



Maximum : 2°C Today 05:50 PM Minimum : -6°C Humidity : 79%

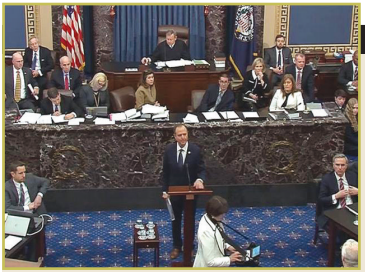
SUNSET Today 05:50 PM SUNRISE Tomorrow 07:34 AM

23rd year OF PUBLICATION KASHMIR OBSERVER

28 Jumada al-awwal | 1441 Hijri | Vol:23 | Issue:21 | Pages:08 | Price: ₹3

www.kashmirobserver.net • twitter.com / kashmirobserver • facebook.com/kashmirobserver • Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016

Contact: -0194-2502327 FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS & YOUR COPY OF



DEMOCRATS ROLL OUT CASE AGAINST TRUMP

US House Democrats opened marathon arguments in President Donald Trump's impeachment trial on Wednesday, trying to convince sceptical Republican senators to join them in voting.....



US AND WEST ASIA: WHY RUSSIA AND CHINA ARE GAINERS

A sleepless night has given way to a sense of relief in West Asia. On Wednesday, Iran attacked military bases in Iraq, where the United States military personnel were stationed, in retaliation for the killing of its general Qassem Soleimani.....

08/Sports.....

BARÇA, MADRID MADE TO SWEAT BY IBIZA AND UNIONISTAS

La Liga's heavyweights were both given a scare by third tier opponents in the Copa del Rey on Wednesday as Barcelona needed two late goals to beat Ibiza and Real Madrid.....



News Digest

Khrew Operation Ends After 50 Hours

Srinagar: Government forces on Thursday concluded cordon and search operation (CASO) in Khrew area of Pulwama district, where a militant and two security personnel were killed in a fierce gun-battle. Official sources said that the army, special operations group (SOG) of police today called off the Khrew operation. P06

Jamaat Activist Booked Under PSA Released

Srinagar: Authorities Thursday released a Jamaat-e-Islami activist who had been facing detention under contentious Public Safety Act (PSA). Official sources said that Jamaat activist Muhammad Yousuf from Tral had been booked under Public Safety Act after the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. Authorities revoked his PSA and released him from Jail. A large number of people who had been arrested after P06

Applications Invited For Khadim-Ul-Hujjaj

Srinagar: Executive Officer, J&K Haj Committee has invited online applications from eligible Muslim employees of Government, Public sector units, Statutory Bodies for nomination as Khadim-ul-Hujjaj for Haj 2020. The applicant must be a permanent resident of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. He/she must be in the age group of 25-55 years as on May 31, 2020, must have performed either Haj or Umrah and should have good knowledge of haj related activities and must be in good health. The online application form P06

Islamia College Introduces New Courses

Srinagar: The Islamia College of Science and Commerce (ICSC), Srinagar on Thursday announced the introduction of a slew of Honours, integrated PG and PG programmes from the current academic session. According to the handout issued by the Principal ICSC, Prof. Sheikh Aijaz Bashir, the honours courses being introduced are Economics, Nano-Science & Nano-Technology, Zoology, Botany and Chemistry. P06

Cop Disarmed After His Rifle Goes Off

Srinagar: A policeman was detained and disarmed after his rifle went off accidentally in South Kashmir's Kulgam district. Quoting official sources, a local newsgathering agency KNT said that service rifle of constable Sagar Ahmed Bhat went off accidentally inside a camp in Kulgam. Taking strong note of the negligence, police detained the erring constable and disarmed him, reports said.

First Republic Day Event Post Article 370 Kashmir On Heightened Alert Ahead Of Jan 26

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR: Security has been beefed up in Srinagar and other parts of Kashmir ahead of the R-Day with a massive deployment of forces around the venues of the January 26 functions across the Valley, officials said on Thursday.

It will be the first Republic Day celebrations in the Valley after Jammu and Kashmir's special status was withdrawn on August 5 and the erstwhile state was divided into two Union Territories.

The security has been tightened at various places in the city as well as in other districts of the Valley ahead of January 26 celebrations, the officials said.

They said various security measures have been put in place to ensure that January 26 celebrations pass off peacefully.

The presence of security forces around vital installations in and around the city as well as



other district headquarters has been increased, they said.

Security has also been strengthened around the venues for the R-Day functions including the Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Stadium here, where the main function in the Valley would take place, they added.

The officials said a thick layer of security has been thrown

around the venue few kilometres away from the Lal Chowk city centre here and the area has been sanitized.

Security forces have been asked to remain alert and additional checkpoints have been erected and in the city, they said.

Random checking of vehicles and frisking of passengers was being done at these P06

THE SECURITY HAS BEEN TIGHTENED at various places in the city as well as in other districts of the Valley ahead of January 26 celebrations, the officials said.

