

Maximum : 9°C
Minimum : -3°C
Humidity : 59%
SUNSET Today 06:17 PM
SUNRISE Tomorrow 07:13 AM

..... LIFE & TIMES/08

FLIGHT OF FANCY? AVIATION
INDUSTRY TRIES TO GO GREEN

From an emissions-reducing model jet that looks like something from a sci-fi movie to electric aircraft and sustainable fuel, the aviation industry is ramping up efforts to go green as consumer pressure grows.....

OS/NEWS.....

DELHI HC NOTICE TO
CENTRE ON PLEA IN JAMIA VIOLENCE

The Delhi High Court on Monday issued notices on a petition filed by a Jamia Millia Islamia student seeking compensation of Rs 2 crore for injuries he sustained during December 15 violence.....

11/SPORTS.....

DU PLESSIS QUILTS AS SOUTH AFRICA CAPTAIN,
SAYS PROTEAS NEED NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

Senior batsman Faf du Plessis on Monday stepped down as captain of South Africa's Test and T20 teams with immediate effect, citing "the need to facilitate the emergence of next generation of leaders".....

Contact: -0194-2502327
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News Digest

Geelani Stable,
Conscious: Dir SKIMS

Srinagar: The condition of senior Hurriyat Conference (G) leader Syed Ali Geelani is stable, an official statement on Monday said. "The condition of senior political leader, Syed Ali Geelani is stable and he is conscious, cooperative and oriented," the statement issued by the Director, SKIMS, Dr. A. G. Ahangar said. The statement said that the ailing leader's all vital organs were performing normally and a team of doctors was round the clock monitoring his health.

Gurez Avalanche: Missing
Student's Fate Unknown

Srinagar: Rescue operations continued for the third day on Monday in Gurez area of Bandipora to trace a student who was swept away after an avalanche hit the area last week. Reports said that police, army and SDRF personnel continued search operation for the third day today to trace Javid Ahmad Lone, who was buried under a snow avalanche at Check Nallah, Gurez on Saturday. Two other students were timely rescued and shifted to hospital for treatment. Reports said sniffer dogs were also pressed into service to find the missing youth.

Court Quashes PSA of
Middle-Aged Man

Srinagar: A court on Monday quashed detention of a middle-aged man, who was booked under the controversial Public Safety Act (PSA). The court of Justice Ali Mohammad Magray today quashed PSA of Mushtaq Ahmed Wani of Ganderbal, who was arrested by police on August 7, 2019 on charges of instigating youth towards unlawful activities, a local newsgathering agency • PIO

2 Alleged Timber
Smugglers Arrested In Tral

Srinagar: Police arrested two alleged timber smugglers after firing warning shots when the duo tried to escape from a checkpoint in Tral town of south Kashmir's Pulwama district, reports said Monday. Police arrested Parvez Ahmed Naik and Ghulam Mohiuddin, both residents of Tral after they tried to escape from a checkpoint in their timber laden vehicle, local newsgathering agency KNT reported. Police, the • PIO

Gazanfer Ali Reviews
SBM Implementation

Srinagar: Commissioner, SMC Gazanfer Ali on Monday convened a meeting to review implementation of the prestigious Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM). The meeting discussed all the SBM including Solid Waste Management, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) capacity building in detail. The Commissioner directed the IEC partners to organize effective and resulted • PIO

British MP Heading Group On
Kashmir Denied Entry To India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI - A British MP heading a parliamentary group on Kashmir on Monday claimed she was denied entry into India despite a valid visa after she landed at the airport here, a charge denied by the government which said she had been informed that her e-visa was cancelled.

Debbie Abrahams, a Labour Party member and chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Kashmir, said in a statement that she arrived in Delhi on Monday morning and was informed that her e-visa, which was valid till October 2020, had been cancelled.

A Home Ministry spokesper-



son said the British parliamentarian had been duly informed that her visa was cancelled and she arrived in Delhi despite knowing this fact.

