

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Wednesday 17 March | 02 Shaban | 1442 Hijri | Vol:24 | Issue: 63 | Pages:08 | Price: ₹3

www.kashmirobserver.net • twitter.com / kashmirobserver • facebook.com/kashmirobserver • Postal Regn: L/159/KO/SK/2014-2016



P3 CITY

ENSURING ECONOMIC FREEDOM OF WOMEN WILL REALISE DIVERSITY IN LEADERSHIP: VC KU

Vice-Chancellor of University of Kashmir Prof Talat Ahmad on Tuesday inaugurated a seminar organised as part of the varsity's series of academic activities pertaining to the

P5 THINK

CHINA'S CITY OF LOST MOSQUES

The labyrinth of alleys and lanes in the old city of Suzhou hides a secret: historical fragments of the long history of Islam in China. Regular stories in the international press highlighting the treatment of Muslims in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous....



P7 STATE

NIT SRINAGAR TO IMPLEMENT HINDI LANGUAGE

Following the directions from the Minister of Education (MoE), the National Institute of Technology Srinagar (NIT) is all set to implement...



Widom Quote!

In a dark time, the eye begins to see
—Theodore Roethke

NEWS DIGEST

J&K Sees 97 Cases, 2 Corona Deaths

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday recorded 97 fresh COVID-19 cases that pushed its infection tally to 1,27,831, while two more deaths linked to the virus raised the toll to 1,972 in the Union Territory, officials said. Nineteen of the fresh cases are from the Jammu division and 78 from the Kashmir division, they said. [More On P6](#)

PIA Shaped Balloon Spotted In Jammu

SRINAGAR: For the second time in a week now, an aircraft-shaped balloon with PIA (Pakistan International Airlines) written on it, was recovered by local police in Bhalwal area of Jammu division on Tuesday morning. The balloon was spotted by locals following which a police team reached the spot, reports said Tuesday. "It was after due assessment that the team" [More On P6](#)

Kotwal Transferred To Ladakh

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor-led administration in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday transferred incumbent Inspector General of Registration, Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Pawan Kotwal and posted him to Union Territory of Ladakh. An order in this regard, of which a copy lies with news service GNS, says that the official is transferred and his services placed at the disposal of Union Territory of Ladakh for further posting.

Muzaffar Baig Likely To Join PC Today

SRINAGAR: In a major political development, the founding member of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Muzaffar Hussain Baig is likely to join Peoples Conference (PC) on Wednesday. Baig is all set to join Sajad Gani Lone led Peoples Conference on Wednesday here and all the arrangements have been finalized in this regard, news agency KDC reported while quoting sources. [More On P6](#)

Youth Stabbed After Verbal Spat

SRINAGAR: A teenager on Tuesday was critically injured after being stabbed by a youth in Kawoosa village of central Kashmir's Budgam district. 17-year-old Amir Rashid Wani, son of Abdul Rashid Wani was stabbed by another youth after an altercation over some trivial issued took ugly turn in Kawoosa village of the district on Tuesday evening. [More On P6](#)

32.31 Lakh People Given Domicile Certificates

1.22 Lakh Non-PRC Holders New Domiciles of J&K

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A total of 32.31 lakh people in Jammu and Kashmir have been given domicile certificates and include 122671 persons who were not Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC) holders, while 2.15 lakh applications have been rejected, Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said on Tuesday.

Reddy also said in Lok Sabha that as per the information provided by the government of Jammu and Kashmir, a total of 35,44,938 applications for issue of domicile certificates have been received as on December 31, 2020, out of which 32,31,353 applicants have been issued domicile certificates.

In a specific query by the Congress parliamentarian



File Photo: Abid Bhat

from Chandrapur constituency in Maharashtra regarding "the total number of domicile certificates that have been issued to holders of the erstwhile Permanent Resident Certificate", Reddy said: "As on 31st December, 2020, a total of 31,08,682 Domicile Certificates have been issued to the dependents/holders of erstwhile Permanent Resident

Certificates in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir."

In other words, 122671 persons (32,31,353 minus 31,08,682) who were not PRC holders have been issued the domicile certificate.

A total of 2,15,438 applications have been rejected, he said replying a written question.

He said Rule 5 of the Jammu and Kashmir Grant of Domicile [More On P6](#)

'No Info On Whatsapp Leak About Art- 370 Scrapping'

The central government has no information on the leak of WhatsApp chat related to confidential and sensitive information, including scrapping of Article 370, which surfaced during the investigation of TRP scam by the Mumbai Police, Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday. A 500-page transcript of a purported WhatsApp conversation, containing details of Balakot air strikes and abrogation of Article 370, went viral in January this year after it was [More On P6](#)

Govt Strengthening Counter Militancy Apparatus: MHA

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Government of India (GOI) Tuesday said that keeping in view the modern weapons used by the militants, it has been strengthening its counter militancy apparatus.

A question was raised in the Lok Sabha whether the government is aware that militants have resources and more advanced arms and ammunition and what are the plans to equip

Gunmen Loot Rs 3.50L From Srinagar Bank

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Three armed robbers looted Rs 3.5 lakh from a bank in outskirts of Srinagar on Tuesday in the second such incident in less than a week, officials said.