Kashmiri Leaders Seek Release Of Political Detainees

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: Two prominent Kashmiri leaders on Thursday advocated the release of all political detainees, including three former chief ministers, as a goodwill gesture on the R-Day.

Ghulam Hassan Mir and Mohammad Dilawar Mir, both former ministers, also demanded the restoration of broadband services to mediapersons and traders besides compensation to those involved in the agriculture and horticulture sectors.

"The country is celebrating the Republic Day (January 26) and the tradition has been the release of some detainees. Even some convicted persons used to get relief in the country on the occasion," they said.

"People are in preventive detention and it would be good if all of them, including the former chief ministers, are released as a goodwill gesture," Hassan, who is the president of the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Party Nationalist, told reporters here.

He said some of the P06

Art-370 Revocation Is Irreversible, Centre To SC



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The Central government on Thursday told the Supreme Court that the abrogation of Article 370 allowed the accession of Jammu and Kashmir to the Indian union and said that the move is "irreversible".

A five-judge Constitution Bench of Justices NV Ramana, SK Kaul, R Subhash Reddy, BR Gavai and Surya Kant today continued hearing various pleas challenging the abrogation of Article 370, which conferred special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Attorney General KK Venugopal submitted how accession of the new Union Territory to Indian union took place and said that "it (abrogation of Article

370) is irreversible". "I want to show that sovereignty of Jammu and Kashmir was indeed temporary. We are a Union of States," Venugopal told the court.

Advocate Dr Rajeev Dhavan, appearing for one of the petitioners, said: "A State was demoted to the status of a Union Territory using Article 3 of the Constitution of India for the first time. If they (Centre) do this for one State, they can do it for any State."

Dhavan said that the Central government deliberately imposed President's Rule in the erstwhile state and pointed to a map of Jammu and Kashmir.

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta, who was representing Jammu and Kashmir, interrupted Dhavan and said that "what P06

People From Jamia, Kashmir To Disrupt Peace In U'khand: CM Rawat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DEHRADUN: Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat on Thursday said he had inputs that people from Jamia Milia and Kashmir had entered Uttarakhnad to incite passions and disrupt peace.

He warned that this will not be tolerated in the state.

"I have feedback that people from Jamia Milia and Kashmir have come here to disrupt peace. I want to warn them that it will not be tolerated," Rawat told reporters here on the sidelines of a function.

"Peaceful protests are okay but if people from outside the

state come here to provoke people and disrupt peace, we will have to deal with them sternly," the chief minister said and asked such elements not to enter the state.

Reacting to the chief minister's remarks, Jammu and Kashmir Students' Association, an organisation of Kashmiri students studying here, said he should not issue "provocative" statements.

Association spokesperson Nasir Khuehami asked the chief minister to withdraw his remarks and said "ensure the safety of Kashmiri students rather than issuing provocative statements like this".

Don't Need Your Help On Kashmir, India Tells Trump

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Ahead of a possible India visit of US President Donald Trump, who again offered to "help" in resolving the Kashmir issue, New Delhi on Thursday categorically ruled out any role for a third party, asserting that any issue between India and Pakistan should be resolved bilaterally.

India's reiteration on the Kashmir issue came after Trump while addressing the media with Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan in Davos on Tuesday said that the US was watching the developments relating to Kashmir "very closely" and repeated his offer to "help" resolve the dispute.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar



said if there are any issues between India and Pakistan, they should be resolved bilaterally under the provisions of Simla agreement and the Lahore declaration, and insisted that the onus was on Islamabad to create

an atmosphere for talks.

"We have seen President Trump's remarks. Our position on the Kashmir issue has been clear and consistent. Let me once again reiterate that there is no role for any third party in this P06

Army Chief Visits LoC, Reviews Readiness

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane visited troops on the Line of Control (LoC) to review prevailing situation and operational readiness, a defence spokesperson said on Thursday.

He said the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) was accompanied by General-officer-commanding, Northern Command, Lt Gen Ranbir Singh, during his visit to LoC on Wednesday.

Gen Naravane was briefed by General Officer Commanding, White Knight Corps, Lt Gen Harsha Gupta and some commanders, the spokesperson said.

The Army chief interacted with the soldiers and lauded their unwavering dedication to duty P06

Prasad Visits Baramulla, Says Internet Restoration In Phased Manner

AGENCIES

BARAMULLA: Asserting that internet services will be restored in phased manner in Kashmir, Union Minister for Communications, Law & Justice, Electronics and Information Technology,

Ravi Shankar Prasad on Thursday said that 'the ministers visiting J&K have been instructed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to strive for the development of the Union Territory'. The Minister, who arrived in

Srinagar on Wednesday, visits this north Kashmir border district on Thursday and inaugurated a Sports Stadium, besides interacted with various delegations.

"Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi told all the ministers to visit J&K and strive for development there. In was in Srinagar yesterday where I inaugurated All Women Post office, incubation facility at Srinagar Technology Parks of India Srinagar and laid foundation stones of two hostels," he told

reports on the sideline of the inauguration function here.

Prasad said that Circuit Bench of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal will be started soon in Srinagar, besides 350 lawyers of J&K will become notary soon.

"I'm really happy to be in Baramulla, where I inaugurated an Indoor Stadium. I appreciate the work done by the administration," he said.

The Minister said that the Government of India is striving hard for the P06

DySP Davinder, 4 Others Produced Before NIA Court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: Suspended Deputy Superintendent of Jammu and Kashmir Police Davinder Singh, who was arrested for helping militants, was produced in a special court here on Thursday and was sent to 15-day NIA custody with four co-accused, officials said.

They said the suspended officer was produced in the special NIA court along P06

Role Of JK Police Exemplary: Reddy

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL: Union Minister of State for Home, G Kishan Reddy on Thursday praised Jammu and Kashmir police for helping in bringing down graph of violence in J&K.

Addressing policemen, including trainees at the Police Training School Manigam here, Reddy appreciated the role of J&K Police in collaboration with other security forces for helping in bringing down graph of violence in J&K.

He said J&K is a professional and one of the elite forces of the country who have put in extra ef-

forts in defeating the designs of anti-national elements.

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Principal Secretary Home Shaleen Kabra, Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh, DDC Ganderbal Hashmat Ali Khan, SSP Ganderbal Khalil Ahmad Poswal and other concerned accompanied the Union Minister.

Reddy assured the police personnel that their demands and grievances shall be given a sympathetic consideration.

In his address, Advisor Bhatnagar appreciated the role of Police, Army and other P06

Iltija Mufti Alleges Harassment By Special Security Group

SRINAGAR: PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti's daughter Iltija Mufti on Thursday alleged that she was being "harassed" by her security detail, SSG, and said the Home Ministry should focus its resources on matters of grave importance rather than "stalking young women like me". She also alleged that she was constantly being monitored by the SSG, IB and CID in the valley. "After being manhandled & illegally P06

Only PDP President Has Power To Expel Anyone: Mir

JAMMU: Former minister Mohammad Dilawar Mir on Thursday said nobody has the power to expel him from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) except the president and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti who is under detention in Srinagar. Mir, former General Secretary of PDP, was among eight party leaders expelled from the PDP for going "against the will of the people" by engaging in P06

Pakistan Says Trade With India Plunges Significantly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's central bank has said that trade between Islamabad and New Delhi plummeted significantly this fiscal, apparently due to the ongoing tensions with India over the Kashmir issue.

The State Bank of Pakistan data in the first half of 2019-20 fiscal starting from July 1 showed that Pakistan's exports to India during the period came in at an insignificant USD 16.8 million as compared to USD 213 million in first half of 2018-19, Dawn news reported.

But the declining trade across the border had not affected the balance of trade which was still heavily skewed in favour of India, it said.

Meanwhile, imports from India also fell to USD 286.6 million as against USD 865 million in the same period. As a result, Pakistan's trade deficit with the eastern neighbour amounted to USD 269.8 million.

India on August 5 revoked the special status to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated the state into two Union Territories, evoking strong reactions from Pakistan which has been trying to internationalise the issue.

Pakistan reacted by downgrading diplomatic ties with New Delhi and banning trade with India.

The ties have not recovered from the jolt and trade and commercial activities have P06

Sunny But Cold Morning In Kashmir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR: Kashmir witnessed a sunny but cold morning as the minimum temperature at most places in the valley dropped on Thursday, even as Gulmarg and few other areas in the higher reaches experienced fresh light snowfall overnight, weather officials said.

Few areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir, including the famous ski-resort of Gulmarg in the north, received fresh light snowfall during the night, while the weather remained dry in the plains of the valley, a Meteorological (MeT) Department official said.

He said the cloud cover receded, allowing sunlight to reach the

ground in the morning, but the valley continued to experience sub-zero minimum temperature, which dropped further from the previous night at most places.

The minimum temperature recorded in Srinagar was minus 0.5 degree Celsius slightly up from minus 0.4 degree Celsius

on Wednesday, the official said.

He said the mercury in Qazigund the gateway town to the valley in south Kashmir settled at a low of minus 0.4 degree Celsius.

The night temperature in Pahalgam tourist resort in South Kashmir witnessed a drop of seven degrees to settle P06

Banihal Highway Reopens For One-Way Traffic

One-way traffic resumed on the Jammu-Srinagar Highway on Thursday after remaining suspended for the past two days due to snowfall and multiple landslides in Ramban sector, a traffic department official said. The traffic on the highway was allowed from Srinagar to Jammu this morning after P06