When contacted, Abrahams told PTI she "had not received

Her e-visa was reportedly issued last October, and was valid until October 2020.

Recounting her experience at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, she said in a statement on Twitter that she arrived here on Monday morning and was informed that her e-visa been cancelled.

In her statement, Abrahams said she had presented herself at the immigration desk along with her documents and e-visa.

"...the official looked at his screen and started shaking his head. Then he told me my visa was rejected took my passport and disappeared for about 10 minutes.

"When he came back he was very rude and aggressive shouting at me to 'come • PAGE 10

India Serves Demarche On Turkey
Over Erdogan's Kashmir Comments

India on Monday issued a strong demarche to Turkey over its President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's comments expressing concern over the prevailing situation in Kashmir and comparing the "struggle" of Kashmiri people with that of the fight by the Turkish during the World War I.

In a strongly worded statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said Erdogan's remarks reflected neither an understanding of history nor of the conduct of • PIO

India's Policies May Cause
Refugee Crisis In Pak: PM Imran

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday warned that Pakistan may face another refugee crisis if the international community failed to take notice of the current situation in India. Speaking at the two-day refugee summit in Islamabad on 40 years of hosting Afghan refugees in Pakistan, he said India's "ultranationalist ideology going unchecked could lead to destruction and the region could become a flashpoint", The Express Tribune • PIO

Sedition Case: 3 Engineering
Students From Kashmir Re-Arrested

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

HUBBALLI (KARNATAKA)- Barely a day after they were granted bail, three Kashmiri engineering students here facing sedition charges were re-arrested on Monday after protests by a right wing group against the police for releasing them on execution of a bond under Section 169 of CrPc.

The trio, students of a private engineering college here, were arrested on Saturday for allegedly raising anti-national slogans and posting it on social media on the first anniversary of the suicide attack that left scores of CRPF soldiers dead at Pulwama in Kashmir.



They were let off on Sunday execution of a bond under Section 169 of CrPc. • PAGE 10

KPC Concerned Over
'Harassment' Of Journalists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir Press Club on Monday expressed concern over the alleged harassment of journalists in the valley and demanded that the government allow the media to function freely as guaranteed by the Constitution.

"The Kashmir Press Club demands Home Minister Amit Shah as well as the Jammu and Kashmir government to take note of the appalling conditions in which press

in Kashmir is working since August 5 last year," a spokesperson of the club said in a statement.

"As such, it is once again urged that the constitutionally guaranteed freedom of expression and speech is being respected in the region by allowing press and journalists to function freely," he said.

He said the KPC took serious note of the continuous harassment of journalists in the valley, including an incident that allegedly occurred recently in Pulwama • PAGE 10

....J&K GLOBAL INVESTORS' SUMMIT 2020

J&K Admin Flags Off Pan-India
Roadshows To Woo Investors

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BENGALURU/KOLKATA: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Monday kick-started pan-India roadshows

to woo investors ahead of the upcoming J&K Global Investors' Summit 2020 slated to be held in April in the capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar. Seeking investments • PAGE 10

Police Cracks Down On
VPN Users, Case Filed

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: In a major crackdown on the virtual private network (VPN) users, the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday registered a case against unnamed people for defying government orders and misusing social media platforms.

In a statement issued here, a police spokesperson said that taking note of social media misuse; a case has been registered by the cyber police station against various users who misused social media in violation of the order issued by the government on January 14, 2020, banning all social media sites.

"The ban was ordered to stall the rumour mongering and spreading false and fake facts having the effect of causing social instability," the spokesperson said.

He said that there have been continuous reports of misuse of social media sites by the "miscreants to propagate the secessionist ideology and to

promote unlawful activities". "Social media has remained a favourite tool which largely provides anonymity to the user and also gives wide reach," he said.

