



Maximum : 9°C  
Minimum : -2°C  
Humidity : 64%

SUNSET  
Today 06:12 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 07:17 AM



**WEEKLY NATURE VISITS MAY BOOST PHYSICAL, MENTAL HEALTH: STUDY**  
People who make weekly visits to natural spaces, and feel connected to them, report better physical and mental wellbeing, according to a study....



**DR. KAFAEL KHAN BOOKED UNDER NSA FOR REMARKS AGAINST CAA**  
The stringent National Security Act (NSA) has been slapped on Dr Kafeel Khan, who is lodged in Mathura jail, in connection with his anti-CAA speech at the Aligarh Muslim University....

**CRISTIANO RONALDO PENALTY SNATCHES JUVENTUS FIRST-LEG DRAW AT MILAN**  
Cristiano Ronaldo's injury-time penalty grabbed Juventus a 1-1 draw at AC Milan in their Italian Cup semi-final, first leg as his incredible scoring run continued. The 35-year-old has now scored 12....

**News Digest**

**4 Gamblers Arrested In City**

Srinagar: Police on Friday claimed to have arrested four gamblers in a raid in Saderbal area of the city. A police spokesperson said that on a credible input, a team from police station Nigeen raided Saderbal locality of the city and arrested four gamblers. Rs 9,050 and playing cards were seized from the spot. Police identified the alleged burglars as Farooq Ahmad Zargar, Tariq Ahmad Sofi and Shabir Ahmad Mir, all residents of Saderbal and Mohammad Yousuf Khar of Ashai Bagh. Police said a Case FIR No. 10/2020 has been registered and further investigations started in this regard.

**Militant Hideout Busted In Shopian**

Srinagar: Government forces unearthed a militant hideout and recovered some arms and ammunition in south Kashmir district of Shopian, official sources said on Friday. On a tip off, government forces and police conducted search operation at Keller Shopian, the sources said. After a long search security forces busted a militant hideout, they said, adding some arms and ammunition have also been recovered. However, no one was arrested.

**Ex-Militant Booked Under PSA**

Srinagar: A former militant from south Kashmir's Bijbehara Town on Friday was booked under the controversial Public Safety Act (PSA) and shifted to Srinagar's Central Jail. Ghulam Muhammad Tantray, who was arrested last month on charges of militancy, was today slapped with PSA and sent to Central Jail, local newsgathering agency KNT reported. The report added that another youth identified as Manzoor Maqbool Mir of Dardsun Kupwara, who was lodged at Central Jail, was released today.

**Grenade Lobbed At Sarpanch's House In Bandipora**

Srinagar: Suspected militants on Friday lobbed a grenade at a Sarpanch's house in Bandipora district of north Kashmir. However, the grenade didn't explode. The grenade was hurled at the residence of a lady Sarpanch identified as Rubeeha Akhter in Tregam village of Shadipora around 9 pm today, local newsgathering agency KNO reported. However, the grenade did not explode. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Bandipora, Rahul Malik confirmed to KNO that a grenade was found but it didn't explode. "We are verifying whether the grenade is in exploding mode or is rusted. The facts are being ascertained," he said.

**SC Issues Notice To J&K Admin Over Omar's Detention**

Petition Listed For Next Hearing On March 2



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday sought response from the Jammu and Kashmir administration on a plea filed by Sara Abdullah Pilot challenging the detention of her brother and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah under the Public Safety Act.**

A bench of justices Arun Mishra and Indira Banerjee issued notice to the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir on Sara's plea and posted the matter for further hearing on March 2. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Sara, told the apex court that it is a habeas corpus petition and Omar has been kept in detention since August 4 last year.

Habeas corpus is a writ seeking production of person, who has allegedly been in illegal detention, before a court.

"He was in detention under section 107 of the CrPc. Now, he has been detained under the PSA," Sibal said.

To this, the bench asked him, "What are the grounds of detention? Let us see."

Sibal referred to the dossier handed over to Omar by the Superintendent of Police and said the grounds of detention are already mentioned there.

