

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Sunday 21 March | 06 Shaban | 1442 Hijri | Vol:24 | Issue: 67 | Pages:08 | Price: ₹3

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



P3 CITY

SRINAGAR ADMIN ORDERS ON-SPOT FINE FOR THOSE WITHOUT MASKS

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Saturday chaired a meeting of Administrative and Medical Officers of the district regarding the containment of Covid 19...

P5 THINK

BADAM VAER: ALMONDS & AURA

The other day I cannot believe that after 14 years I am finally back and trying to settle down at my native place. It was an amazing experience to see the better and bitter side of life. It provided me an opportunity to know the world far and beyond. I cherished every...



P7 STATE

KASHMIR SIKH BODY DEMANDS FRESH PROBE INTO CHATTISINGHPORA MASSACRE

All Party Sikh Coordination Committee (APSCC) Saturday, on the eve of the Chattisinghpora massacre anniversary, urged the government to conduct a fresh...



Widom Quote!

The brightest light casts the darkest shadow
—Jess C. Scott

NEWS DIGEST

CBI Raids Petrol Pumps In Bandipora

SRINAGAR: Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday raided two petrol stations located in two different villages of North Kashmir's Bandipora district following complaints about irregularity in the volume. Sources said that sleuths of CBI accompanied by local police raided two petrol stations located in Pushwari and Markundal villages of Sumbal. **More On P6**

Canines Injure Minor In Qazigund

SRINAGAR: A two-year-old boy was on Saturday injured after he was attacked by the stray dogs at Y K Pora village of Qazigund in South Kashmir's Kulgam district. Officials said that the stray dogs pounced upon a child identified as Salam Ahmad Bhat, son of Roaaf Ahmad Bhat of Y K Pora, Qazigund, resulting in critical injuries to the boy. The dogs, they said, dragged the child but the **More On P6**

Man Killed In Head-on Collision

SRINAGAR: One person was killed and two others sustained injuries in a road mishap at Nanil Akura area in south-Kashmir's Anantnag district on Saturday. Reports said that the accident happened when a load carrier and bike collided, resulting in on-spot death of a person and injuries to two others. The deceased has been identified as Ghulam Mohammed Parry son of Ghulam Nabi Parry (56), a resident of Nanil and the injured as Abdul Rasheed and Sadiqa (minor) **More On P6**

Charges Filed Against 8 'Fraudsters'

JAMMU: The Crime Branch of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday filed a preliminary charge sheet against eight people running a private company here over their alleged involvement in illegally receiving cash deposits from the general public. The case was registered in 2017 after Deputy General Manager, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), A K Mattu sought a discreet inquiry into the **More On P6**

SMC Shifts Four Enforcement Officers

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Municipal Corporation on Saturday transferred four of its Enforcement Officers and posted them as Zonal Sanitation Officers respectively. According to an order issued by SMC, four enforcement officers, Urfan Hussain Mir, Incharge Enforcement officer East, Mehraj ud din Chowdhry, I/C Enforcement officer Central/North, Mujeeb Hussain, I/C Enforcement officer South, Mohammad Yousuf Qazi, **More On P6**

MeT Dept Issues Weather Warning For J&K

Heavy Rainfall, Snow Likely To Disrupt Traffic, Trigger Landslides

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The Meteorological Department on Saturday issued 'yellow' warning forecasting heavy rain and snowfall in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh regions from March 21 which could lead to traffic disruption on the highways and trigger landslides and shooting stones, besides dipping the day temperature sharply. In an advisory issued here on Saturday, Deputy Director Meteorological department, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that in quick succession, two Western Disturbances (WDs) are most likely to affect J&K and adjoining areas from March 21 (afternoon). "Under the influence of these weather systems, widespread moderate rain/snow is expected in Jammu, Kashmir and light rain/snow at a few places of Ladakh region on

March 21," reads the advisory. It adds that another WD mostly likely to affect J&K and neighbourhood from March 22 afternoon, will peak intensity during 22 and 23 night. It will gradually decrease thereafter.

"This may lead to temporary disruption of surface traffic mainly on Jammu-Srinagar, Srinagar-Leh, Mughal Road and other major roads. Landslides and shooting stones in vulnerable spots of Jammu-Srinagar, Srinagar-Leh highways. Temporary water logging in low lying areas," the advisory reads.

It also urges suspension and avoiding agricultural and horticultural operations besides draining out excess water. "Dip in day temperature expected," the advisory said. There are four types colour codes signifying the level of caution: green which means no action, yellow—situation to be **More On P6**



Imran Khan Tests Covid-19 Positive Modi Wishes Him Speedy Recovery



Press Trust Of India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday tested positive for the COVID-19 and is self-isolating at home, his top aide on health announced, two days after he got the first shot of a vaccine.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Dr Faisal Sultan took to Twitter to confirm that Khan, 68, has contracted the coronavirus on a day when the country registered the highest number of COVID-19 cases since July last year. Khan was vaccinated on Thursday as part of the nationwide anti-coronavirus vaccination campaign which is underway in its first phase. Khan is reported to have received the first shot of the Chinese-produced Sinopharm vaccine, the only anti-COVID jab available in Pakistan. PM Imran Khan has tested **More On P6**

New Power Curtailment Schedule Soon

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The power curtailment schedule in the Valley would likely be changed by the end of this month while the officials concerned stated that the summer would be free of curtailments in Kashmir.

Chief Engineer of Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), Aijaz Ahmad Dar said that the schedule would be changed soon after the fresh weather advisory issued by the concerned department will end. He said that **More On P6**

After Go Air, Indigo Starts Night Flight From Srinagar

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Indigo, a leading private airline on Saturday launched a night flight from Srinagar International Airport, a day after Go Air started first ever night flight service from the Valley.