"The FIR has been registered while taking cognizance of the social media posts by the miscreants by use of different VPNs, which are propagating rumours with regard to the current security scenario of the Kashmir valley, propagating secessionist ideology and glorifying militancy acts/ militants," the spokesperson added.

The police spokesperson said that a lot of incriminating material has also been seized in this regard.

"This is the first FIR registered in Cyber Police Station Kashmir Zone Srinagar since its notification by the Government. The case is registered under FIR No. 01 of 2020 U/S 13 U A (P) Act, 188, 505 of IPC and 66-A (b) of IT Act," he said.

Meanwhile, IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar-IPS has made an appeal to general public not to use social media via VPN.

Internet, Connectivity Will
Be Eased Further: Advisor Sharma

Internet and connectivity issues in Jammu and Kashmir will be eased further in the coming months, Kewal Kumar Sharma, advisor to the Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir said here on Monday. "The restrictions remain to make sure that these facilities are not misused for promoting disorder. In some months from now it should be possible to ease various restrictions related • PAGE 10

India Looking To Set Up Separate
Theatre Command For J&K: CDS Rawat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI - India is looking at setting up a separate theatre command for Jammu and Kashmir, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat said on Monday.

The air defence command is to be rolled out by the beginning of next year and the Peninsula command by the end of 2021, Gen Rawat told a select group of journalists.

The Indian Air Force will helm the air defence command and all-long range missiles as well as air defence assets will come under it, he said.

"India is looking at setting up a separate theatre command for Jammu and Kashmir," Gen Rawat said.

Indian Navy's Eastern and Western commands will be integrated into the Peninsula command, he said.

India will also have a separate training and doctrinal command and logistics command, he said.

He also favoured a policy of staggered procurement of big ticket purchases, including acquisition of 114 fighter jets.

The Navy's demand for a third aircraft carrier will be considered after assessing performance of indigenously-built aircraft carrier, he said.

Gen Rawat also said that submarines are a priority over aircraft carrier for the Navy.

India is also looking at overseas bases for logistics, he added.

Trump Kashmir Mediation Offer Prompted Modi Govt's 5 Aug Move: US Report

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI: US President Donald Trump's "seemingly warm" welcome to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on his July 2019 visit and his subsequent offer to mediate on Kashmir might have triggered the Modi government's 5 August 2019 decision to further integrate the volatile region in the country. "Trump's Kashmir mediation claims were especially jarring for many Indian observers, some of whom began questioning the wisdom of Modi's confidence in

the United States as a partner," said the report prepared by a research agency attached with the US Congress.

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) noted that on July 22, 2019, while taking questions from the press alongside Prime Minister Imran Khan in the White House, President Trump claimed that Indian Prime Minister Modi had earlier in the month asked him to play a mediator's role in the Kashmir dispute.

Trump's statement provoked an uproar in India's parliament,



with opposition members staging a walkout and demanding explanation, forcing the Indian government to assure the opposition that Modi never made such an offer.

"The episode may have contributed to India's August moves," the 24-page report added.

The CRS is tasked with providing non-partisan analysis to US Congress members on matters that may come up before the American parliament. CRS reports are not considered to be views of the US Congress.

"President Trump's appar-

ent bonhomie with Pakistan's prime minister and offer to mediate on Kashmir in July was taken by some as a new and potentially unwise strategic shift," the report said.

The report also stated that, contrary to the Modi government's claims about J&K's poor economic standing, its economic situation was better than other Indian states when it was stripped of its special status and split into two union territories.

Another factor cited for Delhi's 5 August decision was to "shift national conversation" from

"negative economic news" — increasing criticism of the government on economic grounds led "some analysts to suspect that Modi and his lieutenants were eager to play to the BJP's Hindu nationalist base and shift the national conversation".

Although President Trump never withdrew his mediation offer, the strong Indian reaction forced the US State Department to post a clarification on the social media, stating that Washington still saw Kashmir as that "a bilateral issue for both parties to discuss" and the Trump • PAGE 10