



Maximum : 4°C  
Minimum : -4.2°C  
Humidity : 55%

SUNSET  
Today 05:51 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 07:36 AM

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Life & Times/08  
**COMPUTER SCREEN IS UNIQUELY KNOWN TO ASSOCIATE INCREASE ANXIETY IN ADOLESCENTS**  
More the time spent on the mobile phone, computer screen, more it leads to a rise in anxiety symptoms among adolescents, says a new study....



TV Sports...  
**INDIA'S OLDEST FOOTBALL TEAM FORCED INTO MERGER**  
India's oldest and most successful football club merged Thursday with a rival Kolkata side after years of financial trouble, giving a shot in the arm to one of two leagues fighting for dominance in the sport....

04/News....  
**IRAN LEADER CALLS TRUMP 'CLOWN' WITH 'POISONOUS DAGGER'**  
Iran's supreme leader said President Donald Trump is a "clown" who only pretends to support the Iranian people but will "push a poisonous dagger" into their backs, as he struck a defiant tone in his first Friday....

## News Digest

### Kullian Avalanche Govt Gives Rs 20L Ex-Gratia To Families

Ganderbal: District Administration Ganderbal on Friday disbursed Rupees 20 lacs, under SDRF, in favour of next of kin of the deceased, who lost their lives in recently occurred snow avalanche at Kullian, Kangan. Rupees 4 lakh were disbursed to the NOK of each deceased. It is pertinent to mention that the snow avalanche occurred on 13 January, in which 5 persons lost their lives.

### IAF Rescues 9 Foreign, 98 Other Trekkers In Ladakh

Leh: Indian Air Force (IAF) has rescued 107 trekkers, including nine foreigners, in Ladakh region, which witnessed heavy to very heavy snowfall recently, official sources said on Friday. They said a message was received that 107 trekkers got stuck in the higher reaches and needed immediate help. Later, the matter was taken up with IAF, they said, adding helicopters were pressed into service. "All the trekkers were rescued and taken to safer places," they added.

### Train Chugs After Four Days

Srinagar: The train services in Kashmir valley resumed on Friday after remaining suspended for four days due to heavy snowfall in Kashmir Valley. According to reports, the train operated from Srinagar to Banihal Section on Friday, and most of the passengers took the train route to reach Banihal. An official of railways said that the train service was resumed today after remaining closed for four consecutive day four (KNS).

### Leopard Caught In Shopian

Shopian: Wildlife officials have captured a leopard in Trenz area of this south Kashmir district, officials said Friday. According to In-charge Control Room Wildlife Division Shopian, Mudasir Ahmad, the leopard was traced in area on Thursday morning and was caught safely. Mudasir added that in view of reports of bear roaming in Rai-Kaprin area of the district locals are advised not to venture out during late and early hours till animal is caught or driven back safely. Officials from wildlife department said that recent heavy snowfall in the region has

### Jamaat Leader Slapped With PSA

Kupwara: Authorities Friday booked Jamaat-e-Islami leader under the controversial Public Safety Act (PSA) and shifted him to Srinagar's Central Jail, officials said. Jamaat's district president Kupwara Muhammad Ismail Lone was arrested a month ago and today he was shifted to Srinagar Central Jail after being slapped with PSA, they said. Lone has been accused of fomenting trouble in the district. A large number of people, both political and apolitical are facing detention under PSA and most of these people have been arrested after the annulment of special status of Jammu and Kashmir. (KNT)

## Pakistan Ready For Plebiscite In Its Part Of Kashmir: Imran Khan

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Imran Khan has reiterated that his country is ready to hold a referendum in Pakistan-administered Kashmir (PaK) to give people the right to decide whether they want to remain in the country or be independent.

"The best thing is (to) let the people of Kashmir decide. The people of Pakistan Kashmir and the Indian Kashmir. Pakistan is all ready to give them the right through a referendum or a plebiscite. Let them decide whether they want to remain with Pakistan or want to be independent. We're all for it," Khan said in an interview to Deutsche Welle's Editor-in-Chief Ines Pohl.

