

# KASHMIR OBSERVER

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P3 CITY

## WATER LOGGING SUBMERGES CITY AREAS

The residents of various localities of Kashmir's capital city Srinagar Friday lamented water logging in the city areas after incessant rains lashed the valley for the last two days. The residents of Mominabad, Batamalo, and Bilal Colony Qamarwari expressed resentment...

P5 THINK

## WHY I LIKE TEACHING ON ZOOM

Many accounts of teaching on Zoom or other online platforms recount its horrors. And much is horrible: teachers and students without stable internet connections or adequate technology...



P7 STATE

## LADAKH TO GET ALL WEATHER ROAD CONNECTIVITY: LG

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh RK Mathur Friday said that the Union Territory administration is working tirelessly for all-weather road connectivity...



Age is a hell of a price to pay for wisdom  
—George Carlin

## NEWS DIGEST

### Heart Attack Kills KAS Officer

SRINAGAR: A Kashmir Administrative Service (KAS) officer on Friday died after suffering a massive heart attack in Udhampur district of Jammu division. Sajad Sumbria, who was presently posted as District Information Officer suffered a heart attack at his residence in Udhampur on early Friday morning following which he [More On P6](#)

### 2 Deaths, 73 New Cases In J&K

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus claimed lives of two more people in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, while 73 fresh cases of infection, including twenty-three travellers were detected across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. Both the deaths, officials said, were reported from Kashmir Valley thus raising the total number of Covid-19 related fatalities in [More On P6](#)

### Soldier Dies After Vehicle Rolls Into Stream

SRINAGAR: A soldier was killed and three others injured in a road accident in Damhal Hanjipora in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Friday morning. An official said that an Army vehicle of 9 Rashtriya Rifles (PARA) met with an accident near Adijan bypass, DH Pora, according to news agency KNO. He said that the vehicle fell into a nallah, in which water flow was [More On P6](#)

### Youth Found Dead In Orchard

SRINAGAR: A youth was found dead on Friday in an orchard in Bellow area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. 30-year-old Sameer Ahmad Rather was found dead in an orchard at Bellow, almost seven kilometres from his residence in Arigam in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, officials said Friday. Rather, they said, had left his [More On P6](#)

### Militant Arrested In Doda: Police

JAMMU: Security forces arrested a militant and seized arms and ammunition from a house in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Friday, officials said. A joint cordon and search operation was launched by the Army, the CRPF, the SSB and the JK-Police in Bikheryan village, they said. During the operation, a militant, identified as Firdous Ahmed, was [More On P6](#)



A man raises his hands in supplication as the unseen cleric of Hazratbal Shrine displays a relic believed to be from beard of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) on the occasion of Me'raj-e-Aalam on Friday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

## Me'raj-e-Aalam Celebrated With Religious Fervor Across Kashmir

Thousands Converge At Hazratbal Shrine To Have Glimpse Of Holy Relic

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid COVID-19 pandemic and inclement weather conditions, Shab-e-Me'raj, the night of ascent when the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) ascended to the heavens, was on Friday observed with religious fervor across Jammu and Kashmir. Notably, Muslims every year celebrate on 27th of Rajab (Islamic calendar), the Isra and Me'raj, the two parts of a Night Journey that prophet Muhammad (pbuh) took during a single night around the year 621. Within Islam it

signifies a physical journey. During Me'raj, the command for five daily prayers (Salaat) was also given to the Holy Prophet.

Thousands of devotees from the different parts of the Valley thronged Dargah Hazratbal shrine, housing the relic of the Prophet (Pbuh). However, unlike previous years, no night long prayers were held at Dargah Hazratbal shrine and at the historic Jamia Masjid.

Nonetheless, the devotees offered mandatory Friday congregational prayers at Hazratbal shrine and had a glimpse of the holy relic after

all the prayers today.

Emotional scenes were witnessed at Hazratbal shrine when the holy relic was displayed after every prayer especially after the Friday congregational prayers during which they raised their hands for prayer.

Special prayers were held at almost all the shrines and local Masjids here in Kashmir where the religious clerics highlighted the importance of the night and its blessings. The teachings and aspects of the life of Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) were also highlighted [More On P6](#)

## Grameen Bank Branch 'Looted' In Baramulla

Agencies

Srinagar: An unknown pistol-borne person on Friday afternoon looted a branch of Grameen Bank Branch in Ogmuna, Kunzer Tangmarg area of north-Kashmir's Baramulla district. Reports said that a person made the heist at the bank branch and ran away with cash. A police official said that as per bank officials the unknown gunman fired one pistol round in air this afternoon when most of the staff had gone to offer prayers. Later the gunman, as per bank staff, decamped with around Rs 2.24 lakh, the official said.

Talking to the media about the reported robbery, SSP Abdul Quayoom [More On P6](#)

## NARCO-MILITANCY CASE

## NIA Seizes Rs 91L Drug Proceeds In Samba

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: In the ongoing probe into the Handwara narco-militancy case, the National Investigation Agency on Friday recovered Rs 91 lakh concealed in a field in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, an NIA spokesperson said.

