



Maximum : 2°C  
Minimum : -6°C  
Humidity : 58%

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

30 Jumada al-awwal | 1441 Hijri | Vol:23 | Issue:23 | Pages:12 | Price: ₹3

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**CLIMATE CHANGE FORCES LADAKH NOMADS TO RETHINK PASHMINA WOOL PRODUCTION**  
For centuries the Changpa have tended the shaggy goats that provide silky-soft, super-expensive pashmina wool. But now many are rethinking their way of life, in part because of climate change....



**WHY SHAHEEN BAGH IS FIGHTING SAME EVIL AS US, THE KASHMIRI PANDITS**  
Thirty years ago, on this day, Kashmiri Pandits, including my family members, were driven out of the valley of Kashmir by militant Islamic separatists. Not even the great seers of our past would have been able to foresee....

**HAALAND HITS 2 MORE AS DORTMUND ROUT COLOGNE**  
Teenager Erling Braut Haaland scored twice more off the bench on Friday as Borussia Dortmund moved up to third in the Bundesliga with a 5-1 thumping of Cologne....

**News Digest**

**Geelani Gets Health Check-Up**

Srinagar: A team of doctors on Saturday conducted check-up of ailing Hurriyat Conference (G) chairman Syed Ali Geelani, who is under house arrest from several years. A team of doctors led by Dr Naveed Nazir arrived at the Hyderabad residence of Syed Ali Geelani and conducted his checkup, a local newsgathering agency KNT reported. Geelani is not keeping well from past two months. Recently, an aide

**Timber Smuggler Slapped With PSA**

Pulwama: Police have booked a timber smuggler under the controversial Public Safety Act (PSA) here in this south Kashmir district. Bashir Ahmed Kalas, who was arrested last week on charges of jungle smuggling, was slapped with PSA and shifted to Srinagar's central jail, official sources said. A resident of Abhama Pulwama, Kalas, according to sources was a

**7 OGWs Arrested In Bandipora: Police**

Srinagar: Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested seven militant associates linked to the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizbul Mujahideen outfits in Bandipora district of north Kashmir, a senior police officer said. "The seven overground workers were arrested from different parts in an overnight operation carried out jointly by the police, Army and CRPF and a large quantity of arms

**JKP Gets Max 108 Gallantry Medals**

New Delhi: The Jammu and Kashmir Police has bagged the maximum number of gallantry honours with 108 medals on the occasion of the 71st Republic Day, followed by 76 by the CRPF, according to an official communication on Saturday. The tally for the Union Territory police, thickly involved in counter-militancy operations in the Kashmir Valley, also includes three President's Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG), out of

**Republic Day: Kashmir Wrapped Under Security Blanket**

Sharp Shooters Deployed Around SK Stadium, Vital Installations

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The security apparatus on Saturday was further intensified in Srinagar and other major towns and cities of the Valley to ensure smooth conduct of January 26 celebrations amid threats of possible militant attacks.

Reports said that all roads leading to S K cricket stadium at high security Sonawar, the venue for main RD function in Kashmir valley have been closed for any civilian movement. For the first time chairmen of Block Development Councils (BDCs) will unfurl tri-colour in their respective blocks.

Besides contingents from Central Paramilitary Forces



(CPMFs), Home Guard, Fire and Emergency service and police, students from different Jammu schools will participate in the RD function tomorrow. Girl students who had come from Jammu to perform here said they are very excited. Some of the students in Kashmiri dresses said this was their

**LARGE NUMBER OF SECURITY PERSONNEL** were deployed in and outside the stadium to prevent any disturbance. Government forces have also set up bunkers on the road and only those having valid passes are allowed to enter the area.

**US Envoy Urges India To Release Detained Kashmiri Leaders**

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: Top US envoy Alice Wells, who recently visited New Delhi, said her visit offered an opportunity to hear more on developments the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) as she urged the Centre for "immediate release of political leaders detained without charge in Kashmir" post the abrogation of Article 370.

"The visit offered an opportunity to hear more regarding developments with India's Citizenship Amendment Act, which is undergoing, I would say, a vigorous democratic scrutiny, whether it's in streets, by the political opposition, media, or the courts. We continue to underscore the importance of the principle of equal protection under the law," Alice Wells, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, said.

"On Jammu and Kashmir, I was pleased to see some incremental steps, including the partial return of internet service in Kashmir. We also continue to urge the government to

**Jaish's Qari Yasir, 2 Associates Killed In Tral Gunfight**

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have killed three Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM) militants, including the outfit's chief Qari Yasir in a gun-battle in Haripari village of Tral in South Kashmir.

