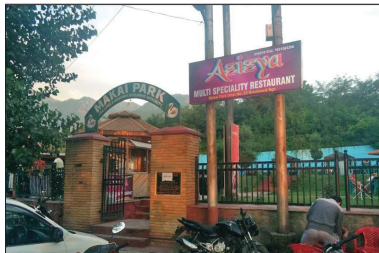




Maximum : 15.1°
Minum : 1.2°
Humidity : 84%

SUNSET
Today 06:14 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 07:17 AM



P3 NEWS

SMC TO RETAIN PARKING LOTS
NOT ELICITING GOOD OFFERS

Srinagar Municipality has decided that all the Municipal car parking lots which have not elicited any response in recent times shall....

P7 THINK

BBC VS ZARA MOHAMMED:
AN EXERCISE IN
ISLAMOPHOBIA

The Muslim Council of Britain just elected its first female secretary general - but instead of celebrating this achievement, the BBC's....



P11 SPORTS

LUKMAN ADEFEMI HAT TRICK
GIVES REAL KASHMIR 4-3 VICTORY
OVER DEFIANT NEROCA

Real Kashmir FC's Nigerian export Lukman Adefemi on Saturday scored with his head, his right foot...

Widom
Quote!

Recognizing power
in another does not
diminish your own.

— Joss Whedon

NEWS DIGEST

2 Charged Over Forged
Bank Guarantee

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police's Crime Branch on Saturday filed a chargesheet against two accused in a seven-year-old case related to issuance of a forged bank guarantee bond for an amount of Rs 1 crore fraudulently to a New Delhi-based businessman, an official said. The chargesheet was filed against Vishal Mahajan of Jammu and Vinay Mittal of Delhi in the passenger tax [» More On P10](#)

J&K Logs 66 New
Corona Cases, 1 Death

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 60 fresh cases of the novel coronavirus on Saturday, taking the tally to 1,25,268, while another death raised the toll to 1,949, officials said. Thirteen of the fresh cases were from the Jammu division and 47 from the Kashmir division of the Union Territory, they said. The officials said Srinagar district recorded a maximum [» More On P10](#)

Heart Attack Kills
Tourist In Pahalgam

SRINAGAR: A middle-aged tourist died of a heart attack at the famous tourist resort Pahalgam in South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Saturday. 56-year-old KM Pradeepan, son of PVK Nair of Cochin, Kerala, fell unconscious at Pahalgam and was rushed to a nearby hospital where doctors declared him brought dead, reports said. The slain was on tour to Kashmir Valley with nine of his family members [» More On P10](#)

Leopard Caught
In Balhama

SRINAGAR: Wildlife officials on Saturday caught a leopard in Balhama area of the city outskirts. A leopard was spotted by locals roaming in residential area of Balhama in the Srinagar outskirts on Saturday morning after which they informed the wildlife officials, reports said. After receiving the news, a team of wildlife officials reached the area and trapped the beast in a net. [» More On P10](#)

3 CISF Men Injured
In Uri Accident

SRINAGAR: At least three CISF personnel sustained injuries when a vehicle they were travelling in, skidded off the road in Uri in Baramulla district on Saturday. Reports said that a vehicle (JK-05 7458) on its way from NHPC-II Chandayan towards Uri when it met with the accident near Salamabad Uri, resulting in injuries to three persons. A senior police officer confirming the incident told [» More On P10](#)

Panchayat Related
Machinery Overhauled In J&K

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: To further streamline the implementation of J&K Panchayati Raj Act and Rules, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday approved an overhaul of the field administrative machinery supporting Panchayats by rationalizing various categories of existing posts in the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.

The decision to this effect was taken at a meeting of the administrative council (AC) under the chairmanship of Lt Governor Manoj Sinha here, an official spokesman said.

As a result of the decision, every district would now have

an assistant commissioner panchayat, a dedicated officer to look after the functioning of Panchayats and coordinate their activities, the spokesman said, adding the officer would report to the Chief Executive Officer of the District Development Council, recently constituted in the Union Territory.

