



Maximum : 15.4° SUNSET  
Minum : -0.6° Today 06:11 PM  
Humidity : 87% SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 07:19 AM



**P3 NEWS**

**KRALPORA FAMILY PROTESTS  
AGAINST 'MURDER' OF THEIR SON**

A family from Kralpora area in Srinagar outskirts on Wednesday staged a protest against the alleged murder of their beloved son in August last year....

**P7 HEALTH**

**HEART ATTACKS IN YOUNG**

If you have any of the above disorders, do not fret or think you will die. But do listen to your cardiologist or endocrinologist. However, steer clear of Google searches or local chemist's suggestions on whether to take medicine or not, they're often off....



**P11 SPORTS**

**GULMARG ALL SET TO HOST  
2ND KHELO INDIA WINTER GAMES  
FROM FEB 26: J&K GOVT**

Jammu and Kashmir government Friday said all arrangements are in place to host Khelo India winter...



**Widom!**  
**Quote!**

The secret of life, though, is to fall seven times and to get up eight times.

— Paulo Coelho

**NEWS DIGEST**

**Teacher Held For  
Attempting Acid Attack**

**POONCH:** Police on Friday filed a case, a day after a teacher alleged that a fellow teacher made an attempt to throw acid on her and decamped with her gold chain in Poonch, officials said. Station House Officer SHO Mendhar Manzoor Kohli said that police filed the case (FIR 43/2021) under section 326B (Voluntarily throwing or attempting to throw acid), 354 (Assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) and 382 (theft on property) following a complaint ► [More On P10](#)

**3 Held For Making Fake  
Contractor Cards**

**JAMMU:** The Crime Branch of the Jammu and Kashmir Police has busted a gang involved in making fake contractor registration cards and arrested three of its members, officials said on Friday. A written complaint was filed in crime branch Jammu by contractors of district Doda through Shadi Lal and Lal Din, alleging that the accused had managed to get fake registration cards from the office of the chief engineer irrigation and flood control department Kashmir to grab government ► [More On P10](#)

**Man Killed In  
Handwara Accident**

**HANDWARA:** A person was killed even as another sustained injuries after a dump truck they were on board, rolled down a riverine in Mawar area of Handwara on Friday evening. Reports said that vehicle slipped into the nallah near Dandh Kadal, Langate in Mawar area after the driver purportedly lost control over his vehicle. In the incident two persons identified as Muzamil Manzoor Hajni (35) (alais Mohsin) and Nissar Ahmad Hajni (27) both residents of Maratgam Handwara, suffered injuries and were evacuated to a nearby ► [More On P10](#)

**Don't Misread Calm As  
Peace: Masoodi**

**NEW DELHI:** The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Member of Parliament from Anantnag (Retd) Justice Hasnain Masoodi on Thursday said that the road to development in Jammu and Kashmir runs through peace, saying the idea of development is farfetched in uncertainty and deep despondency. While speaking on the Budget 2021-22 in the Lok Sabha, Masoodi stated the two are inextricably linked. He said the GOI's policy towards Jammu and Kashmir must encapsulate all dimensions with peace building efforts at the ► [More On P10](#)

**6.4 Earthquake  
Shakes Kashmir**

**Panicky Residents Rush Out Of Their  
Homes Into Streets For Safety**



**Observer News Service**

**SRINAGAR:** An earthquake of magnitude: 6.4 shook Kashmir Valley and adjoining areas late on Friday sparking panic among the residents, many of whom rushed out of their homes for safety despite intense cold weather. Many people, the reports said, left barefoot and stood on frozen snow outside their houses after witnessing their houses shaking. It is pertinent to mention here that such a high-intensity earthquake jolted Kashmir after 15 years, and during the

previous incident around eighty thousand people perished on Pakistani side of Kashmir when an earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale struck the region on October 8, 2005. According to the Seismological Centre the earthquake originated at 38.08N, 73.31E; 256km southwest of Kashgar, China and 35km west-southwest of Murghob, Tajikistan. It was reported to have a depth of 80km.

The tremors which were also felt in multiple parts of the sub-continent besides Leh and Kargil lasted for several ► [More On P10](#)

**EU Envoys  
Visiting J&K  
Next Week**

**Observer Monitoring Desk**

**SRINAGAR:** A twenty member European delegation is arriving next week in Jammu and Kashmir on a two-day visit to assess the situation in the Union Territory in the backdrop of maiden District Development Council (DDC) elections.

