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Minum : -2°C
Humidity : 86%

SUNSET
Today 06:18 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 07:11 AM

OBSERVER

23rd year OF PUBLICATION KASHMIR

25 Jumada ul-Sani | 1441 Hijri | Vol:23 | Issue:43 | Pages:08 | Price: ₹3

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



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NEWS/07

CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS

FUTURE OF ALL CHILDREN: UN REPORT

The future of every single child in the world is at risk as nations across the world fail to curb the effects of climate change and provide a clean and healthy environment essential for their well-being.....



WHEN CHINA SNEEZES

BEYOND the inevitably immediate concerns about the steadily rising death toll from the Wuhan coronavirus infection and the prospects of a worldwide pandemic, crucial questions have arisen about its political and economic impact in China as well as internationally.....

08/SPORTS.....

VIRAT KOHLI SAYS WORKLOAD TAKES TOLL, BUT READY TO PLAY ALL FORMATS FOR AT LEAST THREE YEARS
India captain Virat Kohli is preparing himself for a "rigorous three years" of playing all three formats after which he might reassess his workload amid a "transition phase" setting in. The world's premier batsman

News Digest

Misfire Injures Soldier In Pulwama

Srinagar: An army man was injured in an accidental fire in Malangpora area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Wednesday. An army man of army's 55 RR sustained injuries when the service rifle of his colleague accidentally went off in Malangpora village this evening, a local newsgathering agency KNO reported. The injured soldier identified as Shaam Lal was immediately taken to Army's nearby health facility for treatment, he said. A police officer also confirmed the incident.

SMC Commissioner Tours City

Srinagar: Commissioner SMC, Gazanfer Ali on Wednesday toured various areas of the city and took stock of various issues concerning people. The SMC Commissioner visited Alsafa Market and took stock of the sanitation works, an official spokesperson said. He directed the concerned for making lavatory block near Iqra Masjid functional. He also directed for restoring water supply and providing electricity to the lavatory. **● P06**

LWWDA Demolishes Illegal Structures

Srinagar: The Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LWWDA) on Wednesday carried out a demolition drive in parts of this capital city, officials said. They said the enforcement wing of LWWDA conducted a demolition drive in Shalimar, Harwan and interior parts of Dal Lake and Nehru Park and demolished illegally raised 2nd storey bed work, tin walling, two sheds and a block. The drive **● P06**

Power Shutdown In Parts Of City, Mattan

Srinagar: The power supply in many parts of the city and south Kashmir's Anantnag district will remain affected due to maintenance works, officials said Wednesday. According to the Superintendent Engineer, Operation & Maintenance Circle-1st Srinagar, in connection with beautification works at Hazrat Peer Dastigeer Sahib (RA) shrine, 11 KV F4 and F7 feeders of Receiving Station Khanyar **● P06**

3 Drug Peddlers Held From Awantipora: Police

Srinagar: Police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested three drug peddlers from Awantipora area of south Kashmir. According to a police spokesperson, a checkpoint established by the police at Reshipora intercepted a Scooty. During checking, officers recovered 500 gm of "charas" from the vehicle. The rider has been identified as Bashir Ahmad Ganie, a resident of Pulwama. **● P06**

South Kashmir: 3 Militants Killed In Tral Gunfight

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR - Three Hizbul Mujahideen militants were killed in a gunfight with state forces in the Tral area of Pulwama district in Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Wednesday.

State forces launched a cordon and search operation in Tral late Tuesday night following information about the presence of militants there, they said.

During searches, a gunfight broke out between militants and forces, police said.

"Three Hizbul Mujahideen militants were killed in an operation in the Tral area," Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh told reporters here.

Singh said the slain militants have been identified as Jehangir Ahmad Wani, who had taken over the command of the outfit in the area after the killing of Hamad, Raja Umer Maqbool and Sadaat Ahmad Thokar. **▶PAGE 06**



No Clean Chit To Youth Injured In Lawaypora Gunfight: IGP

A senior police officer on Wednesday said that no clean chit has been given to a youth, Umar Fayaz, who was injured in an encounter that left two militants dead in Srinagar outskirts on February 5. Rejecting reports about the clean chit, Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir range Vijay Kumar said that he will be arrested and questioned once he recovers from the injured incurred during the encounter. **● P10**

Hopeful Of Trump's Visit Passing Off Peacefully: DGP

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir police on Wednesday said it will take all measures to ensure that militants are not able to carry out any subversive activity in the Union territory during US President Donald Trump's visit to the country next week. "We are taking all necessary measures...we are hopeful that this visit (of the US president) will pass off peacefully," Director General of Police (DGP) Dilbagh Singh told reporters here.

He was responding to a question on intelligence inputs suggesting that militant outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed might carry

out a major attack on the eve of Trump's visit to India.

Singh said foreign dignitaries visited Jammu and Kashmir recently and their visits passed off without any incident.

