



Maximum: 9°C
Minimum: -4°C
Humidity: 89%

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



OBSERVER

23rd year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR

18 Jumada ul-Sani | 1441 Hijri | Vol:23 | Issue:37 | Pages:12 | Price: ₹3

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

..... LIFE & TIMES/ 08

A DESKTOP PLANT CAN BE A WORKPLACE STRESSBUSTER

Does office work make you feel anxious and burnt out? Do the fast-approaching deadlines and boss meetings strike terror in your heart and set your pulse shooting up through the roof?

OS/NEWS.....



**KEJRIWAL TO TAKE OATH AS
DELHI CM AT RAMLILA MAIDAN ON FEB 16**
Arvind Kejriwal, who led the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) to a stupendous victory yet again in Assembly poll, will take oath as the Delhi Chief Minister for the third straight time on February 16.....

11/SPORTS.....

PCB SAYS UMAR AKMAL MISCONDUCT DURING FITNESS TEST WAS 'MISUNDERSTANDING'

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) reprimanded Umar Akmal after concluding proceedings into his alleged misconduct during a fitness test earlier this month. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Wednesday concluded.....



News Digest

3 Youth Held In Nocturnal Raids

Srinagar: Government forces arrested at least three youth in nocturnal raids in south Kashmir's Pulwama district. Three youth were arrested during night raids on Tuesday from Litter village of the district, reports said. Officials confirmed to a local newsgathering agency KNO that the raid and detention of three youth, stating that they were picked up for questioning. "One of the detained youth is the brother of a slain militant," they said.

60 Shops Seized In Pulwama

Pulwama: The district administration on Wednesday seized at least 60 shops constructed in violation of the norms. Acting on the directions of Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama, Dr Raghav Langer a team of officers including Tehsildar, Executive Officer MC and SHO Pulwama today seized 60 illegally constructed shops. The DC reiterated his commitment of zero tolerance towards illegal encroachments in the District. He said that anybody resorting to illegal constructions in violation of Land Revenue, other Acts and Rules in vogue will be strictly dealt under law.

41st Anniv Of Islamic Revolution Observed

Budgam: Anjuman-e-Sharie Shian on Wednesday observed 41st anniversary of Islamic Revolution at Jamia Babul-Ilm, Mirgund Budgam. A seminar was organised to mark the occasion. Noted scholars addressed the seminar, saying Islamic Revolution alone could bring peace and tranquillity in the world. The speakers said that founder of revolution; Imam Khomeini stressed need for following the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (SAW) to defeat the nefarious designs of the enemies of peace.

Firing Creates Panic In Awantipora

Srinagar: Panic gripped Dogripora area of South Kashmir's Awantipora town on Wednesday when government forces fired warning shots after a driver ignored their signal to stop. Reports said that the government forces deployed at Dogripora check-point directed a vehicle to stop. However, the driver ignored. **PIO**

Wild Life Department Captures Two Bears

Srinagar: The wildlife authorities on Wednesday captured two bears in Tangmarg area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Taking note of the complaints from the villagers, Wild Life Department constituted a team that captured these two bears from Gulgam area of Tangmarg, official sources told local newsgathering agency KNT today. They said these bears **PIO**

SC To Hear Plea Challenging Omar's Detention On Friday

Justice Shantanagoudar Recuses From Hearing Petition



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Supreme Court judge Justice M M Shantanagoudar recused himself on Wednesday from hearing the plea filed by Sara Abdullah Pilot challenging the detention of her brother and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah booked under the J-K Public Safety Act.

Sara's plea came up for hearing before a three-judge bench comprising justices N V Ramana, Shantanagoudar and Sanjiv

Khanna.

"I am not participating in this matter," Justice Shantanagoudar said at the outset without citing any specific reason for his recusal.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Sara, urged the bench to list the matter for Friday. The bench agreed to the request and listed it for hearing on February 14.

Sara had on Monday moved the top court challenging her brother's detention under the J-K Public Safety Act, **PIO**

Third Batch Of Foreign Envoys Arrive In Srinagar Meet BJP Politicians, Take Shikara Ride In Dal Lake

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR: A second batch of 25 foreign envoys arrived here on Wednesday as part of a union government-facilitated trip to help them have a first-hand assessment of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, a region which faced months of harsh restrictions after its special status was stripped of in August.

The envoys arrived at the Srinagar airport around 11 am but could not go ahead with their scheduled visit to Baramulla in north Kashmir due to inclement weather, officials said.