A police official said that the gunmen entered the Grameen Bank branch at Panzina Srinagar this afternoon and threatened the bank staffers with guns. After

committing the heist they fled from the spot and then the bank officials informed the police, the official said. "Efforts are on to identify the gunmen," the official added.

This is the second bank robbery in less than a week.

On March 12, a Grameen Bank branch at Ogmuna Kunzer area of Tangmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district was robbed of Rs 2.24 lakh. The branch had [More On P6](#)

Major Reshuffle In Admin, 34 Officers Transferred

Mohammad Aijaz Is New DC Srinagar, Raghav Langer Is Div Com Jammu,

Observer Web Desk

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Tuesday ordered a major reshuffle in administration, transferring and posting at least 34 officers with immediate effect. As per separate orders, Dr.

Piyush Singla (IAS), Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag. Mohammad Aijaz (IAS), Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar. Ms. Avny Lavasa (IAS), Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, has been asked to hold [More On P6](#)

Police 'Prevents' 4 Youth From Joining Militancy

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Tuesday claimed to have prevented four youth brainwashed by Pakistan based recruiters' through social media handles, from joining militant ranks.

Two teenagers from central Kashmir's Budgam district were recovered from Tral town in south Kashmir after being tracked by police teams, a police spokesperson said Tuesday. [More On P6](#)

DDB Cease To Exist After DDC Formation: MHA

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Tuesday informed the Lok Sabha that after the constitution of District Development Council (DDCs), District Development Boards (DDB) have ceased to exist.

Similarly, the District Planning Committee chaired by the Member of Parliament representing the area has taken the place of DDB. [More On P6](#)

Wasim Rizvi's Act Part Of Deeper Conspiracy: MMU

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Mutahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU) on Tuesday said that the former UP Shia Waqf Board chairman Wasim Rizvi's move to approach Supreme Court to seek removal of 26 verses from the Holy Quran was a part of a deep-rooted conspiracy aimed at stoking sectarian tension among Muslims.

Noted Shia leader Maulana Masroor Abbas Ansari said that an emergency meeting



was held at the head office of Anjuman Shari-e-Shiayan, Budgam, in connection with

the blasphemous act of Waseem Rizvi who has filed a mischievous [More On P6](#)

HC Puts JKCA Elections In Abeyance

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir high court on Tuesday ordered that the conduct of the proposed elections of the office bearers of the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) shall remain in abeyance. Reserving its orders on a number of appeals filed by

various parties including City Cricket Club, Srinagar and Others, a bench of Justices Ali Mohammad Magrey and Puneet Gupta also directed that till the final decision in the matter, the Committee of Administrators (CoA) so appointed by the court shall only look into the routine day to day affairs of the Jammu and [More On P6](#)

'Take Rs 30 & Set Me Free From Treaty': A Postcard To Gulab Singh's Heir

Badar Bashir

Some thirty years after he petitioned the Dogra Maharaja's great grandson, veteran photojournalist of Kashmir is calling it "arush of young blood" to set himself free from the shackles of the notorious treaty. On March 16, 1846, the treaty of Amritsar between the British Government and Maharaja Gulab Singh of Jammu apparently "sealed the fate of Kashmiris" and pushed them in an era of "tyranny and taxation". The Imperial British sold the erstwhile state to Singh for a sum of Rs 75 lakh (Nanak Shahi). With this single pact, historians say, Kashmiris were sold along with their land, water and air. After the Dogra dynasty fell in

the fall of 1947, last monarch, Hari Singh's son, crown prince Karan Singh became Sadre Riyasat of Jammu and Kashmir. His rise as a seasoned congressman remained entrenched in the minds of Kashmiris over the years. In one fine morning of 1989, Habib Naqash dispatched a postcard to his address. "I was casually sitting with my colleagues and discussing the day when we were sold so cheap and in such a callous manner," Naqash, a jovial photojournalist holding sway over his tribe, told Kashmir Observer. Habib Naqash was then frequenting Srinagar's Press Enclave as one of the few photojournalists who would be soon covering Kashmir's explosive situation akin to some war photographers.



He was in the middle of the same pressing assignment when he decided to do the unthinkable. "I remember sending a postcard

carrying Rs30 to Karan Singh's palace with a note that I should be set free from the bondage now. But it was never accepted," Habib said over a

hearty laugh. He counted his share of money keeping the whole amount and population in view.

Kashmir Observer's repeated attempts to reach out to Karan Singh for his take on the story failed. While it remains interesting to see whether or not the Dogra dynasty's last crown prince has any inkling about the telling incident, this story will be updated as and when he responds. Earlier Habib Naqash's long-term colleague, veteran journalist, Yusuf Jameel uploaded the details of the incident, on the day, when the treaty turned 175. "In 1989 (or early 1990), photographer Habib Naqash sent a money order of Rs 30 to Dr. Karan Singh, the scion of erstwhile Dogra rulers, with the request that he may be freed from the bondage as he is making compensatory payment with interest," Jameel wrote on his social media handle. [More On P6](#)