The recovery was made on the disclosure of five persons, who were arrested on March 1 from Srinagar and Jammu and are presently on a 15-day remand, he said.

"Based upon examination and disclosure of arrested

accused persons, the NIA conducted searches and recovered proceeds of narcotics smuggling to the tune of 91 lakh. The amount was found concealed in a field in Gurval village in the jurisdiction of police station Ramgarh (Samba)," the spokesperson said.

He said an investigation revealed that the arrested accused, Romesh Kumar, had received the cash proceeds of drugs from narco-smugglers based in Kashmir for himself as well as for further channelisation to different militant entities. [More On P6](#)



## STATUS ROW

## DDC Members Meet LG, Govt Says 'Issues Resolved'

Observer Monitoring Desk

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government said on Friday that "all issues of District development Council (DDC) representatives have been resolved amicably."

As per a statement issued here, District Development Council delegates met the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha here at Raj Bhavan.

"The interaction was held in a pleasant and amicable atmosphere," reads the official statement, adding, "Reiterating J&K Government's commitment to safeguarding the interests of DDC representatives, the Lt Governor observed that the three-tier Panchayati Raj system was established

to empower the grass-root democracy."

It further reads: "said Now, the true democracy is flourishing in the UT, which is not merely about governance but feeling of fraternity, brotherhood, and attitude of respect and reverence towards each other. We have to work together to meet the developmental aspirations of the people. The administration will ensure the three-tier Panchayati Raj system is strengthened in the UT, the Lt Governor told the DDC members."

The delegation comprised of DDC Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons, and members including Bharat Bhushan, Saraf Singh Nag, Bari Andrabi, Irfan Panditpuri, Ms. Nuzhat Ishfaq, [More On P6](#)

## BJP MLA Attempts Suicide By Consuming Sanitiser

Agencies

BHUBANESWAR: A BJP legislator on Friday attempted suicide by consuming sanitiser in the Odisha Assembly over paddy procurement issues in the state.

Subash Chandra Panigrahi, an MLA from Deogarh constituency, tried to consume sanitiser as a mark of protest when Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain was replying to the House on the paddy procurement issues.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Bikram Keshari Arukha and other legislators managed to prevent Panigrahi from consuming sanitiser and recovered the toxic material from him.

"I tried to consume sanitiser as the state government left me with no option. Even though the farmers' [More On P6](#)

## Rains Drench Valley, Snowfall In Parts Of North Kashmir



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Most parts of north Kashmir including

Gulmarg and Kupwara besides Pahalgam received fresh snowfall even as incessant rains [More On P6](#)

## 500 Vehicles Stranded As Landslide Blocks Highway

The 270-km Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was closed for traffic after heavy rain triggered a landslide in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, officials said. Over 500 vehicles are stranded along the highway, the only [More On P6](#)

## PDD To Issue New Power Schedule From March 15

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Power Department has decided to come out with a new curtailment schedule from March 15 if there is improvement in weather in next few days.

Sources said that Advisor to

Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan has directed officers to prepare the new schedule for supplying electricity from March 15.

Chief Engineer PDD Aijaz Ahmad Dar said they were working to frame a new power curtailment [More On P6](#)

## 'An Obnoxious Move': Politics Over Pheran Angers Kashmir



Aliza Noor

As rumours ran rampant over the possible pheran proscription recently, many Kashmiris flooded the virtual world with fiery texts and pleasant pictures of their traditional gown.

The defiant act, many argued, showed how intrinsic the winter wear is to the lives of Kashmiris.

But the anger over the growing politicisation of pheran only peaked when photos showed locals in Kashmir being stopped by paramilitary forces—and told to remove their pherans, as part of a fresh and flash security strategy stemming from the recent rattling strike in the heartland.

Pheran is a long woollen garment or cloak which is mostly used in harsh winters to protect oneself from freezing cold. Worn by both Kashmiri Muslims and Kashmiri Pandits, it is one of the most common identity

markers of a Kashmiri.

Before the locals would feel humiliated in a broad day light in the city centre, pheran had become news when rightwing Bajrang Dal called for a ban on the traditional attire. Reportedly, some figures in the ruling party have thrown their weight behind the call.

The demand came after two policemen were shot at point blank range by a militant at Barzulla locality of Srinagar. The militant had concealed the gun under his pheran.

More Than a Piece of Cloth

But as the fringe outfit is fishing in the troubled waters of the valley with its pheran polemics, author and scribe Gowhar Geelani dubs the 'war cry' as a blatant belligerence.

"The call for ban on pheran by far-right Hindu extremist groups is aimed at cultural aggression and to serve rounds



of insult to Kashmiris," Geelani said.

It has nothing to do with any security-related incident, he added. "Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi wore pheran when he visited Kashmir. So, to score a political point it is okay for

politicians to use pheran as a symbol, but a common Kashmiri is deprived from his/her right to respect culture and preserve tradition and identity."

This is also what most of the Kashmiris feel, that while [More On P6](#)