

Maximum: 8°C  
Minimum: -2°C  
Humidity: 64%SUNSET  
Today 06:20 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 07:09 AM

## NEWS/07

## IRANISANS VOTE FOR NEW

**PARLIAMENT AMID TENSIONS WITH US**  
Polls opened across Iran Friday in the country's eleventh parliamentary election, seen as a test for the popularity of President Hassan Rouhani's reformist-moderate camp, which has dominated Parliament since 2016....



**GOVT AIMS TO COMPLETE 180 PROJECTS THIS FISCAL IN JK'S PUBLIC WORKS SECTOR**  
An effective communication network is essential not only to cater to the needs of travel and transport but also for socio-economic development of Jammu and Kashmir. In case of J&K, the same is all the....

## 08/SPORTS.....

RAIN N' RUINS: INDIAN BATSMEN  
FALTER ON CHALLENGING TRACK

India's top-order batsmen performed woefully on a challenging track as the side crawled to 122 for 5 with New Zealand's towering pacer Kyle Jamieson rattling the visiting big guns on his debut....



## News Digest

No Trace Of Missing  
Gurez Student

Srinagar: The fate of a student, who went missing after a snow avalanche, hit Gurez-Tulail area in north Kashmir district of Bandipora last week remains unknown, even as the operation to recover him entered sixth successive day. A police official said that the rescue teams despite rigorous efforts have not been able to locate the student, who was buried under several feet of snow at Check Nallah. With the first light this morning search operation was resumed to rescue Javid Ahmad Lone, who was buried under a snow avalanche on February 15 alongwith two other students when they were on way to home at Tulail after appearing in a local ● P02

Court To Hear Tufail  
Mattoo Case On April 11

Srinagar: A local court here on Friday adjourned the hearing in the killing of teenager Tufail Mattoo in the summer of 2010 that triggered massive protests across the Valley. Tufail, a 12th class student and a resident of Saida Kadal, was hit by a teargas shell fired from a close range at him on June 11, 2010, near Gani Memorial Stadium in the old city's Rajouri Kadal area. "We submitted before the court that our lawyer and Bar Association president Main Abdul Qayoom is under detention and could not appear before the court to plead the case. The court adjourned it and fixed next date of hearing April 11," Tufail's father, Muhammad Ashraf Mattoo ● P02

25 Kanals Of Land  
retrieved In Ganderbal

Srinagar: Authorities have retrieved 25 kanals of state land that was occupied by land mafia in Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. Acting on a series of complaints of land grabbing, the district officials swung into action and retrieved state land measuring 25 kanals at Lar Ganderbal, official sources told a local newsgathering agency KNT. According to the report, trees were planted and the state land fenced by the land mafia despite stiff opposition by the locals.

3 Youth Who Fled From  
Checkpoint Held

Srinagar: Police on Friday arrested three youth who had fled from a checkpoint in Old City of Srinagar on Thursday. Danish Shafi of Nowshera, Adil Bashir and Sahil Ahmed, both residents of Habak Srinagar were arrested by police, a day after they abandoned their bike and fled from a checkpoint in Rainawari area of the Old City, official sources told KNT. The news report said that police have filed a case vide FIR number 9/2020 under section 353 against the trio.

## ...Global Investors' Summit 2020

J&K Inks Rs 2,100  
Crore MoUs During  
Mumbai Roadshow

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**MUMBAI: The newly formed union territory of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday inked Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth over Rs 2,100 crore during its investment summit roadshow in the city here.**

"We want to maximise industrial growth and employment opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir. For this we are engaging in six city roadshows. Of this, we have already successfully concluded in Bengaluru, Kolkata and Mumbai," Jammu and Kashmir Principal Secretary Planning, Development

and Monitoring Rohit Kansal told reporters here at an investor roadshow organised by CII.

"The roadshows will further cover cities like Hyderabad, Chennai, Ahmedabad in February and March," he said.

Led by Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu, the officials pitched about the business possibilities in Kashmir valley to India Inc.

Kansal said the union territory has signed around Rs 2,000 crore worth of non-binding MoUs in Kolkata, Rs 850 crore in Bengaluru and over Rs 2,100 crore in Mumbai.

