



Maximum : 5°C
Minumum : -3°C
Humidity : 56%

SUNSET Today 06:05 PM
SUNRISE Tomorrow 07:23 AM

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..... LIFE & TIMES/ 08
HOW DOES CORONAVIRUS SPREAD AND HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOURSELF?
More than 31,000 people worldwide have been infected by the new coronavirus, which continues to spread to more countries since it was first detected in the Chinese city of Wuhan in early December.....



NETANYAHU PLANS SAUDI VISIT BEFORE MARCH 2 POLL: REPORT
Israeli authorities are reportedly working hard to arrange a meeting between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in the kingdom, as the Tel Aviv regime is bringing out.....

TI/SPORTS.....

BARCA IN TURMOIL TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR MESSI'S LOST TIME
Lionel Messi admitted in December he could soon retire but Barcelona's frenzied attempts to make the most of his final years appear to be having the opposite effect. As Athletic Bilbao's players celebrated Inaki Williams' 94th-minute winner.....

News Digest

2G Mobile Data Service Extended Till Feb 15

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday announced the extension of the 2G mobile data service in the union territory till February 15. The order to this effect was issued by Principal Secretary, Home Department, Shaleen Kabra, here in the evening. It also increased the whitelisted sites available for mobile data users in the union territory to 481. The order said Kabra reviewed the restrictions. **PI0**

Bank Guard Killed In Accidental Firing

Srinagar: A bank security guard was killed after his colleague accidentally shot at him in Jammu and Kashmir's Shopian district on Friday, police said. Majid Manzoor, a security guard at a bank in Kapran, sustained severe injuries after his colleague's rifle accidentally went off, a police official said. The security guard was rushed to SKIMS hospital where he succumbed to injuries, he said.

Punjab Trucker Dies On Srinagar-Jammu highway

Srinagar: A truck driver from Punjab was killed in a road accident on Srinagar-Jammu highway on Thursday evening, official sources said here on Friday morning. They said a driver, identified as Prjitam Singh, a resident of Punjab, was critically wounded when his truck collided with another truck at Qazigund on the highway. Singh was immediately rushed to hospital where he was declared brought dead. Police has registered a case and initiated proceedings, they said.

Bhatnagar Chairs Security Review Meet At Baramulla

Srinagar: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor Jammu & Kashmir, Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar on Friday held a joint security review meeting at Baramulla during which he took a detailed overview of security situation of the district. The meeting was attended by Deputy Inspector General (DIG) north Kashmir Sulaiman Choudhry, DIG CRPF Aneesh Sirohi, SSP Baramulla Abdul Qayoom, SSP Sopore Javid Iqbal and other police and CRPF officials. In his briefing, DIG north Kashmir gave a detailed overview about the security scenario of **PI0**

3 Injured In Gas Cylinder Blast

Srinagar: At least three people, including a couple were injured in a gas cylinder explosion in Old City of Srinagar on Friday. The accident occurred this morning when a gas cylinder exploded in the house of Khazir Ahmad Sofi in Gassi Mohalla locality of Safa Kadal, official sources said. In the blast, Sofi, his wife Saleema and a guest identified as Bashir Ahmad were injured. All the injured were removed to the nearby hospital for treatment. While Sofi was discharged, his wife and Ahmad are still **PI0**

Top US Diplomat Briefs Lawmakers On Kashmir



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON: A top American diplomat on Thursday held a classified briefing for the members of the House of Representatives on Kashmir, a US lawmaker said.

"Excellent classified briefing on" India, Kashmir and Afghanistan from Acting Assistant Secretary of South and Central Alice Wells Thursday morning, Congressman Brad Sherman said in a tweet. No other details of the classified briefings were immediately available. The briefing was done at the

request of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Wells had recently returned from a trip to Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan.

The classified briefing by Wells comes in the wake of a pending non-binding resolution in the House of Representatives by Indian American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal.

The resolution, which now has support of 55 lawmakers, urges India to end communications curbs and mass detentions in Jammu and Kashmir as swiftly as possible and preserve religious freedom for all residents.

EXCELLENT CLASSIFIED BRIEFING on" India, Kashmir and Afghanistan from Acting Assistant Secretary of South and Central Alice Wells Thursday morning, Congressman Brad Sherman said in a tweet.

'On What Basis': Oppn Hits Out Against Detention Of Mufti, Omar Under PSA
Priyanka Demands Release Of Omar, Mehbooba; Chidambaram 'Devastated'

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The opposition parties on Friday lashed out at the government for slapping controversial Public Safety Act (PSA) against the two incarcerated former Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti.

Coming down heavily on the Centre, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra today questioned the basis on which Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti were booked under the PSA.

Taking to Twitter, Priyanka said the two Jammu and Kashmir leaders have upheld the Constitution and abided by the democratic process and never ascribed to violence and divisiveness.

"On what basis has PSA been slapped on Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti? They upheld the Constitution of India, abided by the democratic process, stood up to separatists, and never ascribed to violence and divisiveness.

"They deserve to be freed, not incarcerated indefinitely without any basis," she said on Twitter.

Senior Congress leader and former Home Minister P Chidambaram slammed the government for invoking the PSA



against former Jammu and Kashmir chief ministers.

In a series of tweets, Chidambaram said, "Shocked and devastated by the cruel invocation of the Public Safety Act against Omar Abdullah, Mehbooba Mufti and others".

"Detention without charges is the worst abomination in a democracy. When unjust laws are passed or unjust laws are invoked, what option do the people have than to protest peacefully?" the former home minister tweeted.

Leader of Opposition Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury also **PI0**



Will Go To Speaker Over PM's Controversial Quote: NC

The National Conference said on Friday that the party will request Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to ask Prime Minister Narendra Modi to clarify a quote that he attributed to their leader Omar Abdullah in parliament on Thursday. On Thursday, PM Modi had accused Omar Abdullah of saying that the move of abrogating special status of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir would "bring an earthquake that would separate it from India".

However, NC rejected PM's claim saying that it was indeed alarming that the PM was quoting a satirical website to attack Omar in the Parliament. "On one hand the home minister has been maintaining that he never referred to the former incarcerated CMS **PI0**

Hc Dismisses Plea Challenging Mian Qayoom's Detention

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Friday dismissed a petition challenging the detention under the Public Safety Act (PSA) of Kashmir Bar Association president Mian Abdul Qayoom and held that preventive detention was not a punitive measure.

Justice Tashi Rabstan, while dismissing the petition, said it was sans merit.

"A law of preventive detention is not invalid because it



prescribed no objective standard for ordering preventive detention and leaves the matter to subjective satisfaction of the executive," the court observed. It held that the **PI0**

After 'Threat To Life' Plea DSP Davinder Sent To Kathua Jail

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Suspended Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Davinder Singh who was sent to 15-day judicial custody, will be put up in a Kathua jail instead of a Jammu one, after he raised "threat to life" alarms.

According to sources Singh pleaded for sending him to the Heeranagar jail and told that there is a threat to his life in the Kotbalwal Jail which housed militants who were arrested in operations led by him. A Special NIA court in Jammu on Thursday



sent Singh and four others to judicial custody. **PI0**

Abolition Of J&K Civil Services Cadre Arbitrary: Bukhari

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR: Terming the decision of abolition of Jammu and Kashmir cadre of civil services as unwarranted and arbitrary, former finance minister Syed Altaf Bukhari on Friday demanded that the decision be rolled back.

Bukhari also expressed strong reservations on doing away with the five year age relaxation granted to Jammu and Kashmir youth in the civil services examinations. The decision of abolition of J&K cadre and doing **PI0**

60 Police Officers Reshuffled In J-K
Basant Rath Is IGP Home Guards, Dass IGP Police Hqs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: In a major reshuffle after the reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir last year, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday ordered postings and transfers of 60 police officers including chiefs of various districts across the union territory.

Among the 14 IPS officers, Garib Dass, who was awaiting orders of posting, was posted as Inspector General of Police (IGP), police headquarters,

against an available vacancy, an order issued by the Home Department said. Dass is a 1997-batch IPS officer.

Basant Kumar Rath, a 2000-batch IPS officer, awaiting orders of posting, was posted as IGP Home Guard, Civil Defence and State Disaster Response Force, against an available vacancy.

The order said Amit Kumar, a 2006-batch IPS officer, awaiting orders of posting, was posted as DIG (Armed) **PI0**

Fresh Snow Spell From Next Week: MeT

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The weather department on Friday predicted fresh spell of snowfall across the Kashmir Valley from next week due to the influence of an approaching Western Disturbance (WD).

A Met department spokesperson said today that a fresh Western Disturbance (WD), which originated from the Arabian Sea, is approaching the region though

Afghanistan and Pakistan and will hit J&K on February 11.

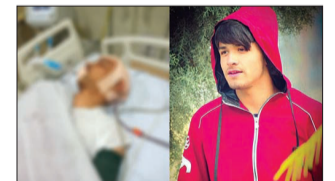
"Under the influence of this WD, light to moderate snow could occur at some places in J&K on February 11 and February 12," the spokesperson said. For the next two days, the MeT official said the weather is expected to remain dry across the valley, which could result in further improvement in the maximum temperature though mercury during the night **PI0**

Kashmiri Boy Beaten To Death By Co-Workers In Jaipur, One Arrested

AUQIB JAVEED

SRINAGAR: A teenager from north Kashmir's Kupwara district was beaten to death in Rajasthan's Jaipur City sparking off protests in his native village on Friday.

17-year-old Ghulam Mohiuddin Khan alias Basit Khan, who was working with a catering firm in Jaipur, was beaten up by co-workers on the night of February 5. Khan succumbed to his injuries



on Friday, his close friend Sahil Rafiq told Kashmir Observer.

Khan, a resident of Kunan Poshpura in Kupwara was working as a caterer with an event management company **PI0**

HC Dismisses PIL Seeking Stay On Release Of 'Shikara'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Friday dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking a stay on the release of 'Shikara', a movie on the migration of Kashmiri Pandits from the Valley in 1990.

A division bench of the high court comprising Justices A M Magray and D S Thakur dismissed the PIL following assurances by the counsels for the Centre and the **PI0**

'Sent Letters Inside Chapatti': Iltija Mufti On Exchanging Notes With Mother

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Iltija Mufti, daughter of former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, has revealed how she and her mother exchanged letters post abrogation of Article 370 with restrictions placed on them.

She has also launched a scathing attack on the government for slapping stringent provisions of the Public Safety Act (PSA) on her mother and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah.

Iltija in a long tweet has written about the difficulties her



family has had to face after Mehbooba was detained following the abrogation of Article 370.

She also mentioned how she would exchange letters with her mother concealed in the tiffin

box and 'chapatti'.

"On a personal level, words escape me to describe the past six months since reading down of Article 370 followed by my mother's detention. In particular, I'll never forget the week that she was arrested and jailed. I spent the next few days riddled with anxiety until I received a crumpled and tersely worded note, the first of many furtively exchanged letters. I found it in a tiffin box that contained home cooked food sent for her," Iltija wrote.

"They have taken an undertaking that I won't be using **PI0**

LG Chairs Review Meet On Dal Conservation



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu on Friday called for several measures aimed at conservation and beautification of Dal Lake with

active involvement of local community and stakeholders. Chairing a high level meeting here today, LG reviewed the proposals for construction of western foreshore road, strengthening of equipment and machinery. **PI0**