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The fresh order was issued

...LIFE & TIMES/08

**ORANGES COULD HELP REDUCE OBESITY AND RISK OF HEART DISEASE: STUDY** Everybody's favourite citrus fruit - Orange - has a lot o offer in addition to its tangy flavour and juicy pulp. A new study published in the Journal of Lipid Research suggests that the equivalent of just..

**OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE** 

JAMMU: Srinagar: In a sud-

den and surprise move au-

thorities in Jammu and Kashmir Wednesday evening

lifted the seven month long

ban on social media even as

internet access remained re-

stricted to 2G on post paid

According to media re-

ports, the administration to-

day eased communication

blockade and allowed users

to access social media plat-

forms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Whatsapp.

The broadband service too

was restored in the Valley af-

ter 7-month communication

"Wired broadband internet

services in the Kashmir Valley

will be restored in full and ac-

cess to social media websites

will be permitted from this

evening, NDTV report quoted a

phones only.

clampdown.



extended from time to time, ritories.

after being snapped on August

service was restored for a week to the erstwhile state and bi-

on January 25 and subsequent- furcated it into two union ter-

5 last year when the Centre by Principal Secretary, Home,

abrogated the special status Shaleen Kabra after » PAGE 10

**CISCO Denies Building Firewall To** 

merican technology company, Cisco Systems, has de-nied Indian media reports that it is helping the govern-

ment build a firewall to restrict fixed line internet ac-

cess to restricted websites including social media sites from

Jammu and Kashmir once broadband connectivity is restored

Restrict Internet In J&K

25 POSITIVE CASES OF CORONAVIRUS IN INDIA AT PRESENT: GOVT There are at least 25 positive cases of COVID-19 in India at present, the Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan med on Wednesday during a press conference here 'There are at least 28 confirmed cases of the coronavirus 11/SPORTS...

I-LEAGUE:

**DANISH FAROOQ'S STRIKE HELPS REAL KASHMIR FC EDGE OUT NEROCA FC** Real Kashmir FC maintained its excellent home record with a 1-0 victory over NEROCA FC at the TRC Turf Ground in Srinagar on Wednesday, Local boy Danish Faroog.



## **News** Digest

#### Khudam-Ul-Hujaj **Interviews From March 7**

Srinagar: The interview of the candidates who have applied for Khadim-ul-Hajaj for Haj-2020 will be held here from March 7, officials said Wednesday. According to the officials, the interview of the candidates of Srinagar, Shopian and Kupwara, who have applied for Khadim-ul-Hajaj, will be held on March 7 at the Haj House Bemina here. The candidates of Baramulla, Ganderbal, Budgam and Bandipora will be interviewed on March 8 and those from Anantnag, Kulgam and Pulwama districts on 9th March at 10 morning. "The statement further reads that the candidates of Jammu Division and Ladakh UT can appear for the interview on any of the dates from 7th to 9th March," the officials said.

"The candidates are directed to bring along requisite documents in original including passport," they added. The officials said that only those candidates who P10

### **CGST Team Raids City Businessman**

Srinagar: A team of Central Goods & Services Tax (CGST) on Wednesday raided the residence of a businessman in Eidgah area of this capital city. The team raided the house of Abdul Rashid Wani at Syedpora Eidgah today and seized some documents, local newsgathering agency GNS reported. Wani is a Kashmiri handicraft dealer and runs his business in parts of India and abroad.

#### **Youth Found Dead In Kupwara**

Srinagar: A youth on Wednesday was found dead in a forest area of Zurhama in the frontier district of Kupwara. 22-year-old Shahid Ahmad Wani was found hanging from a tree in the Zurhama forest area of the border district, a police official told GNS. The police, he said was informed by the locals about the incident. "Immediately a police team reached the spot and recovered the body. After conducting the all legal medico formalities, the body of the deceased was handed over to his family for last rites, the officer said. He said that a case has been registered under relevant sections of the law and further investigations taken up to ascertain the cause of incident.

## **Forest Fire Triggers** Mine Blasts In Poonch

Jammu: Some mines exploded due to a forest fire along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Wednesday, officials said. The fire broke out in the Pakistan side of the LoC and spread to the Indian side in Mendhar belt, resulting in the explosion, they said. Forest officials and the Army, along with locals, are engaged in dousing the fire, the officials said.

**OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE** 

**NEW DELHI:** A right wing Hindu

outfit is organizing a 'gaumutra

party' to stop the deadly corno-

virus infection from spreading

The fringe outfit Hindu Ma-

hasabha president, Chakrapani

Maharaj told New Delhi based

ThePrint that there was a need to

create greater awareness among

the people on how gaumutra

(cow urine), gobar (cow-dung)

further in the Indian capital.