J&K has identified 14 sectors, including horticulture, ● PAGE 02

**J&K HAS IDENTIFIED 14 SECTORS, including horticulture, food processing, manufacturing, infrastructure, media and entertainment, film and tourism, to attract investments, he added.**

DSP Davinder  
Case: NIA Raids  
Pulwama Seminary

AGENCIES

**PULWAMA:** The sleuths of National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday carried out a raid at a seminary in south Kashmir's Pulwama district in connection with the case involving suspended DySp Davinder Singh, who was arrested with two Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) militants last month.

The investigation agency today carried out a raid at Darul-Uloom in Pinglana area of Pulwama district and confiscated some documents, a local newsgathering agency KNT reported.

Today's raid comes a week after NIA arrested former president of the LoC Traders Association Tanveer Ahmed Wani, a resident of Pulwama.

He was the sixth person to be arrested in this case. ● P02

Bengaluru Student Booked For  
Flashing 'Free Kashmir' Placard

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**BENGALURU:** A day after pro-Pakistan slogans were raised by an agitator at an anti-CAA event here, a young woman was detained and booked on Friday for holding a "Kashmir Mukti (liberation), Dalit Mukti, Muslim Mukti" placard at a counter protest in the city, police said.

A case has been registered for offences under the Indian Penal Code including creating enmity between different groups of people against the woman, they said.

The woman, identified as Arudra Narayanan is said to be a resident of Malleswaram in west Bengaluru and a student of a private college.

"We have registered the case suo moto (on their own) for



creating enmity between different groups of people," Deputy Commissioner of Police

Chetan Singh Rathore said adding she was being questioned.

Holding the placard with the slogans, Arudra was spotted sitting among the participants of the protest organised by the Hindu Jagaran Vedike against Amulya Leona who had shouted "Pakistan Zindabad" on Thursday.

She was escorted out of the place as protesters asked her to leave and crowd started gathering, city police chief Bhaskar Rao said.

"She has now been taken into custody for her own safety along with the placard... we will find out her background, where she has come from and who are behind her among other things," Rao told reporters, adding she did not raise any slogan.

The "Kashmir Mukti, ● PAGE 02

Devotees Throng Temples In  
Kashmir On Mahashivratri

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** Devotees thronged temples across Kashmir on the occasion of Mahashivratri on Friday, holding special prayers and paying obeisance since early morning. Amid the chants of "Bam Bam Bole", the biggest congregation

of devotees in the valley was witnessed at the ancient Shankracharya temple, located on a hill overlooking Srinagar, where devotees are holding day-long special prayers. Many devotees especially visit Srinagar from across the country to pray at the Shankracharya ● PAGE 02

RTI Reveals Dr Farooq Applying Leaves  
To Stay Away From Parliament

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** In a startling revelation, former Chief Minister and Member Parliament Farooq Abdullah has applied leave from the Lok Sabha on at least three occasions since August 5, the day government of India abrogated special status of Jammu and Kashmir and split the state into two Union Territories.

Abdullah missed the crucial parliament session on the day Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced the shock decision to abrogate Article 370 in the house on August 5 as he



File Pic.

reportedly was placed under house arrest. Home Minister

fully chosen to stay home.

According to a report by India Today, Dr Abdullah has constantly been in touch with the Lok Sabha and has applied for leave from the Lower House thrice since his detention on August 5, last year.

On September 17 last year Dr Farooq was slapped with the controversial Public Safety Act (PSA) by the J&K Union Territory administration. Interestingly a Right to Information application filed by India Today reveals Farooq Abdullah has applied for leave of absence from the sitting w.e.f. 05.08.2019 to 06.08.2019, ● PAGE 02

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Army Credits Drop In Local Militant  
Recruitment To Operation 'Maa'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**SRINAGAR:** The "remarkable" decrease in the number of local youths joining various militant groups in Jammu and Kashmir has been a result of Operation 'Maa' (Mother) launched by the army, which also targeted the leaderships of outfits "in a people friendly manner", a top army officer said here.

Lieutenant General Kanwal Jeet Singh Dhillon, who heads the strategic Kashmir-based XV corps, started Operation 'Maa' whereby a local militant

trapped in an encounter is made

to talk to his mother in a bid to

convince him to return to his

normal life.