He said the reorganization of the panchayats has become necessary keeping in view that the functioning of the department concerned has undergone a sea change after the Panchayat elections in 2018 with subsequent devolution of greater funds and functionaries and decentralization of planning and execution functions right down to [» More On P10](#)

Statehood To J&K At
Appropriate Time: Amit Shah

Says 'No One Will Lose Their Land', Promises 25000 Jobs In 2022



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Home Minister Amit Shah gave an assurance in Lok Sabha on Saturday that the Centre

will grant full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir at an appropriate time and asserted that the government has done more for it since Article 370 was scrapped in [» More On P10](#)

LS Passes
Bill To Merge
J&K Cadre
With AGMUT

A bill to merge the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) cadre of all-India services officers with the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre was passed by Lok Sabha on Saturday by a voice vote. The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2021 has already been passed by Rajya Sabha. [» More On P10](#)

Polls for DDC Chiefs Held In
2 Kashmir Districts Adjourned
In 3 Jammu Districts

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Elections for posts of chairperson and vice-chairpersons of the District Development Council (DDC) were held in two districts of Kashmir in the final phase on Saturday, while a lack of quorum forced adjournment of polls in three of the four districts in Jammu region.

In the fifth and the last phase of the polls, the chairpersons and vice-chairpersons for the DDCs in Baramulla and Bandipora, both in north Kashmir, were elected on



Saturday, the officials said.

They said that People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) won the election for the post of the chairperson in Bandipora [» More On P10](#)

Govt Panel
To Supervise
Websites Updation

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday constituted a committee headed by Secretary to the Government Information Technology Department to supervise the updation of official websites of various government departments and districts of Union Territory. In an order issued [» More On P10](#)

Absconder Arrested 41 Years After Crime: Police

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday arrested an absconder from central Kashmir's Ganderbal district over four decades after he was charged for theft.

Majeed Tanch, son of Fateh Tanch was arrested by a police team from his house in Anderwan village of Kangan on Saturday in a theft case filed against him 41 years ago,



a police official told Kashmir Observer. Majeed, who is originally from Check Dara Harwan was evading arrest after police slapped charges under section

379 RPC, 6 Forest Act at Police Station, Saddar in 1980, he said.

"He might have stolen any forest-produce and gone absconding to evade his arrest from the last 41 years," said the police official on the condition of anonymity.

When asked why the case took 41 years to crack, he said that every police station has a file of absconding cases that needs to be produced in the court.

"...and it's up to [» More On P10](#)



KO lensman Abid Bhat captures a view of Hokersar wetland which is abuzz after the arrival of migratory birds this winter.

Top Militant Held
In Samba: Police

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A top militant affiliated with The Resistance Front (TRF), wanted in connection with the killing of three BJP workers and a policeman in south Kashmir last year, was arrested in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Saturday.

Zahoor Ahmad Rather alias "Sahil", "Khalid" was hiding in Samba district of Jammu region and was arrested on a specific information by Anantnag police, a senior police official said.

The TRF is considered an offshoot of Lashker-e-Taiba (LeT) militant [» More On P10](#)

Choudhary Given Additional
Charge Of Div Com Kashmir

J&K Recalls 2 IAS
Officers, Deputes As
Many Others To Ladakh
Observer Monitoring Desk



SRINAGAR: The government on Saturday directed Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Shahid Iqbal Choudhary to hold the charge of Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir for a temporary period of six days

According to an order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD) Choudhary will hold additional charge of Div Com Kashmir from February 15 to February 20 as an earned leave

of six days has been sanctioned to Pandurang K. Pole.

Meanwhile, the J&K administration on Saturday recalled two IAS officers from Lakdakh and deputed as many others to the UT. Also, it posted a new deputy [» More On P10](#)

...ONLINE FRAUD

Court Orders 'Necessary
Action' By Cyber Police

SRINAGAR: A local court here has forwarded to Station House Officer Cyber Cell here a complaint for "necessary action" into an alleged scam by "online application".

The complainant (name withheld) has alleged that the online application promised

its investors three percent commission over the principal amount within 24 hours.

Accordingly, the complainant said that he submitted Rs 41,517 during one week but the principal amount was not returned nor any profit given as "assured by [» More On P10](#)

Barring Gulmarg,
Mercury Rises
In Kashmir

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The minimum temperature across Kashmir, except in Gulmarg, improved on Saturday, even as the mercury settled above the freezing point in Srinagar and Kulgam, officials said.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of 1.2 degrees Celsius last night, up from the previous night's minus 0.6 degrees Celsius, they said.

Qazigund recorded a minimum of minus 2.0 degrees Celsius, a degree up from the previous night, the officials said.

Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 2.3 degrees [» More On P10](#)

...LAWAYPORA 'ENCOUNTER'

Mehbooba 'Barred' From
Visiting Pulwama Teen's Family

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: PDP president and former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday claimed that she was placed under

house arrest ahead of her visit to the family of Athar Mushtaq, one of the three alleged militants killed in an encounter in Parimpura locality here in December last year.

Placed under [» More On P10](#)

KO Photo: Abid Bhat