## Govt Employee Booked For Securing Job On Fake Papers

JAMMU: The Crime Branch of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday registered a case against an employee of the Power Development Department (PDD) for allegedly securing his job on fake and fabricated documents, a spokesman of the investigating agency said.

A criminal case was filed against Sadhu Ram, a resident of Bishnah area of Jammu, after documentary evidence prima facie established that he had procured the government job on the fake name of Kaka Ram, the spokesman said.

The matter came to light after a written complaint was lodged by Radha Krishan. The accused had also changed his date of birth from 1954 to 1958. ● P-02

## AC Approves Election To Panchayat Bypolls

SRINAGAR: The Administrative Council (AC) which met under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday approved the proposal of the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj to issue a notification for conducting elections to vacant Sarpanch/Panch constituencies.

The detailed schedule will be finalised by the election authority, an official spokesperson said Wednesday.

He said filling of the vacant constitutional posts will ensure devolution of powers and ● P-02

## Mehbooba's Detention: Daughter Iltija Moves SC Seeking To Amend Plea

SRINAGAR: Iltija Mufti, the daughter of former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, has approached the Supreme Court seeking to modify her petition challenging the detention of her mother under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA).

Mehbooba, the president of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), was arrested on the eve of the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and its bifurcation into Union Territories on August 5 last year.

In her application before the Supreme Court, Iltija said it has been filed praying for permission to amend the writ petition seeking inter alia a writ of habeas corpus.

"The amendment sought is to include grounds of challenge and additional prayers for challenging the orders of confirmation (dated February



26) and subsequent extensions (May 5 and July 31) of the detention order (of Mehbooba) impugned in the writ petition," the application reads.

The writ petition has challenged Mehbooba's detention on several grounds. It contends that the grounds and the dossier for detention are "stale, vague and that they ● PAGE 02

## In FOCUS Humour Mills Go On Overdrive After Late Night Boom In Srinagar

SRINAGAR: It's a sonic boom! It's a pressure cooker bursting! It's a quake! And yes, the late night boom that reverberated across the city and several parts of south Kashmir on Tuesday was indeed a quake, seismologists later confirmed. But before that, social media humour and rumour mills were already on overdrive with messages facetious, flippant and sometimes funny.

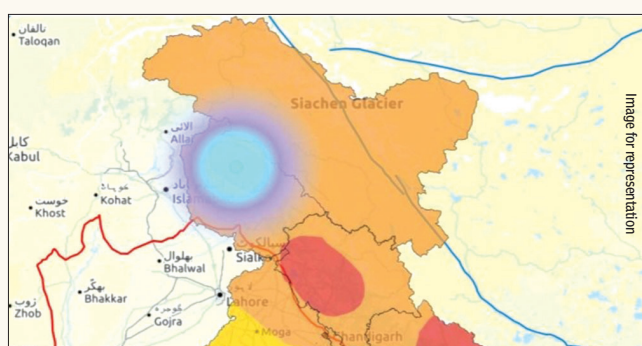
The National Centre for Seismology (NCS) confirmed that a 3.6 magnitude earthquake was recorded around 9.40 pm at a shallow depth of 5 km. No one was quite sure till then what caused the loud noise and sudden shaking of houses in Srinagar this was followed by another after 10 minutes.

Twitterati was unstoppable by then, using references from popular culture and current events for a series of posts.

One post blamed 'Rishi', a character from the 2,184-episode Hindi TV soap Saath Nibhana Saathiya which ran on Star Plus for seven years. She put an empty pressure cooker on the gas stove and it eventually burst, it said, provoking mirth all around.

Amid continued tensions along the Sino-India border, another said it was "a missed call by China" and attached a string of smiles.

"Friends, we in #Kashmir are now in the era of municipality-limited earthquakes. 2-second tremor in 15 wards, with epicentre under galli no. 420," said a tweet



amid confusion over whether it was an earthquake or an aircraft breaking the sonic boom barrier.

The first post that appeared said in Kashmiri that there was an earthquake type feeling but the same is not confirmed by the officials.

"It wasn't an earthquake but earthquake-like, it wasn't a blast but blast-like, aur humari zindagi essi confusion mein rahi ki us may iqrar kiya k inkaar (And our life continues in this confusion as there was no confirmation nor a

denial)," said another.

One Twitter user posted a picture of "Jadoo", the blue ET-style alien from Hrithik Roshan starrer Koi Mil Gaya and attributed the boom to his presence near "Ghantaghar" at the city centre Lal Chowk.

A notification in August issued by the Indian Air Force about night exercises also started doing the rounds of WhatsApp and people said it could be a war exercise.

Even a tweet from Deputy Commissioner Shahid Choudhury failed to put a lid on humour.

Some netizens, tongue firmly in cheek, said the Jammu and Kashmir administration was testing the restoration of 4G internet service, resulting in shocking the entire Union Territory. ● PAGE 02