"Two groups (of ambassadors) visited Jammu and Kashmir and they left without any incident taking place here," he said.

The DGP said Pakistan was trying its best to keep the militancy going in Jammu and Kashmir by sending in militants from across the Line of Control (LoC) and the international border under the cover of ceasefire violations, especially after the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, which gave a special status **▶PAGE 06**

President Kovind Likely To Visit J&K In March

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: President Ram Nath Kovind will next month visit the newly carved Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for the first time after the revocation of Article 370 and 35A, reports said Wednesday.

The visit comes at a crucial time when the Union Territory's administration has decided to postpone the announced By-Polls of Panchayats citing security concerns.

"Rashtrapati Bhawan has given consent that President Kovind will take part in the annual convocation of the Central University of Jammu," Republic

TV reported today.

"The date of the event has not been finalized yet but it will happen on March 14 or 15. Once we get official confirmation on the date of visit, we will schedule convocation accordingly," a University official told the news channel.

"President Kovind will be taking part in the 2nd Convocation of the Central University of Jammu as Chief Guest. He will confer degree to pass out students of 2018 and 2019. Once confirmation of the schedule of President's visit comes from Rashtrapati Bhawan, we will formally announce venue," he added.

The first convocation of the Central University of **▶PAGE 06**

CAA May Leave Muslims Stateless, Says UN Chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD: Amid concerns over India's Citizenship Amendment Act and the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC), UN chief Antonio Guterres has said it is necessary to do everything to prevent "statelessness" when a nationality law is changed.

Guterres, who was on a three-day visit to Pakistan, when asked whether he was concerned about new laws in India during an interview, said, "Of course (I am concerned). Because this is an area in which the relevant UN body is quite active."

"The present High Commissioner for Refugees is quite active

to this situation like many others like this. Because there is risk of statelessness created by those national laws," the UN Secretary General told Dawn News TV.

"It is absolutely essential when a nationality law is changed, the statelessness is prevented. Because when basic right of anyone anywhere is to have a country that a person calls his, then everything should be done in order to avoid statelessness, he said.

The new citizenship law passed by the Indian Parliament in December 2019 offers citizenship to non-Muslim persecuted religious minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and **▶PAGE 06**

Ahead Of Trump's India Visit, More US Lawmakers Voice Concern Over Kashmir



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Ahead of US President Donald Trump's maiden India visit next week, an influential US Congressman on Wednesday expressed concern over the situation in Kashmir and agitations over the new citizenship law, saying the country must protect its minorities and not lose its secular democracy.

Ami Bera, Chair of House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific in the US Congress, said it was the desire of the US to see resolution of the Kashmir issue and return of normalcy in the region.

Bera, a democrat, and George Holding, the Republican co-chair of the India caucus, are on a two-day visit to India to "demonstrate" bipartisan support to India in the US Congress. "We expressed our concerns over continued detention of political leaders in Kashmir," Bera told a group of journalists when asked whether he and Holding conveyed their concerns to Indian officials over situation in Kashmir.

"We do not want to India to lose secular democracy that is what sets it apart from countries in the region, that is what makes it such a valuable partner of the US," he said.

Wanted To 'Assess' Ground Situation In Kashmir, Says Deported British MP

British MP Debbie Abrahams, who was denied entry into India after the government revoked her visa, visited Pakistan on Wednesday and said that she was not anti-India or pro-Pakistan but just wanted to see the ground situation in Jammu and Kashmir, reports said. Debbie, who chairs a British parliamentary group on Kashmir, was denied entry into India upon her arrival at the New Delhi airport on Monday. Government officials had said she was informed in advance that her e-visa had been cancelled. Government sources later said her visa was revoked because she indulged in "anti-India" activities. The Labour Party MP had said that despite **● P10**

LG Reviews Road Safety Initiatives

Calls For Inclusion Of Chapter On Road Safety In School Curriculum

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu on Wednesday reviewed the implementation of road safety initiatives across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir during a meeting with the senior transport department and traffic police officials here.

During the meeting, LG emphasized on the strict enforcement of traffic regulations and awareness regarding road safety which is essential for preventing road accidents, an official spokesperson said.

Taking a brief review of the factors responsible for road accidents, Murmu asked the officers to identify the causes of accidents and take effective



corrective measures with regard to the black spots.

The LG directed the officers to prepare DPRs for establishing trauma centres on highways and also in border areas with frequent ceasefire violations.

He directed the officers to roll out an effective action plan for successful implementation of all road safety measures including interceptors, installation of GPS in patrol vehicles

and equipping the traffic police with speed guns and other such advanced devices for proper traffic management.

"He further directed them to increase highway patrolling, install CCTVs in the areas witnessing increased violations of traffic norms and prepare a database of places requiring underpasses, service roads etc," the official spokesperson said.

"LG also directed for **▶PAGE 06**

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