## senior BSNL official as saying. in the Union Territory, The Hindu reported on Wednesday. Earlier, only access to white-"Cisco denies reports from India regarding Cisco • P10 listed sites was allowed as the

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** A civilian and a policeman were killed on Wednesinjuries in a militant attack in So-

police team in Warpora locality of Sopore this evening leaving a special police officer (SPO) and a cipoliceman identified as Showkat mir's Budgam district. Ahmad Khanday of Kreeri was iniured in the shootout. The injured cop was removed to the hospital

Officials identified the de-

ceased as SPO Wajahat Ahmad of Kreeri and Umar Subhan of

tants fired upon a patrolling party of army's 50 RR near Zenipora village this afternoon. The

# Media In Kashmir Lifted **Jailed Omar Found On Twitter**



**AUQIB JAVEED** 

SRINAGAR: - It looks like former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Omar Abdullah is finally able to access his Twitter handle.

On Wednesday, Omar liked a Tweet by Associated Press. The tweet was a story on the US strike on Taliban ever since the peace deal was signed between the two parties.

The activity came on the same day when the admin lifted ban on social media in Kashmir after 7-months. • P10

# 7 Month Long Ban On Social JK Govt Steps Up **Coronavirus Vigil**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday stepped up efforts to tackle any possible spread of the coronavirus to the Union Territory, appointing a senior official as the head of the task force to coordinate its efforts.

Bhupinder Kumar, the Director of the National Health Mission, was appointed as the incharge of the coronavirus control efforts in the union territory, an order issued by General Administration Department said.

The divisional commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu regions have been made incharge of the programme in their respective areas of jurisdiction. The move comes in **→PAGE 10**  **DAK Sounds Alert** 

rinagar: With 28 confirmed cases of novel coronavirus in India and positive cases reporton Wednesday asked health authorities in Kashmir valley to prepare for contingencies.

"We need to intensify screening at entry points and enhance surveillance,' said DAK President D

"The passengers at Srinagar international airport should be screened by using thermal devices which spots people with fevers rapidly with no skin contact minimizing the risk P10

**ESIDES CREATION OF QUARANTINE** and isolation facilities, the government has also directed for proper surveillance of people who have been put under home quarantine.

## 2 People With Travel History To Italy, S Korea Quarantined At GMC Jammu

wo passengers with a travel history to Italy and South Korea have been shifted to the quarantine ward at a government medical college hospital in Jammu, officials said on Wednesday.

Jammu and Kashmir has been put on alert to deal with any threat emerging due to coronavirus, even though no positive case has been found in the Union Territory so far

positive case has been found in the Union Territory so far, officials said. The tests of the two persons have been sent to Delhi and symptomatic passengers have been instructed for home quarantine, they said.

Around 200 people have been identified with travel history to coronavirus-affected countries or those who

# SPO, Civilian Killed In Sopore Attack

Army, Militants Trade Fire In Chadoora

for treatment.

Warpora.

Soon after the attack, adday while another cop sustained ditional reinforcements were rushed to the area to nab the atpore town of Baramulla district. tackers. The state forces, reports Militants opened fire upon a said cordoned off the area and started searches

Meanwhile, militants ambushed an army patrol in vilian dead, officials said. Another Chadoora area of central Kash-

According to reports, miliarmy returned the fire **▶PAGE 10** 

## **NIA Carries Fresh** Raids In Pulwama

**AGENCIES** 

SRINAGAR - National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday carried out fresh raids in Pulwama district of south Kashmir. Official sources said that the

NIA sleuths accompanied by police and CRPF raided at Kasabayar village and detained a youth. During the raid, the NIA Iso seized three mobile phones and some documents. However it was not immediately known whether arrest was in connection with last year's Pulwama attack, reported news agency GNS.

The fresh raids were carried a day after probe agency arrested Mohammad Maqbool Shah and his daughter Insha Jan for → PAGE 10

## **Man Held Over Links With Pak Intel Agencies**

he Special Operations Group (SOG) of police on Wednesday detained a man from Narwal area of Jammu for his alleged links with Pakistani intelligence agencies, Pankai Sharma of Tarore in Samba was working as an operative of Pakistani Intelligence agencies official sources told local newsgathering agency KNO.

"Acting on a specific input, a team of SOG Jammu detained Pankaj Sharma • P10

**Now Umrah** 

**Suspended For** 

Saudi Citizens Too

After banning Umrah for foreigners, Saudi Arabian

authorities have now suspend-

ed the optional pilgrimage to

Makkah and Madinah for its

own citizens and residents in a

bid to stop spread of coronavi-

rus, reports said on Wednesday.