The foreign dignitaries instead went for a Shikara (boat) ride in the famous Dal Lake.

The government had taken a group of 15 envoys to Jammu and Kashmir last month **PIO**



Pic Abid bhat

Orchestrated Diplomacy: Iltija Mufti

Iltija Mufti, daughter of PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, on Wednesday termed the visit of foreign envoys to Kashmir as "orchestrated diplomacy" that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un "would be proud of". "How lovely! Kim Jong Un would be proud of such orchestrated diplomacy. The only thing missing is presence of 3 former J&K ex CMs in this 'curated shikara'. I'm sure they'd have lots to share," Iltija said in a tweet from her mother's Twitter handle. **PIO**

3 Protesters Detained By Police

Three young men were detained here on Wednesday after they staged a protest against the visit of foreign envoys to Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

They protested against the visit and called it a waste of money while the envoys were enjoying a Shikara ride in the Dal Lake. A second batch of foreign envoys arrived in Srinagar on Wednesday for a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir for a first-hand assessment of the situation **PIO**

Geelani Stable, Rumours Baseless: Son

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The family of ailing Hurriyat Conference (G) Chairman, Syed Ali Geelani on Wednesday rubbished reports making rounds on the social media over the deteriorating health of the octogenarian leader.

This evening, rumours made rounds on social media that the ailing Hurriyat leader has passed away at his Hyderpora residence. The rumours were fuelled after a purported statement of amalgam appeared on popular **PIO**

No Upper Age Relaxation For JK Applicants In UPSC Exam This Year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Unlike last year, there will be no upper-age relaxation for applicants taking the civil services examination 2020 who are domicile of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir between 1980 and 1989, according to a notification issued on Wednesday.

The age relaxation for other categories will continue.

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has announced 796 vacancies in the country's bureaucracy to be filled through the civil services examination 2020, which will

be held on May 31, the notification said.

According to last year's civil services exam notification, the upper-age limit of 32 years to take the test was further relaxable for up to a maximum of five years if a candidate had ordinarily been domiciled in the state of Jammu and Kashmir during the period from January 1, 1980 to December 31, 1989.

There is no mention of such age relaxation in this year's exam notification.

The erstwhile J-K state has been bifurcated into two union territories-- Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh -- with effect

from October 31, 2019.

"A candidate must have attained the age of 21 years and must not have attained the age of 32 years on the 1st of August, 2020 i.e., he must have been born not earlier than 2nd August, 1988 and not later than 1st August, 1999," this year's notification said.

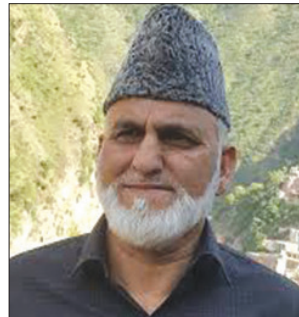
This upper-age limit is further relaxed for up to a maximum of five years if a candidate belongs to a scheduled caste or a scheduled tribe; up to a maximum of three years in the case of candidates belonging to other backward classes who are eligible to avail **PIO**

Nothing to Hide, Says Saroori After NIA Quizzing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: A day after he was questioned by NIA in connection with militant attacks in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, senior Congress leader and former minister G M Saroori on Wednesday said he has "nothing to hide" and does not need a certificate from anyone.

He strongly denied having any connection with Mohammad Amin Bhat alias "Jehangir Saroori", the longest-surviving militant of Hizbul Mujahideen and the brain behind the revival of



militancy in Kishtwar, declared free of militancy over a decade ago but rocked by four targeted killings since November 2018.

"He (Bhat) is neither **PIO**

Hafiz Saeed Gets 11 Years In Jail Over 'Terror Financing'

LAHORE: Jamat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed was on Wednesday sentenced to 11 years in jail by an anti-terrorism court in Pakistan in two terror financing cases.

Saeed, a UN designated terrorist whom the US has placed a USD 10 million bounty on, was arrested on July 17 in the terror financing cases. He is lodged at the Lahore's Kot Lakhpat jail in high security.

A court official confirmed to PTI that Saeed was sentenced in two terror financing cases registered against him in Lahore and Gujranwala cities on the application of the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab police.

The court sentenced Saeed



to five and a half years and imposed a fine of Rs 15,000 in each case. The sentences of both cases will run concurrently.

