



Maximum : 5°C
Minum : -6°C
Humidity : 66%

SUNSET
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..... LIFE & TIMES/ 08

AUTHENTIC BEHAVIOUR AT WORK MAY LEAD TO GREATER PRODUCTIVITY: STUDY
Matching behaviour with feeling is more productive than faking emotions at work, according To a study which suggests being one's true self may lead to higher levels of support and trust from co-workers.....



SHAHEEN BAGH NOW SUICIDE BOMBERS' BREEDING GROUND: MINISTER GIRIRAJ SINGH
Shaheen Bagh has become a breeding ground for suicide bombers plotting against the country from the capital city, Union Minister Giriraj Singh said today, contributing one more to a series of hate-filled comments that have vitiated the Delhi election.....

11/SPORTS.....

ARCHER OUT OF SL TOUR AND IPL AFTER INJURY
England fast bowler Jofra Archer has been ruled out of their upcoming test tour of Sri Lanka and the 2020 Indian Premier League season due to an elbow injury, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said on Thursday. The 24-year-old was injured in England's first test against South Africa last month.....



News Digest

Gazanfar Ali Takes Charge As SMC Commissioner

Srinagar: Gazanfar Ali on Thursday assumed the charge of Commissioner SMC from the outgoing Commissioner Khursheed Ahmad Sanai. Later, the new commissioner convened a brief introductory meeting with the senior officers of SMC urging them to work with dedication to ensure that all civic amenities are provided to the residents of the Srinagar City in most efficient and professional manner, an official spokesperson said.

Ban Imposed On Mining In Lethpora

Pulwama: The administration in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district has ordered a permanent ban on mining of all sorts over "Kahcharai" land at Lethpora with immediate effect. Deputy Commissioner Raghav Langer said on Thursday that mining in the area not only causes loss of mineral deposits, but also destroys the natural beauty of the area. He stressed for adopting zero tolerance against illegal mining and asked the concerned to act tough against the violators. He added that the move comes following numerous complaints by locals that widespread illegal mining is being under taken by various unscrupulous elements in the area which causes nuisance to the local residents. He also said that specific task forces have been constituted to stop illegal mining in the area.

JKLF Calls For Shutdown On February 9, 11

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) on Thursday called for shutdowns in Kashmir on February 9 and 11 to mark the death anniversaries of Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru and its founder Mohammad Maqbool Bhat. This is the first strike call given by a separatist organisation since the abrogation of Article 370 provisions in August last year. The Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) was banned by the government in March 2019. Acting chairman of JKLF Abdul Hamid Butt in an email statement said several programmes will be held to mark their deaths, PTI reported. Guru was hanged inside Delhi's Tihar Jail on 9 February 2013, while Bhat was executed there on 11 February 1984.

Srinagar Youth Slapped With PSA

Srinagar: A youth from Old City was booked by police under the controversial Public Safety Act (PSA) and shifted to Central Jail here. Muhammad Umar Khan of Habba Kadal locality was slapped with PSA and sent to Srinagar's Central Jail, quoting sources, a local newsgathering agency KNT reported today. Khan, the report said, was arrested by police over his alleged hand in unlawful activities.

Omar, Mehbooba Slapped With PSA

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, both former Chief Ministers of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state on Thursday were slapped under the controversial Public Safety Act (PSA).

Ministry of Home Affairs slapped PSA on two former chief ministers of the erstwhile state; New Delhi based India Today reported on Thursday.

National Conference (NC) Patron Farooq Abdullah, his son Omar and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti were detained on August 5 last year, hours before the Centre revoked the special status of J&K and bifurcated it into two Union Territories, carving out Ladakh as a separate UT.

Ironically, PSA was introduced by former Chief Minister and National Conference founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah in 1978 to curb timber smuggling in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. The PSA allows authorities to detain a person without trial for up to two years. Amnesty International has termed it a "lawless law".