When asked about the human rights situation in



### China Defends Raising Kashmir Issue At UNSC

Stoutly defending its decision to raise the Kashmir issue at the UN Security Council as an attempt to de-escalate Indo-Pak tensions and out of "good will", China on Friday claimed that "most of the members" of the Council have voiced their concern over the situation in the Valley. China's comments came a day after India asserted that Beijing's latest attempt to raise the Kashmir issue at the UNSC on Pakistan's behalf has failed, with an overwhelming majority of the 15-member body expressing the view that it



A TOURIST COUPLE TAKING A SELFIE in a snow covered garden in srinagar on Friday. Pic Aabid Bhat

### Jammu-Srinagar Highway Opens After 4 Days

The Jammu-Srinagar Highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, was reopened for vehicular traffic on Thursday evening after remaining closed for four days following multiple landslides, officials said. The highway was closed on Monday after snowfall across Jawahar Tunnel and multiple landslides in Banihal-Ramban sector. Banihal Deputy Superintendent of Police Shamsheer Singh said restoration work was started after improvement in weather conditions on Thursday.

### 4 More Mainstream Leaders Released

The Jammu and Kashmir Administration has released from house arrest four politicians one each from the NC, PDP, PC and Congress -- after keeping them in detention for over five months following the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, officials said on Friday. The four politicians released late Thursday night include a former minister and a former deputy Speaker of the last Assembly of the erstwhile state. "Former minister Abdul Haq Khan from PDP, former deputy Speaker Nazir Ahmad

## J&K Congress Passes Resolution For Statehood

AGENCIES

JAMMU: The executive committee of J&K Congress met under the chairmanship of Ghulam Nabi Azad, leader of opposition in the Rajya Sabha, here on Friday and passed a four-point resolution for the restoration of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir and demanded constitutional guarantees in jobs and land for the people.

The resolution passed by 216 members from 20 districts of J&K also demanded freeing of all the political detainees and creating an atmosphere conducive for politics in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We demand restoration of statehood for J&K," J&K Congress President Ghulam Ahamd Mir said. He said the visits of foreign delegations and Central minis-



ters to J&K are futile exercises until all the political detainees, including three former Chief Ministers, are released.

"We demand the release of all the detained leaders," Mir said. Mir said the four-point resolution is a road map that will be adopted by the party across all its forums.

"Congress will continue its struggle for the rights of the people," Mir said.

## LG Reviews Jammu Lake Project, Says Admin Will Expedite Works

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu reviewed the progress of a number of projects in the winter capital of the Union territory on Friday and said the administration will expedite the works.

He visited the market place and tourism reception centre to assess the facilities there. During a visit to the Tawi river bank the L-G was briefed by Ajeet Sahu, the principal secretary of the Irrigation and Flood Control Department, about the progress of its beautification project and the Jammu lake project.

During his visits, Murmu was accompanied by top



divisional-level officials and heads of departments.

Asserting that the administration was trying to expedite the projects, the L-G said, "We don't know what had happened in the past, but we will carry it from here and see to it that these are completed."

In June last year, the Jammu and Kashmir government had cancelled GR Infra Projects Limited's contract for developing the artificial Tawi lake.

## Z-Morh Project Goes To APCO Amarnathji Tunnelway

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The government on Friday awarded the Jammu and Kashmir's crucial Z-Morh Tunnel project, languishing for long after it was abandoned, to APCO Amarnathji Tunnelway, which will be built at a cost of Rs 2,379 crore, a senior official said on Friday.

The pact between the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) and APCO Amarnathji Tunnelway was long after it was abandoned, to APCO Amarnathji Tunnelway, which will be built at a cost of Rs 2,379 crore, a senior official said on Friday. The pact between the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) and APCO Amarnathji Tunnelway was long after it was abandoned, to APCO Amarnathji Tunnelway, which will be built at a cost of Rs 2,379 crore, a senior official said on Friday.

## DSP Arrest: Cong Seeks Re-Investigation Into Pulwama Attack

The case is as good as dead: Rahul Gandhi



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The Congress on Friday demanded a fair probe

within six months into the case involving Jammu and Kashmir DSP Davinder Singh, arrested with Hizbul militants in south Kashmir, as Rahul Gandhi alleged the case was handed over to the NIA to "silence" Singh.

The party also sought a re-investigation into the February 2019 Pulwama militant attack and Singh's role in it as he had been posted in the district as DSP at the time. Questioning the government's "conspicuous silence", it demanded the prime minister and the home minister to answer questions raised by people after Singh's arrest last week.