The anti-terrorism court or ATC had indicted Saeed and his close aides on December 11 in the terror financing cases.

On last Saturday, Lahore ATC

judge Arshad Hussain Bhutta deferred the verdict against Saeed in two terror financing cases till February 11.

In the two cases, the prosecution produced some 20 or so witnesses in the ATC who testified against Saeed and his close aides for their involvement **PIO**

5 Killed After Vehicle Falls Into Kishtwar Gorge

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KISHTWAR - Five members of a family, including two women, were killed on Wednesday when their vehicle skidded off the road and fell into a deep gorge in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, a police official said.

The accident happened when the family was carrying the body of a baby from Jammu to their Bahadat village in Drabshalla for last rites, he said.

Near Paani Nallah, the driver of the private car lost control over the wheels, the official said.

The deceased were identified as Pawan Kumar (32), his wife Rekha Devi (26), Rita Devi (30), Kewal Krishan (37) and P Kumar (30).

Senior Congress leader and former minister G M Saroori expressed grief over the loss of lives and said the repeated road accidents in Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban and Udhampur **PIO**

Building Collapses In Jammu, 2 Firemen Killed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: Two firemen were killed and six persons injured when a three-storey building collapsed early on Wednesday in Jammu city when fire department personnel were trying to put out a blaze, an official said.

One fireman is still trapped under the debris and efforts are on to pull him out, Director General of Fire and Emergency Services, V K Singh told PTI. The building in Golepul area of Tallab Tillo, housing a saw mill on the ground floor, collapsed during the fire fighting operation, trapping several people, officials said.

A team of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has also joined the ongoing rescue operation. Bodies of two firefighters, Vimal Kumar Raina and Rattan Chand, were retrieved, while search is going on for the third personnel, identified as Mohammad Aslam, Singh **PIO**

Day Chill Intensifies In Valley Due To Overcast Conditions

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Chilly weather conditions have intensified due to over cast conditions in Kashmir valley, where light to moderate rain and snow is predicted at most places during the next 36 hours under the influence of a Western Disturbance (WD), which is active in the region.

However, there was major improvement in the night temperature across the valley, where mercury settled several degrees above normal due to cloudy skies.

A Met department spokesperson said that light to moderate rain or snow would occur during the next 36 hours in Kashmir valley under

the influence of the WD, which originated from Arabian Sea.

However, he said the weather will again turn dry from Friday onwards though that will result in dip in the minimum temperature.

There were intense chilly weather conditions due to cloudy skies at world famous ski resort of Gulmarg, which received fresh snowfall on Tuesday. But, the night temperature improved and settled at minus 6 degree, which is several degrees above normal.

The night temperature in the summer capital, Srinagar, improved further and settled above freezing point. Against minus 0.2 degree recorded on Tuesday, the night temperature **PIO**

NIA Charges 4 Alleged Jaish Workers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The NIA Wednesday filed a supplementary charge sheet against four alleged Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) aides of Pulwama attack mastermind in a case of conspiring militancy attacks across country.

The NIA had last September filed a charge sheet claiming that JeM's Sajjad Ahmad Khan, a close aide of Pulwama attack mastermind Mudassir Ahmad Khan, was conspiring militancy acts across India.

The supplementary charge sheet was filed against four alleged JeM operatives under

sections 120-B (criminal conspiracy) and 121 A (waging, or attempting to wage war, or abetting waging of war, against the government of India) of IPC, and various sections of stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and sections of Explosives Substances Act.

The agency filed the **PIO**

ISJK Module Busted in Budgam, 5 Held: Police

Police on Wednesday claimed to have busted a module of militant ISJK by arresting five workers of the outfit from central Kashmir's Budgam district.

A police spokesperson said that acting on a tip-off, police arrested five alleged militant associates in Budgam and recovered arms and ammunition and other incriminating material from their possession. After preliminary enquiry, the spokesperson said, it was found that these men were associated to the militant outfit ISJK and were involved **PIO**

Union Ministers Submit Reports On J&K To PMO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: More than 30 Union ministers, who visited Jammu and Kashmir last month, have submitted their feedback to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on the implementation of various development schemes there, officials said on Wednesday.

As many as 37 central ministers visited Jammu and Kashmir to assess the ground situation and interact with people on various development schemes.

Over 30 of them have submitted their reports to the Home Ministry and those were forwarded to the PMO recently, a



government official said.

The reports were primarily on how the welfare schemes were being implemented and **PIO**