"Nothing is lost until your

mother can't find it," ● PAGE 02

4 OGWs Arrested  
From Shopian, Budgam: Police

**P**olice on Friday claimed to have arrested four alleged overground workers of militants from twin districts of Shopian and Budgam of the Valley. Three overground workers (OGWs) of militants were arrested from the Heff area of Shopian in the morning, a police spokesperson said. The arrested persons have been identified as Shahid Ahmad Bhat, Zahoor Ahmad Padder and Bilal Ahmad Tell, the officials said, adding the trio was in their early twenties. One pistol and some ammunition ● P02

J-K, Ladakh Record  
Deficit Rainfall In  
February

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**JAMMU:** The union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh recorded below normal rainfall in February but a month-end spell of downpour is expected to slightly improve this deficit, the meteorological department said on Friday.

"All the three regions of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh received deficit rain/snow in February," director of meteorological department Sonam Lotus said. "Jammu and Kashmir ● P02

Man's Death Fuels Coronavirus  
Speculations In Ladakh

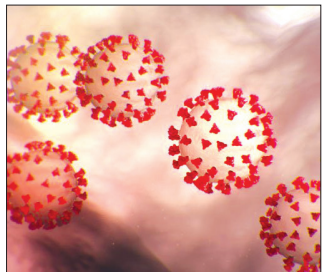
UT Administration Assuages Concerns

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**LEH:** With the death of a 52-year-old resident in Ladakh fuelling speculations over coronavirus outbreak, the Union Territory Administration on Friday said the man died of pulmonary tuberculosis and that he had no history of travel outside the hilly region in the recent past.

The administration also said another man, diagnosed with acute respiratory distress syndrome, was referred to Delhi for advance treatment, while a third patient with similar symptoms has been kept in isolation.

In a statement, the Directorate of Health Services, Ladakh, said the 52-year old man from Phyang village was admitted to a hospital here on January 27 with cough, breathlessness and fever.



It was a case of pulmonary tuberculosis, it said.

The patient and his family members had no history of travelling outside Ladakh. He passed away on February 5.

Another 55-year-old man from Achinathang village was admitted to a hospital on February 11.

The patient was diagnosed with acute respiratory distress syndrome but he or ● PAGE 02

Snow Clearance Operation  
Starts On Srinagar-Leh Road

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** Snow clearance operation was on Friday started on the 434-km-long Srinagar-Leh national highway, the only road connecting Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh with Kashmir valley.

The highway remained closed due to accumulation of 6 feet to 12 feet of snow for the past about three months.

We have started snow clearance operation on the Srinagar-Leh national highway from today, about a month earlier following improvement in the weather, official sources said.

They said sophisticated machines and trained men were put into service this morning from Gagangar to clear the accumu-



File Pic.

lated snow towards Sonamarg, the last halting station on this side of the Zojila pass on the highway. Once the 12-km-long stretch is cleared, snow clearance operation will commence towards Zojila pass, they added. However, due to threat of avalanches, extra precautionary measures have been taken to prevent any accident during ● PAGE 02

## Cross-LoC Shelling Damages 7 Houses In Poonch

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**JAMMU:** At least seven residential buildings on Friday were damaged in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, as India and Pakistan troops exchanged heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC).

The shelling from across the border in Shapur sector started around 1.35 pm and continued till 5.30pm, prompting a strong retaliation by the Indian Army, a police official said.

He said there was no report of any casualty on the Indian side, however, a residential building belonging to a widow was damaged in Qasba village, while six others suffered partial damages in Dokri village.

An army official said the Pakistani

army started the ceasefire violation by resorting to unprovoked small arms firing and mortar shelling on forward posts and villages.

The Indian Army gave a be-

fitting response to silence the Pakistani guns, he said, adding the casualties suffered by Pakistan in the retaliatory action was not known immediately.

Kupwara Sarpanchs  
Demand Underground Bunkers

**C**laiming that thousands of people are facing risk to their lives due to frequent border flare-ups, a group of village heads from Karnah area of Kupwara on Friday staged a demonstration here demanding construction of underground bunkers.

A group of Sarpanchs from remote area of Karnah assembled at Press Colony here and staged a protest over the delay in constructing underground bunkers by the government. The protesters said the continued shelling by Pak troops has taken a heavy toll on the residents.

Abdul Hamid, one of the sarpanchs, said that residents of Karnah are highly vulnerable to getting killed ● P02