The delegation will arrive in Srinagar on February 17 and will interact with newly elected DDC members, representatives of political parties, trade leaders, social activists and journalists, reports said Friday. Next day, the European envoy team will leave for Jammu to interact with DDC members, members of mainstream parties and social activities about the prevailing situation in J&K.

According to the sources, the tour is being organised by the external affairs ministry to project the recently concluded DDC elections in J&K as grass-root level empowerment of local population, news agency KNS reported.

Pertinently, this is the third foreign delegation of diplomats to arrive in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of erstwhile state's special status by government of India on August 5, 2019.

In October 2019, as many as 23 members of the European Parliament (MEPs) belonging to right and far right parties visited Kashmir ► [More On P10](#)

**...Vacancies in Govt Departments**

**J&K Told To Accelerate Recruitment Process**

**Agencies**

**SRINAGAR:** The Centre has informed the department-related parliamentary standing committee on Ministry of Home Affairs that the government of Jammu & Kashmir has been asked to undertake the process of recruitment in an accelerated manner.

In its action taken report submitted on the panel's earlier recommendations for fast-tracking recruitment process in J&K UT, the Ministry of Home Affairs has apprised the panel that the government of Jammu and Kashmir has been asked to assess the requirement of manpower and undertake the process of recruitment in an accelerated



manner.

It has also informed the panel that domicile has been made a basic eligibility for an appointment to any post under the Union Territory of J&K or under a local or other authority (other than Cantonment Board) within the UT of J&K.

"In terms of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of State Laws) Order, 2020, read with the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of State Laws) Second Order, 2020, amendments have been effected, among ► [More On P10](#)

**Minimum Temperature  
Up In Kashmir**

**Press Trust Of India**

**SRINAGAR:** There was a slight improvement in the minimum temperature at several places in Kashmir with the meteorological department on Friday predicting dry weather for the next week in the Valley.

The famous ski-resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir and other places recorded an improvement in the night temperature and the minimum there settled above the normal for this part of

the season, officials said.

The minimum temperature in Gulmarg settled at minus 2.4 degrees Celsius — nearly two degrees up from minus 4.2 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said.

They added that the minimum temperature was 3.8 degrees above normal. Srinagar -- the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir -- recorded a low of minus 0.6 degrees Celsius, slightly down from the previous night's ► [More On P10](#)

**Trains Service Likely After Feb 17**

After remaining suspended for over ten months due to outbreak of coronavirus pandemic, the railway service in Jammu and Kashmir is likely to resume operations from February 17, reports said Friday. According to the reports, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir P K pole has written a letter to Chief ► [More On P10](#)

**Body Of Missing Kashmiri Engineer  
Found 6 Days After Glacier Burst**

**Auqib Javeed**

**SRINAGAR:** Rescue workers on Friday recovered the body of a Kashmiri engineer who went missing on Sunday after a glacier burst wreaked havoc in Uttarakhand state of north India.

Basharat Ahmad Zargar, a resident of Soura here, was working on a privately owned Rishi Ganga power project (130 Mw), which is on the upper stream of the Alaknanda river site and was the first to face the brunt of the avalanche.

Besides Zargar, hundreds of people, including labourers went missing after a glacier break triggered a surge of water in the Alaknanda river system.

"My brother's body was found by NDRF near the power project ► [More On P10](#)

**J&K Reports  
91 New  
Covid-19 Cases**

**Press Trust Of India**

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir on Friday recorded 91 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the tally to 1,25,208, while one fresh death due was reported in the last 24 hours, officials said. Out of the fresh cases, 35 were from the Jammu division and 56 from the Kashmir division of the union territory, they said. The officials ► [More On P10](#)

**J&K Inks Pact With UK Space  
Agency For Flood Forecasting**

**Press Trust Of India**

**JAMMU:** The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has joined hands with a UK-based space agency for a collaborative project on impact-based flood forecasting, an official spokesman said on Friday.

The national space innovation programme (NSIP), undertaken by HR Wallingford in collaboration

with Oxford University, Sayers & Partners (SPL) and D-Orbit, is an initiative that supports collaborative projects between

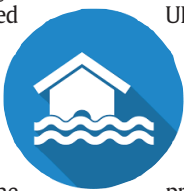
UK-based organisations and international partners, he said.

It is a big step taken by the Lt Governor administration which will help to predict fluvial flood risks in terms of expected loss to life, injuries to people, building

collapse, infrastructure disruption and economic damage, the spokesman said.