"Today another successful trail flight was operated by Indigo



Airlines from Srinagar Airport to New Delhi and there will be no trail flights as of now, now the summer flight movement schedule will be according to the DGCA which is expected to come by next week," Director Airport Santosh Dhoke said. Divisional Commissioner Kashmir PK Pole said the flights operated from the Srinagar Airport were trial flights before **More On P6**

Pak Made Rifles Found in J&K: DGP

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Dilbagh Singh Saturday claimed that American assault rifle M4, which was among the seized weapons recently, was being illegally manufactured somewhere in Pakistan or Afghanistan.

He was giving details of the weapons which were smuggled in from Pakistan using drones and other means but



seized by state forces along the border during 2020. "The weapons seized last

year was huge, incomparable to what we have seized in previous years. In all, there were 475 weapons seized last year. The number was not even half of this in 2019," the top cop of the union territory said.

He said among the recoveries were pistols, AK assault rifles, M4 rifles, narcotics and cash as well.

"M4 actually is an American rifle but there are duplicates manufactured **More On P6**

COVID-19 SURGE

Centre Asks J&K To Take 'Necessary Action'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The government of India has asked Jammu and Kashmir administration to take necessary measures for creating awareness among people to follow COVID appropriate behaviour and take necessary action for its strict enforcement so as to fully overcome the covid-19 pandemic.

In this regard Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla has written a letter to Chief Secretary J&K, inviting attention to January 27 order by MHA, delineating guidelines for surveillance, containment



and caution. In terms of Guidelines, State/UT Governments have been mandated to take all necessary measures to promote COVID-19 appropriate behaviour and ensure

wearing of face masks, hand hygiene and social distancing.

Further, these measures on COVID appropriate behavior are also included in the National Directives **More On P6**

140 New Covid Cases In J&K

Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday recorded 140 new coronavirus cases, including 29 travellers, taking the tally to 1,28,389, while another person died from the pathogen, officials said. Out of the fresh cases, 25 were from the Jammu division and 115 from the Kashmir division, they said. Srinagar district recorded the highest 73 cases, including 17 travellers, followed by 22 in Jammu district, 18 in Budgam and 14 Baramulla districts. In all, **More On P6**

Delhi Court Summons Shabir Shah's Wife In PMLA Case

Agencies

New Delhi: The Delhi Court issued summons against Kashmir's separatist leader Shabir Shah's wife Dr Bilquies Shah while taking cognizance on a charge sheet in a money laundering case related to militant financing. He is currently lodged in Tihar jail under judicial custody.

According to the statement, Enforcement Directorate, in its supplementary charge sheet which was filed last year named Shabir Shah's wife Dr Bilquies Shah as a new accused in the case.



Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana on Saturday while takes cognizance on the charge sheet, issued a summons against Dr Bilquies Shah for her presence in the court on June 9 and also issued a production **More On P6**

GMCs To Start New PG Courses

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Signifying a major achievement for the healthcare department, new Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) in Jammu and Kashmir have been accredited for Diplomate of National Board (DNB) courses in various departments, an official spokesman said on Saturday. With this, the accredited institutions would get two PG candidates in the certified stream every year, the spokesman said.

Till now, 30 Super Specialty and Broad Specialty courses have been approved by the National Board of Examinations (NBE) which are likely to give 58 seats to the Union Territory.

In new GMCs, the spokesman said two **More On P6**

Road To Peace Passes Through J&K: Mehbooba



Agencies

SRINAGAR: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday reminded the leadership in New Delhi and Islamabad that the route to peace in subcontinent traverses through Kashmir and any bonhomie between the two

neighbours should put Kashmir and Kashmiris front and centre.

Addressing a gathering of party workers at District Convention Kulgam Mehbooba said that any renewed thaw in the relationships of the two countries is subservient to the progress made towards addressing the long pending **More On P6**

'Restlessness' Among People In J&K: Cong

Lashing out at Centre government for failing to address the grievances of people and causing restlessness among the people in J&K, All India Congress Committee (AICC) in-charge for **More On P6**

'LURED FOR JOB' Inside Kashmir's Child Trafficking Network

Swati Joshi

Rohan was brought to Kashmir with the promise of a high paying job. But little did he know that he would end up as a household worker in southern Kashmir's Pulwama area.

Before his unwitting valley visit, the minor was living in an ashram in Assam, where he used to work at weddings to earn his livelihood.

One day while returning from a wedding at night, he met a person who asked him if he wanted to earn more money. Rohan who had no one in his family except his little sister decided to go with the man in search of work. Exhausted by the work, he slept

on the train, unknown of the place the man was taking him. When he woke up he was on his way to Jammu.

"Rohan was brought to Pulwama through a consultancy firm who told us that he was an adult," said Tawseef Ahmad Ganai, a member of Child Welfare Committee (CWC), Pulwama.

When Ganai got information about Rohan, he alerted the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) who gave the boy's custody to the CWC.

On examination, it was found out that Rohan was a student of 8th class, when brought to Kashmir— "meaning that he was around 13 years old," said Ganai. The consultancy firm was given a

warning and since then it is under the scanner of the CWC, Ganai told Kashmir Observer.

People believe that there is no human trafficking in Jammu & Kashmir, but they're wrong, said Mohammad Sharif Bhat, J&K and Ladakh head of NGO, Save the Children. "I've seen many people having minor non-Kashmiri servants in their homes," he said.

Three years ago, Bhat came across a minor girl from Kolkata who was found on a farm in northern Kashmir's Kupwara district. Alerted by the Information District Social Welfare Officer, the NGO soon rescued the traumatized kid.

"I took her to the hospital and informed the concerned **More On P6**