Sagar, Madani Too Booked Under PSA

The Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory administration on Thursday slapped controversial Public Safety Act (PSA) against the National Conference General Secretary, Ali Muhammad Sagar and senior PDP leader Sartaj Madani, hours after shifting them from fortified MLA hostel here. Earlier, the officials had said that three politicians had been booked under the PSA, but later clarified that only two were handed over the PSA warrant. National Conference general secretary and former minister Ali Mohammed Sagar, who wields a support base

On September 17, Farooq Abdullah became the first Chief Minister of the erstwhile state to be booked under the PSA. Abdullah, 81, was charged with disturbing public order. Quoting sources, another report by India Today said that the government will also

extend the detention of former IAS officer Shah Faesal. Omar Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti and Shah Faesal were in preventive custody under Section 107 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). "Most political leaders were released after

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FAROOQ ABDULLAH BECAME THE FIRST EX-CHIEF MINISTER of the erstwhile state to be booked under the PSA In September last year. Abdullah, 81, was charged with disturbing public order.

Saudi Reluctant To Accept Pak Plea For OIC Meet On Kashmir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's bid to call an immediate meeting on Kashmir by Saudi-led Organisation of Islamic Cooperation seems to have failed after Riyadh showing reluctance to the move, according to a Pakistani media report on Thursday.

In December, there were plans to convene a meeting of the foreign ministers of the OIC on Kashmir by Saudi Arabia, in

an apparent move by the kingdom to please Pakistan which skipped a recent summit of Muslim nations in Malaysia seen by Riyadh as an attempt to create a new bloc to replace the 57-member grouping led by it.

Prime Minister Imran Khan had confirmed Pakistan's participation in the summit hosted by Malaysia, but skipped the event at the eleventh hour due to pressure exerted by Saudi Arabia and the

India Slams Kashmir Reference In Pak, Malaysia Joint Statement

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday reacted sharply to the reference to Jammu and Kashmir in a Pakistan-Malaysia joint statement, saying the Malaysian leadership should develop a better understanding of facts and acknowledge that Pakistan remains an epicentre of "global terrorism".

Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said India completely rejects

the references made with respect to Jammu and Kashmir, which is an "integral and inalienable part of India".

"We once again call upon the Malaysian leadership to develop better understanding of the facts, including that Pakistan remains an epicentre of global terrorism, which continues to recruit, train, arm and finance cross-border terrorism against India," he said. A joint statement issued by Malaysia

Elevated Light Rail System To Be Set Up In Jammu, Srinagar

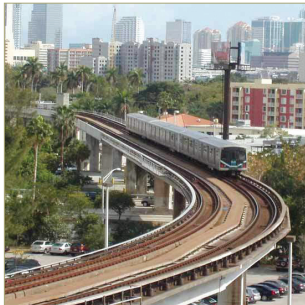
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday approved a proposal to set up the Elevated Light Rail System (ELRS) in the twin capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar.

The approval to the Rs 10,559 crore project was granted by the Administrative Council, which met under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor G C Murmu here, an

official spokesman said. He said an efficient urban transport system including Mass Rapid Transportation System (MRTS) is essential for inclusive and environmentally sustainable growth process.

"Keeping this objective in view, the Elevated Light Rail Systems have been conceived for Srinagar and Jammu cities to provide best-in-class mobility in terms of safe, reliable, convenient, cost effective and sustain-



able public transport system," the spokesman

J&K To Ban Private Practice Of Doctors AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government is mulling banning private practice of government doctors in the Union Territory to improve the functioning of its hospitals.

A letter sent by the Lt. Governor's office to the Principals' of Government medical colleges in this regard has requested them to give their comments and views in the matter. Jammu and Kashmir is among the few places in the country where private practice

J&K Enjoying Life Post Art- 370: PM Modi



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI: Maintaining that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has considerably improved after scrapping of Article 370, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday rubbished opposition members' contention that the decision was taken in haste without a discussion.

Speaking in support of the Presidents' speech during the Motion of Thanks in Rajya Sabha, the PM said that the decisions on Jammu and Kashmir had been taken only after extensive discussions in Parliament. He also refuted the opposition members' contention that the decision on Article 370 had been rushed through without a discussion.

"Immediately after Article 370 was revoked, the underprivileged people in the new Union Territory could avail the benefits of reservation," he said. During his speech, Modi

reminded the members of the way in which Telangana formation Bill was hurriedly pushed through in Parliament during the UPA regime in 2014. "Nobody can forget when Telangana was formed, the country has seen how doors were closed and TV cameras were shut" he said.