The best way to "silence" Singh was to hand the investigation against him to NIA chief Y C Modi, under whose care the case will be "as good as dead", Gandhi alleged. Calling the National Investigation Agency chief "another Modi", the Congress leader said he had investigated the 2002 Gujarat riots and the killing of former Gujarat home minister Haren Pandya in 2003.

"The best way to silence Terrorist DSP Davinder, is to hand the case to the NIA," Gandhi

## CASO Carried Out In Budgam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BUDGAM: The government forces on Friday launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) in a village in this central Kashmir district.

Acting n specific information about the presence of militants, Army's 54 RR, special operations group (SOG) of police and CRPF laid a siege around Yatoo Mohalla village of Chadoora and launched a search operation, a local newsgathering agency KNS reported.

The forces sealed all the entry and exit points to the village and conducted door to door search operation.

## LG Murmu's Security Grid Strengthened

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: The special security force (SSF) guarding Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu has been strengthened with induction of 19 more police personnel and support staff, officials said.

As per the order issued by Special Secretary, Home Department, Shakeel-Ur-Rehman, 13 personnel including three officers and six police staff have been sent on deputation with the SSF with immediate effect on Thursday.

This step has been done to

strengthen the security cover around the L-G, they said adding that the force will now have a total of 80 well-trained officers.

In 2018, the then State Administrative Council (SAC) of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir had approved a bill for setting up the force for providing proximate security to the governor.

The bill, which was later given approval, contains provisions related to the constitution and regulation of a separate security force in the state for providing proximate security to the governor, members of his immediate family

## Oppn Parties Differ On Imran Khan's India Visit For SCO

NEW DELHI: Leaders of several opposition parties differed on Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's possible visit to India this year as some remained guarded and others said they supported the government in its decisions on foreign affairs.

Imran Khan could be in New Delhi as India will play host to the annual meeting of the council of heads of government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) later this year. However, it remains unclear whether

he will accept an invite that India is going to send out.

Congress leader Anand Sharma said that since India, as a host, has to extend an invitation to Pakistan, the party would reserve its comments.

"It would be Pavlovian to comment on the development at this moment. As a host country, India is bound to invite Pakistan. We don't know yet if Pakistan would accept," said Sharma.

The Nationalist Congress Party's (NCP's) Majeed Memon

## MoS Home Backs Rawat's De-Radicalisation Comment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

HYDERABAD: Endorsing Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat's comments, Union Minister G Kishan Reddy on Friday said that the Army has been running de-radicalisation camps since ages.

Defending Rawat, who was attacked incessantly by the opposition parties, which said he cannot comment on civilian issues as he was from the defence services, Reddy said the de-radicalisation camps issue indeed

pertains to the army and was not a civilian issue.

"He never spoke on civilian issues. He spoke on the security

angle of the country. He never spoke about political and civilian issues..

Reddy, the minister

## Ridiculous, Says Owaisi

Hitting out at the Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat's comments advocating 'de-radicalisation camps' for children, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi has questioned who would deradicalise attackers of Muslims and Dalits. Speaking at a public meeting at Adilabad on Thursday night, the Hyderabad MP said de-radicalisation is needed for those who lynch and kill Dalits and Muslims. "I want to inform the chief of defence staff, General saab, if you want to deradicalise, then listen, you first read the Juvenile Act. IPC is

## Ministers' J&K Visit: BJP Upbeat, Others Sceptic

SRINAGAR: The political circles in Jammu and Kashmir have dismissed the upcoming week-long visit of the 36 Central Ministers to the Union Territory from Saturday as a meaningless exercise.

The BJP, however, believes that the visit could be a path breaking move to assess the ground situation for kick-starting the development works in the Union Territory after the abrogation of Article 370 in August last year. The high powered group of

ministers will come in small groups and visit 52 locations in Jammu and Kashmir.

"There is no fixed agenda for the meetings that they will have," Arun Gupta, the BJP state spokesperson said. "It is basically an exercise to assess the ground situation for allocation of funds."

He said Railway Minister Piyush Goyal will be focussing on increasing the railway network in Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu-based Panthers Party president Harsh Dev