He said the dossier claimed that Omar has been detained under the PSA to avoid statements by the political leader, prevent violence and maintenance of law and order. "Has any petition been filed in the Jammu and Kashmir" **PAGE 10**

**Visiting EU Envoy Calls For End To Kashmir Curbs**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** The European Union on Friday sought swift lifting of existing restrictions in Jammu and Kashmir but at the same time noted the "positive steps" initiated by the union government to restore normalcy in the region.

The comments by the European Union came a day after a group of 25 foreign envoys concluded a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir to have a first-hand account of the situation over six months after the Centre announced withdrawing its special status.

"The visit confirmed that the government of India has taken positive steps to restore normalcy. Some restrictions remain, notably on internet access and mobile services, and some political leaders are still in detention," said Virginie Battu-Henriksson, EU Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

"While we recognise the serious security concerns, it is important that the remaining restrictions be lifted swiftly," the official said.

Battu-Henriksson said the visit presented a "welcome opportunity" to see the situation on the ground and to interact with local interlocutors in Jammu and Kashmir. "We look forward to continuing the dialogue with India on the situation in the region," the official added.

The visit was organised by the government to help the **PAGE 10**

**Erdogan Likens Kashmir Situation To Battle Of Gallipoli**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**ISLAMABAD:** Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday once again raised Kashmir issue, vowing that Ankara will support Pakistan's stand as it is a matter of concern to both the countries.

Addressing a joint session of Pakistan's Parliament, Erdogan, who arrived here on a two-day visit, announced that Turkey will back Pakistan in its efforts to come out of the Grey List of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) which is meeting this week in Paris.

"I also want to emphasize that we will give support to Pakistan which is subject to political pressure in the Financial Action Task Force meetings," he said on the upcoming meeting of the anti-terror financing watchdog.

Voicing his country's support to Pakistan's stand on the Kashmir issue, he said it can be resolved not through conflict or oppression but on the basis of justice and fairness.

"Our Kashmiri brothers and sisters have suffered from inconveniences for decades and these sufferings have become graver due to unilateral steps taken in recent times,"



the president said. The Turkish President, in his address, likened the "struggle" of the Kashmiris with that of his country in the World War I against foreign domination.

Drawing comparison with the battle of Gallipoli which was fought in Turkey between the Allied Powers and the Ottoman Empire in which over two lakh troops were killed on the both sides, Erdogan said "there is no difference between Gallipoli and Kashmir".

"Turkey will continue to raise its voice against the oppression," he told Pakistani lawmakers in his **PAGE 10**

**India, Pak Troops Exchange Fire At LoC; Civilian Killed**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**JAMMU:** A civilian was killed and four others were injured on Friday when India and Pakistani troops exchanged heavy gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district.

Pakistan Army troops launched mortar shells and fired from small arms on villages and forward posts in Shahpur and Kerni areas of the district in violation of a ceasefire agreement, officials said.



Pakistan troops used 120-mm mortars to target the villages, they said. In the firing and shelling, one civilian **PAGE 10**

**Lt Gen Raju To Be New Chief Of 15 Corps**

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** Lt Gen B.S. Raju will take over command of the Indian Army's Srinagar-headquartered 15 Corps, relieving Lt. Gen. K.J.S. Dhillion. "Lt Gen B.S. Raju will take over as GoC (General Officer Commanding) 15 Corps," a source said. Gen Raju, who is presently posted in the Army HQs in New Delhi, has served as the GoC of Indian Army's anti-insurgency Rashtriya Rifles' Victor Force, whose area of operations is south Kashmir, and has led many anti-militancy operations in the area.

**42-Day Amarnath Yatra To Begin On June 23**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**JAMMU:** The 42-day-long annual pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine of Amarnath in South Kashmir Himalayas will commence on June 23, the shrine board said on Friday.

This year's pilgrimage will be longer by two days against last year's 40 days. The pilgrimage had a duration of 60 days in 2018.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration on August 2 last year had issued a security advisory asking Amarnath pilgrims and tourists to leave Kashmir as soon as possible, citing threat in the Valley.



The advisory was issued just before the Centre announced the nullification of Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into Union Territories on August 5. "The board decided **PAGE 10**

**Ex-Militant Held For Former Commander's Murder**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**SRINAGAR:** Police on Friday arrested a former militant for allegedly killing an ex-Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen chief inside a mosque in the Maisuma area here, officials said.