Replying to a debate on Motion of Thanks to the President's Address in Lok Sabha, PM Modi slammed the statements of three detained chief ministers of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir who had said that abrogation of provisions of Article 370 will separate Kashmir from India. "Who made Kashmir only about land grabbing? Who made Kashmir's identity only about bombs and guns? Can anyone forget that dark night of January? In reality, Kashmiri identity is closely linked with harmony," Modi said. He said Kashmir's identity was buried on January 19, 1990

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Move Beyond Rhetoric: PDP Tells PM

Asserting that all sections of society in Jammu & Kashmir were today feeling betrayed, the People's Democratic Party on Thursday said that the Centre must move beyond rhetoric and allow democratic and political process to resume in the new Union Territory. "The affirmation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that Jammu & Kashmir is crown jewel of India and the people here have strong faith in Bharatiya Janata Party is contrary to the situation on ground and the figures provided by the government itself present a depressing picture," former legislator and party spokesperson Firdous Tak said. "As per official figures 444 people have been detained under draconian Public Safety Act, across

Delhi Court Dismisses Engineer Rashid's Bail Plea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Delhi court Thursday dismissed the bail application of former independent MLA in Jammu and Kashmir, Sheikh Abdul Rashid, arrested in a case related to militant-funding activities in the Valley.

Popularly known as Rashid Engineer, he was a legislator from the Langate Assembly seat in north Kashmir and is the first mainstream politician to have been arrested by the NIA in the case.

Special Judge Praveen Kumar rejected the application saying the prosecution has successfully established that "there exists reasonable grounds to believe



the accusations against the accused are prima facie true".

Rashid was arrested on August 9 last year, since he was unable to give any convincing answers to the questions, the NIA had said.

Body Of Jaish Militant Found After 17 Days

Srinagar: The body of a Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) militant Rayees Dar was recovered two weeks after an encounter in which two soldiers were killed in south Kashmir. Special Police Officer (SPO) Shehbaz Ahmad of Jammu & Kashmir Police and an Army soldier were killed in the encounter with Jaish militants at Awantipora on January 21.

Though it was reported that two Jaish militants had also been killed, their bodies were not immediately recovered. While foreign militant Saifullah's body was later retrieved, police found only an Ak47 and two magazines,

Cop Injured In Lal Bazar 'Grenade Attack'

SRINAGAR: Militants on Thursday hurled a grenade in the direction of a police station in the city injuring a policeman, officials told PTI. The militants lobbed the grenade towards the Lal Bazaar Police Station here which landed near a garbage dump, the officials said, adding that one cop sustained minor injuries in the blast.

However, police is maintaining that it was a "mysterious explosion" near the garbage dump which is being investigated. Two militants and a CRPF trooper were killed in a shootout at Shalteng on the outskirts of the

Kashmiri Politicians In Dilemma After Release From Detention

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Even after the release of more detained mainstream politicians in Srinagar, hopes of the regional political parties restarting political activities still remains a far cry in Kashmir.

Sajjad Lone of the Peoples Conference (PC) and Waheed Para of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) were released on Wednesday and placed under house arrest in Srinagar. Three former chief ministers,



Kashmir Continues To Reel Under Sub-Zero Temperatures

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR: Kashmir continued to reel under sub-zero temperatures on Thursday, with Gulmarg recording a low of minus 9.0 degrees Celsius, a MeT department official said.

Mercury in Pahalgam, the south Kashmir resort that serves as the base camp for annual Amaranth Yatra, dropped to minus 7.4 degrees Celsius from 9.3 degrees Celsius a night earlier, the official said.

Srinagar city also recorded

sub-zero temperature last night as the mercury settled at minus 3.2 degrees against minus 3.9 degrees Celsius the previous night, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 4.5 degrees Celsius, followed by Kupwara (minus 4.2 degrees Celsius) had Kokernag (minus 2.8 degrees Celsius), he added.

Chillai Kalan, the 40-day harshest period of winter in Kashmir, ended on January 30 but the cold wave conditions are expected to persist for next few days.