At present, there is no such effective impact-based flood forecasting mechanism in Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said the international collaboration adds specific value in helping analyse past flood events and identifying relationships between predicted floods and ► [More On P10](#)



**Robbers Throw Chili Powder Into  
Victim's Eyes, Flee With Cash**

**Observer Monitoring Desk**

**KULGAM:** Robbers on Friday smeared chilli powder into the eyes of a man and robbed him of Rs 37,500 in Frisal area of Yaripora in South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

Reports said that one Ghulam Mohammed Bhat from Churmarg area of Shopian, was attacked after he was coming out of J&K Bank branch Frisal



after withdrawing cash.

Meanwhile, a Police official said that one person has been taken into custody. ► [More On P10](#)

**...Ladakh Stalemate**

**No Territory Conceded To  
China Under Agreement: Govt**

**Press Trust Of India**

**NEW DELHI:** India on Friday said it has not conceded any territory as a result of the agreement finalised with China for disengagement of troops in Pangong lake areas in eastern Ladakh.

Hours after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged that the government has "ceded" Indian territory to the Chinese and raised questions over the agreement, the Ministry of Defence issued a strongly-worded statement, saying the effective safeguarding of country's national interest and territory in the Eastern Ladakh sector has taken place because the government reposed full faith in the capabilities of the armed forces.

"Those who doubt the

achievements made possible by the sacrifices of our military personnel are actually disrespecting them", the statement said.

The ministry also made certain clarifications in the statement, and said, "the assertion that Indian territory is up to Finger 4 is categorically false. The territory of India is as depicted by the map of India and includes more than 43,000 sq km currently under illegal occupation of China since 1962."

"Even the Line of Actual Control (LAC), as per the Indian perception, is at Finger 8, not at Finger 4. That is why India has persistently maintained the right to patrol upto Finger 8, including in the current understanding with China," the MoD said.

Defence Minister ► [More On P10](#)

**...Khelo India  
Govt Revokes Order  
On Gulmarg Hotels**

**Press Trust Of India**

**SRINAGAR:** Authorities in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday withdrew an order asking hotels to cancel pre-bookings at the famous ski-resort of Gulmarg to accommodate participants of Khelo India National Winter Games after the move drew sharp criticism.

The order was withdrawn a day after it was issued by the additional deputy commissioner of Baramulla.

The order has been withdrawn, Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, Mohammad Aijaz Asad told PTI.

The move had drawn sharp reaction from the National Conference which termed it as mindless application of government writ". Asad said there was no need for such an order to be issued in the first place. It was not required, he added.

Another official in the administration said the hoteliers had already committed to reserve the rooms for the games' period and, as such, there was no requirement for such an order which only created a controversy. The order had asked hoteliers to accommodate athletes and officials ► [More On P10](#)



**'SHEER  
ABUSE  
OF LAW'**

**HC Quashes Sedition Charges  
Against Ladakh Councillor**

**Agencies**

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir High Court has quashed criminal proceedings against a councillor of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC)-Kargil Zakir Hussain who was arrested last year and charged with sedition and other offences for his audio clip mocking Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Army in the wake of the face-off between India and China in Ladakh.

"...the offences charged against the petitioner (Zakir



Hussain) are not made out and, therefore, the registration of FIR, which has culminated into filing of the Final Police Report without previous sanction from the competent authority before the Chief Judicial Magistrate,

Kargil is sheer abuse of the process of law," Justice Sanjeev Kumar while allowing the petition filed by Zakir Hussain.

"This Court, therefore, finds it a fit case to invoke its inherent powers vested by Section 482 Cr. P. C and quash all the criminal proceedings pending against the (Zakir Hussain) including the impugned FIR with regard to the audio clip, which allegedly contains conversation between (Zakir Hussain) and one Nissar Ahmed Khan."

On September 24 last year, the High Court ► [More On P10](#)

**HC Quashes  
7 PSA  
Detention  
Orders**

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has quashed detention orders under Public Safety Act against seven persons, one among them nicknamed as 'Judge'. The detainees whose orders under PSA were quashed include Showkat Ahmad Mir of Sopore Baramulla, Muddasir Ahmad Dar of Pinjora Shopian, Shafqat Abrar of Kulgam, Rayees Ahmad Chack of Chakpora DH Pora Kulgam, Nissar Ahmad Khanday of Chersoo Awantipora, Atta Mohammad ► [More On P10](#)