"We have neutralised three militants in the Tral encounter and one of them is Qari Yasir who was a self-styled Kashmir chief of JeM. He was also involved in Lethpora blast. He was an IED expert and was involved

in recruitment as well relocation of militants coming in from Pakistan," Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said while addressing a joint presser with General officer commanding of the Srinagar-based Chinar Corps, Lt Gen KJS Dhillon here this evening.

IGP Kumar said the militant group was planning to carry out a major incident on the Republic Day, which has now been averted.

Three army personnel were injured in the initial

**CASO Carried Out In Chadoora**

Government forces on Saturday morning launched Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) in a village in central Kashmir district of Budgam, official sources said.

They said troops of Rashtriya Rifles (RR), Special Operation Group (SOG) of Jammu and Kashmir police and CRPF launched a joint search operation in a village at Chadoora in Budgam following specific information about the presence of militants. All exit points were sealed

**Jailed Omar's Photo Out**

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's latest photograph wearing a woollen cap and sporting a long white beard surfaced on social media on Saturday, and went viral.

Omar is seen smiling with snow in the backdrop. The photo has a retro touch to it. According to sources the photograph is genuine.

The National Conference leader, who has been on detention since August 5, when Article 370 was abrogated in the state, appears to have not shaved since.

In October, a different photo of Omar had surfaced, in which he was sporting a smaller beard.

Three former chief ministers have been in detention in the valley since August 5. Omar's father Farooq Abdullah has



been kept at his Gupta Road residence in Srinagar.

Earlier there were reports that Omar, who has been kept in Hari Niwas, would be moved to a home on Gupta Road, but that has not happened.

Mehbooba Mufti, too, has been kept in a government building on M.A. Road.

**And Muzaffar Beig Is Awarded Padma Bhushan**

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Government of India has awarded Muzaffar Hussain Beig, leader of PDP with Padma Bhushan, India's third highest civilian award.

The 2020 Padma awards list has seven Padma Vibhushans, 16 Padma Bhushans and 118 Padma Shris. The government on Saturday announced the names of this year's recipients of the Padma awards. Former Union Ministers Arun Jaitley, Sushma Swaraj and George Fernandes-all of



**2G Mobile Internet Restored After 5 Months, Snapped Back For Jan 26**

AUQIB JAVEED

SRINAGAR: Authorities on Saturday snapped low speed internet service across the Valley, barely hours after the service was restored nearly after over five month suspension in wake of the Centre's decision to revoke Article 370 and Article 35-A, and bifurcating Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories.

Official sources told Kashmir Observer that the order to suspend 2G internet service on cell phones was issued by the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Vijay Kumar in wake of January 26 celebrations across the Valley. The order stated that the low speed internet will remain suspended for 24 hours beginning 6:00 pm today.

Besides internet, the official sources said that voice calls and text messages too may be barred for a day due to security reasons.



Earlier in the day, low-speed mobile internet was restored in Kashmir after being suspended nearly six months, but the service provided access to only 301 websites approved by the administration, officials said.

"Mobile internet has been restored across the Valley. Only 2G services have been restored

and only white-listed websites, excluding social media sites, can be accessed," an official said.

It is the latest step towards easing the restrictions in Jammu and Kashmir following the Supreme Court's January 10 ruling asking its administration to review within a week all orders imposing curbs in the

**Article 370 Revocation Integrated J&K With Country : LG Murmu**

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu on Saturday said that the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A have removed artificial legal and economic barriers between Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the country and have fully integrated the erstwhile state in the true sense of the term

In his Republic Day message to the people, Murmu said that last year has been a year of momentous change for the people of Jammu & Kashmir. He said that the legal architecture and system prevailing in the rest of the country has been made applicable to Jammu and Kashmir.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir

**WD Brings More Snow, Rain In Kashmir**

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Kashmir witnessed fresh snowfall of the season on Saturday after a Western Disturbance (WD) hit the region, even as there was some respite from cold conditions in the Valley as the night temperature rose owing to cloudy sky. The summer capital, Srinagar witnessed a surge of three degrees in minimum temperature. It was minus 3 degree, 2.3 notches below normal, a Met department spokesman. Yesterday the minimum temperature in the city was minus 6 degree. Sun was playing hide and seek in the morning before finally going behind the clouds in Srinagar.

Later in the evening, Srinagar and other parts of the Valley received fresh snowfall. The Met department spokesman

**71<sup>st</sup> REPUBLIC DAY**

FELICITATIONS TO THE PEOPLE OF JAMMU & KASHMIR



Let us work together for empowering the people of J&K

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR