

Maximum : 8°C  
Minimum : -1°C  
Humidity : 71%

SUNSET  
Today 06:19 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 07:10 AM

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**NEWS/07**  
**EIGHT KILLED IN GERMANY AFTER SHOOTING IN SHISHA BARS**  
A huge manhunt was under way Thursday after at least eight people were killed and several injured in two shootings at shisha bars in Germany. The attacks targeted bars in Hanau, about 20 kilometres....



**05 OPINION.....**  
**THERE IS STILL ONE DOMAIN WHICH MACHINES CAN'T TAKE OVER: HUMAN CREATIVITY**  
The European Patent Office recently turned down an application for a patent that described a food container. This was not because the invention was not novel or useful, but because it was created by artificial.....

**08/SPORTS.....**

**PAKISTAN CRICKET BOARD SUSPENDS AKMAL PENDING ANTI-CORRUPTION INVESTIGATION**  
Umar Akmal's flatter-to-deceive career took another hit on Thursday when the Pakistan Cricket Board suspended the batsman with immediate effect, pending an anti-corruption investigation.....



**News Digest**

**BSF Officer Shoots Self Dead In Kathua**

JAMMU - An Assistant Commandant of the Border Security Force (BSF) on Thursday allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle inside a camp in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. V B Yadav of the 90th Battalion was posted in Karal Krishna Border Post area along the International Border. He shot himself inside his room at 8:45 am, the officials said. They said the motive behind his taking such an extreme step was not known immediately. A case has been registered.

**Five Of Family Killed In Samba Accident**

JAMMU: Five members of a family were killed on Thursday when their car ramed into a stationary truck on the Jammu-Pathankot Highway in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. The accident took place at Swanda Morh in Ghagwal area when the car driver lost control and hit the truck parked on the roadside around 5:30 am, a police official said. All the five occupants of the car were rushed to a nearby hospital where they were declared brought dead, he said. P06

**LG Greets People On Maha Shivratri**

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu on Thursday greeted the people of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on the occasion of Maha Shivratri. In his felicitation message, the LG observed that the celebration of this festival is a valuable part of our glorious cultural heritage symbolizing the values of piety, devotion and brotherhood. He expressed the hope that the celebrations of this auspicious occasion would further strengthen the communal harmony of J&K and also prayed for tranquility and prosperity in the UT and well being of the people.

**Woman Dies After Hit By Army Vehicle**

Srinagar: A woman was killed on Thursday evening after she was hit by an Army vehicle in Sheelipora village of Achabal in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. Official sources said that a woman was hit by an Army vehicle at her native village this evening. They said that she was shifted to a onenearby hospital where doctors declared her brought dead. The deceased has been identified as identified as Shahzada Akhtar (35) wife of Fayaz Ahmad, resident of Sunsooma Achabal. Meanwhile, soon after the incident, the locals took to the streets and protested against her death. P06

**Cross-Border Infiltration, Militancy On Decline: Army Chief**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Army Chief General M M Naravane said on Thursday that the pressure built up by Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Pakistan was one of the factors behind the decline in cross-border infiltration and the militancy related incidents in Jammu and Kashmir.



Speaking to reporters here, Naravane said that militancy related incidents have seen a downturn and the Army is maintaining pressure on militant groups. "There is an external dimension to the decrease in cross-border infiltration" he said, in oblique reference to the ongoing Financial Action Task Force (FATF) plenary. "If the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) comes down heavily on them, they (Pakistan) may have to rethink P06

**Attempts Being Made To Disrupt Peace: DGP**

The Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police Dilbag Singh said on Thursday that the security forces need to be more vigilant as militants and elements across the border were making continuous attempts to disrupt peace in Jammu and Kashmir. "There is a need to be more vigilant and cautious in view of the possibility of militants attempting to disrupt the existing peace in J&K. Continuous attempts are P06



A WOMAN ROWS A BOAT IN SRINAGAR'S DAL Lake On A Rainy Day On Thursday.pic Abid Bhat

**British MP Debbie Ran Sustained Anti-India Campaign: MEA**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: British lawmaker Debbie Abrahams, who was denied entry to India and deported to Dubai, has run a sustained campaign against India, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday.

Abrahams, who is an Opposition Labour Party MP and Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Kashmir, claimed she was travelling on a valid e-visa to India to visit family and friends but her visa was revoked without explanation.

MEA Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said Abrahams did not have a valid visa when she arrived at the IGI Airport here on Monday. "When she was coming to India, she did not have a valid visa. She came here without a valid visa and with all respect she was sent back. We believe that her views and statements are anti-India," Kumar said at a briefing when asked about her statements in favour of Pakistan.

There has been a sustained campaign from her side against India, he said. Kumar said Abrahams claimed that she was here to meet family and friends, but even if her visa had been valid it was P06

**Kashmir's Upper Reaches Receive Fresh Snowfall, Rain In Plains**

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The world famous ski resort of Gulmarg and other upper reaches experienced fresh snowfall on Thursday in the Kashmir valley, where plains, including summer capital, Srinagar, received rain resulting in cold.

There would be fairly widespread light rain, snow and thundershowers in the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir and isolated light snow in UT Ladakh during the next 24 hours, a Met department spokesman said today. There could be isolated very light rain and snow during the subsequent 48 hours, he said adding this will follow dry weather from February 23 to 26.

Weather turned cold since early this morning after witnessing sunny weather during the past about ten days in the valley, where maximum temperature was above normal though minimum temperature was below normal due to clear sky.

Gulmarg, a world famous ski resort in north Kashmir, received fresh snowfall early this morning, a hotel owner said. Few inches of snow was received, he said adding in the upper reaches, including Kongdori, Khilammarg and Affarwat, the highest skiing point connected by Gandola Cable Car (GCC) received about 8 inches of fresh snowfall. The minimum temperature at Gulmarg was minus 4 degree while the maximum temperature on Wednesday at 5.6 degree, Met spokesman said.

The other heights, including areas near the Line of Control (LoC) also received fresh snowfall since last night. Border town of Gurez, surrounded by Pakistan-controlled-Kashmir from three sides, also received fresh snowfall. The town remained cut off due to accumulation of snow at Razdan pass from P06

**JKSSB Approves 269 Posts**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) on Thursday approved 269 posts including 222 posts of various categories for five new government medical colleges and 47 posts of pending selections, an official spokesman said.

The posts were approved at the 163rd board meeting of the JKSSB chaired by its chairman Khalid Jahangir here, he said.

During the meeting, the spokesman said, threadbare discussions were held P06

**...KARNATAKA SEDITION ROW**

**Rs 3L For the Kashmiri Students' Tongues: Sri Ram Sene**

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: A leader of a right-wing organisation in Karnataka has announced a reward of Rs 3 lakh to anyone who chaps the tongues off the three Kashmiri students booked on sedition charges last week.

Siddalinga Swami, the honorary secretary of the rightwing Sri Ram Sene made these comments in a video that has gone viral on social media, New Delhi based news website The Wire reported. The news portal translated the Kannada comments into English in which Swami is calling the three Kashmiri students as anti-nationals.

"On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, I am telling you that those who have been nurtured by India and have chanted 'Pakistan zindabad', who are currently in jail...their tongues, with which they chanted 'Pakistan zindabad', whoever can cut off those tongues and bring them, the Sri Ram Sene will give them Rs 1 lakh for each tongue - a total of Rs 3 lakh as reward. Such anti-nationals do not deserve to be in this state. The Sri Ram Sene is ready to P06

**Civil Rights Groups Demand Restoration Of Art 370**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI - Scores of people from different organisations, including AISA and AIDWA, gathered at Jantar Mantar here on Thursday demanding restoration of Article 370 of the Constitution. They expressed solidarity with the people of Jammu and Kashmir and demanded that the government restore the provision that gave full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

The programme was held by organisations AIDWA, AISA,

ANHAD, DASAM, DSG, DTF, IPTA, Khudai Khidmatgar, NAPM, NFIW, OBR India, PIP-PPD, RYA, Sangwari, SFI, Youth Alliance for Peace.

Shabnam Hashmi, an activist, said the situation in Jammu and Kashmir was pretty grim.

"All the democratic institutions have crumbled. They (government) have made it a Union territory. A Union territory has to have new laws, but such laws are not being enacted. This government seems to be clueless about how P06

**Hope Trump Talks Kashmir In New Delhi: Pak**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday expressed hope that US President Donald Trump during his visit to India next week will take "some concrete practical steps" on his offer of mediation on Kashmir.

Trump is scheduled to travel to India on February 24 and 25, with stops in Ahmedabad and New Delhi.

At the weekly media briefing here, Foreign Office Spokesperson Aisha Farooqui hoped the offer of mediation expressed by President Trump "will be taken forward through some concrete practical steps."

Farooqui made the remarks in response to questions about Trump's visit to India and situation in Kashmir. She said that four US Senators including Senator Lindsay Graham in a letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo drew his attention towards the situation in Kashmir.

In January, President Trump repeated his offer to "help" resolve the Kashmir issue P06

**2nd Batch Of Union Ministers Likely To Visit JK In April**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: A second batch of about 40 Union ministers is likely to visit Jammu and Kashmir in April to get first-hand information about various development schemes initiated there by both the central government and the Union Territory administration, officials said on Thursday.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) will decide the composition of the ministerial delegation that will undertake the follow up of the first visit of 37 Union ministers, who had toured Jammu and Kashmir last month.

"A second batch of about 40 Union ministers may undertake a visit to Jammu and Kashmir. Dates and composition of the team have not been fixed yet but it will be done soon after the Budget session of Parliament," a government official said.

After the recess, the second part of the budget session will begin on March 2 and it will end on April 3.

The PMO will finalise the list of the ministers and each minister will be assigned a particular district and focus will be on the Kashmir Valley, the official said.

Some of the ministers of the first batch may also be P06

**Kashmir Journalist Ahmer Khan Wins AFP's Kate Webb Prize**

HONG KONG: Ahmer Khan, the 27-year-old Indian freelance reporter, was named the winner of the 2019 Agence France-Presse Kate Webb Prize on Thursday for his coverage on the ground in Kashmir during the lockdown of the region.

The award, named after one of AFP's finest correspondents, recognises journalism by locally hired reporters in Asia operating in risky or difficult conditions.

Khan was honoured for a series of video and written reports that vividly illustrated the impact on locals in the region following India's decision to abrogate article 370 that granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir in August.

The Indian government imposed restrictions on movement and a communications blackout in the region.

India insisted the move was aimed at bringing prosperity and peace to the region.

Despite curfews and a heavy security presence, Khan took to the streets with his camera to document the tensions, concerns and frustrations among the residents of Srinagar and other cities in Kashmir.

Unable to skirt the communications shutdown, he flew in and out of Delhi to file his stories.

"Reporting from Kashmir at this time has been extremely challenging for everyone, including the established foreign media," said AFP's Asia-Pacific regional director Philippe Massonnet.

"For an independent, local journalist those challenges P06

**Top JK Officials To Meet India Inc Leaders Today**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI: Top officials from the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory administration will visit the country's financial capital and meet industry leaders on Friday.

Led by Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu, the officials will be pitching about the business possibilities in the restive Kashmir Valley to leaders of India Inc, officials said on Thursday.

A global investors' summit is being planned at capital Srinagar in May, and the event in a city hotel is organised by industry lobby CII, which is also a P06

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