Ghulam Mohiuddin Dar, a resident of Dalgate, was arrested from the Karan Nagar area of the city, they said. Abdul Gani Dar alias Abdullah Gazali, a former chief of militant outfit Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen (TuM), was found dead inside the Jamiat-e-Ahli Hadith mosque at Maisuma on Thursday.

The officials said the investigators zeroed in on Mohiuddin based on CCTV footage and information gathered around the crime scene.

Mohiuddin, a former militant, allegedly killed Gazali inside the mosque, they said.

Jamiat-e-Ahli Hadith chief Maulana Showkat Shah **PAGE 10**

**Pleasant Weather In Kashmir, Dry Spell To Continue**

AGENCIES

**SRINAGAR:** Sun greeted people on Friday in Kashmir valley, where mercury continued to surge during the past over a week, while deficit rainfall was recorded due to dry spell.

However, people at the world-famous ski resort of Gulmarg and famed health resort of Pahalgam witnessed sub-zero degree temperature during the night.

The border town of Kargil on Srinagar-Leh national highway, which was closed for the past

more than two months due to accumulation of snow, was coldest at minus 15.4 degree Celsius, followed by Leh at minus 8.3 degrees.

However, mercury was below minus 25 to 35 degrees at the Line of Control (LoC) in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The dry spell will continue in the next week also, in the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, a Met department spokesperson said here.

He said after recording the highest snowfall in the past three decades, the week from Janu-

ary 30 to February 5 witnessed deficit rainfall in the valley. Water level in rivers remained below normal, as snow on higher reaches was frozen and there was deficit rainfall, so far.

However, experts said this will have no impact on irrigation and drinking water supply during summers, as enough snow has accumulated on mountains.

It was yet another sunny day in Kashmir, including this summer capital, where people were still wearing woollen and warm clothes, because of chilly **PAGE 10**

**24 Militants Killed Since Jan: DGP Tells Minister**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** Militancy-related violence in Jammu and Kashmir has come down by 60 per cent in less than one and a half months in the beginning of 2020, in comparison to the same period last year, officials said on Friday. The information was conveyed by Director General of Police (DGP), Jammu and Kashmir, **PAGE 10**

**.....GLOBAL INVESTORS SUMMIT-2020**

**J&K Admin To Kick-Start Promotion Campaign From Feb 17**

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory administration will next week kick start promotion campaign for the upcoming Global Investors Summit-2020 to be held in the capital cities of Srinagar and Jammu.

According to an official spokesperson, as part of prevent activity, road shows have been scheduled from 17th February, 2020 onwards in major cities across the country. Each road show shall focus on show-



casing the specific sectors for seeking investment in J&K. "The road shows will be held at Bengaluru, Kolkata on February 17, Mumbai on February 21, Hyderabad on March 2, Chennai on March 5 and Ahmedabad on March 9, 2020," MD **PAGE 10**

**BJP, Oppn Trade Barbs Over Pulwama Attack**

Rahul Asks Who Benefitted From Pulwama Strike, BJP Calls Him LeT And Jaish Sympathiser

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** The Pulwama suicide attack was at the centre of a bitter war of words between the opposition and the BJP on Friday with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi asking who benefitted from the strike and the ruling party accusing him of being a "known sympathiser" of militant groups LeT and JeM.

While the Congress as well as the CPI-M raised questions on accountability, the BJP hit back to say Gandhi was insulting the memory of the 40 CRPF personnel



killed in Pulwama in Jammu and Kashmir on February 14 last year. In a blistering attack on the government, Gandhi paid homage to the slain CRPF personnel and also asked what was the outcome of the inquiry into the attack.

"Today as we remember our 40 CRPF martyrs in the #PulwamaAttack, let us ask: 1. Who benefitted the most from the attack? 2. What is the outcome of the inquiry into the attack? 3. Who in the BJP Govt has yet been held accountable for the security lapses that allowed the attack?" he asked on Twitter.

The ruling party's stinging response came almost immediately after Gandhi's controversial tweet. "Shame on you," said BJP spokesperson G V L Narasimha Rao. **PAGE 10**