The decision was announced

by the state media, the BBC

reported, adding that it comes

after the kingdom recorded its

first coronavirus case this week

- a Saudi man who 🗕 P10

## **J&K Govt Received Rs 13,120 Crore Investment Offers: Goyal**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** The government of Jammu and Kashmir received 44 expressions of interest between August 5, 2019, and December 31, 2019, for investments amounting to Rs 13,120 crore, Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

"All proposals are currently under scrutiny by respective departments," Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha.

Replying to a separate question, the minister said patent examination increased from 22,631 in 2014-15 to 85,426 by the end of 2018-19.

"Time taken in examination



present. Grant of patents has increased from 5,978 in 2014-15 to 15,283 in 2018-19." he said.

He also said period of examination of new trademark applications was reduced from 13 months in 2015-16 to less than 30 days currently.

"India now has among the of patents (reduced) from an fastest trademark examinaaverage of 72 months in 2014- tion globally," he said »PAGE 10

■URTHER, HE SAID THAT AS MANY as 11.25 lakh trademark registrations have been done in four-and-a-half years (2015 to 2019), compared with 11 lakh registrations during the previous 75 years.

# HC Seeks Centre's Response On Evacuating Kashmiri Students In Iran

**OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE** 

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Wednesday sought the Centre's response on a plea filed by a Budgam resident regarding the evacuation of J&K students and other persons from coronavirus hit Iran.

The High Court directed the administrations of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to ensure creation of proper isolation and quarantine facilities besides testing laboratories for prevention of the novel coronavirus disease.

The Coram comprising Chief Justice Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Rajesh Bindal made Sec-

we will inform people about

what is coronavirus and how, by

consuming cow-related prod-

ucts, people can be saved from

it," Maharaj, who heads one of

the two factions of the Mahas-

that will provide gaumutra for

people to consume. At the same

time, we will also put cow prod-

ucts like cow-dung cakes and

agarbatti made from that. Upon

using these, the virus will die

"The event will have counters

abha told ThePrint.

fairs, Secretary Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Secretary

retary, Ministry of External Af- spectively as party respondents. According to the directions, the Ministries of External Affairs, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Chief Health and Civil Aviation are re-Secretaries and Commissioner quired through the Indian Em-Secretaries of Health and Medi- bassy in Tehran, Iran and their cal Education Departments of offices, to ensure availability of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh re- the required materials »PAGE 10

## Parents Stage Protest In Srinagar, **Demand Quick Evacuation**

he parents of Kashmiri students stuck in Iran on Wednesday staged a protest in Srinagar to urge the government to evacuate their children from the coronavirus-hit country. The parents said the government should evacuate Kashmiri students from Iran which has seen the highest number of deaths due to the deadly cornovirus outside China. "We want the government to quickly evacuate Kashmiri students enrolled in • P10

# Traffic Restricted On Kashmir Highway

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

IAMMU: Amid forecast for

However, thousands of vehicles including trucks which got stranded on the highway following a landslide on Tuesday at Peera between Nashri and Ramban were allowed to move towards their destinations after the road was made



nagar or Jammu was allowed authorities had decided to clear "No vehicle either from Sri- on the highway this morning as the stranded vehicles **PAGE 10** 

## **646 Incidents Of CFVs** Along IB, LoC Till Feb 23: Govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** There were a total of 646 incidents of ceasefire violations along the Indo-Pakistan International Border (IB) as well as the Line of Control (LoC) between January 1 and February 23 this year, Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik said on Wednesday.

"There have been 27 encounterritory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) since August 5 last year to February 23 this year. Forty five militants were killed and 7 se- ted," Naik stated. curity force personnel were also

On August 5 last year, the Central government had revoked Article 370 to take away Jammu and Kashmir's special status, and bifurcated the state into two union territories, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

martyred," the minister stated.

"In addition, 132 cases of cross border firing from August 5, 2019 to December 31, 2019 and 41 cases of cross border firing ters with militants in the union between January 1 and February 15 this year along the international border and LOC in union territory of J&K were commit-

In a written reply to a »PAGE 10

ties, we have decided to organ- in Delhi, following which such ise a gaumutra party, wherein 'parties' will be held "PAGE 10"

and consuming cow products can immediately. The event will be first organised help eliminate the coronavirus. at Hindu Mahasabha Bhawan "Just like we organise tea par-

Hindu Mahasabha Plans 'Gaumutra

Party' To Fight Coronavirus

fresh snowfall and rain, no fresh vehicular traffic was allowed on the arterial 270km Jammu-Srinagar national highway on Wednesday, traffic department officials said.

navigable, the officials said.