



Maximum : 7°C Today 06:31 PM Minimum : 4°C SUNRISE Humidity : 88% TOMORROW 06:53 AM

OBSERVER

23rd year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR

10 Rajab-UL-Murajjab | 1441 Hijri | Vol:23 | Issue:56 | Pages:12 | Price: ₹3

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

Contact:-0194-2502327 FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS & YOUR COPY OF



...LIFE & TIMES/08
LOW CARBOHYDRATE DIET MAY PREVENT AGE-RELATED EFFECTS IN BRAIN: STUDY
A new study suggests that a low carbohydrate diet has the potential to prevent and reverse the age-related effects within the human brain. The study was conducted using neuroimaging



TOLL IN DELHI VIOLENCE RISES TO 52
The death toll in the clashes that erupted across northeast Delhi last month has risen to 52, with another death being reported from the Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital on Thursday. At least 44 deaths - 43 men and 1 woman - have been reported by the hospital, while three deaths

II/SPORTS.....
FIFA PROPOSES POSTPONING UPCOMING WORD CUP QUALIFIERS OWING TO CORONAVIRUS
World football governing body FIFA on Thursday proposed postponing all the upcoming 2022 World Cup and 2023 Asian Cup Cup qualifiers, including India's home game against Qatar, due to the rising coronavirus threat.....

News Digest

Protesters Block Highway Over Trucker's Death

Jammu: People blocked Jammu-Srinagar Highway on Thursday for several hours to protest against the suspicious death of a truck driver in south Kashmir, officials said. Truck driver Partap Singh of Jhajjar Kotli area of Jammu district was found dead under suspicious circumstances in Khudwani belt of Kulgam district on Wednesday, they said. People, including truck drivers and several relatives of the deceased, blocked the road for six several hours demanding a high-level probe into his alleged murder. Later, police reached the spot and assured protesters of a thorough probe.

Rs 1L Fine Realized From Pulwama Traders

Srinagar: The district authorities in Pulwama on Thursday recovered a fine of Rs 1, 12,100 from traders for violating legal metrology laws. A joint team of Legal Metrology Department, CAPD, Food Safety and Standard Department today carried out a market checking drive and booked 252 traders under different laws for violation of various legal metrology laws, an official spokesperson said. 30 samples were lifted for analysis and a fine of Rs 112100 was realized from erring traders, he added.

LAWDA Demolishes 8 Structures In City

SRINAGAR: Continuing its drive against illegal constructions, the Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) on Saturday carried out a demolition drive in various parts of the city. The demolition drive at Check Saderable, Saidakadal, Rangan stop, Arabal, Shalimar, Chandpora, Harwan, Braine Nishat, Meerbagh and Manzgam was conducted under the supervision of Enforcement Officer in presence of SDPO Zakura and SHOs Nigeen and Harwan, an official spokesperson said. Eight structures including one single storey house, 02 huts, shutter, block and 03 shops were demolished, he added.

Vehicle Falls Into Chenab River, Six missing

Srinagar: At least six people were missing on Thursday after the vehicle they were travelling in skidded off the road and plunged into Chenab river in Ramban district of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory. The vehicle that was on way to Jammu from Srinagar rolled down into Chenab river near Caferia Modh this evening, news agency GNS reported. Amid unabated heavy rains, police, quick response team and people have launched a rescue operation, they said. A senior officer of the administration told GNS that army's help has also been sought. A senior officer of the administration said that army's help has also been sought. "Nothing can be said as regards the deaths as rescue operation has been started," he said.

...CORONAVIRUS ALERT IN KASHMIR 162 'Under Scanner', 5 Admitted In SKIMS

OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

Srinagar: Five persons with a recent history of travelling to coronavirus-affected countries have been put in the isolation ward of the SKIMS hospital here, while as many as 162 people are under surveillance in the Kashmir Valley, report said Thursday. Dr Shaifqat Khan, designated Nodal Officer said that a total of 230 people, who have recently travelled outside the UT, are presently under the surveillance. While 162 of them are from Valley, the rest are from Jammu region, Khan told a local news agency GNS. Meanwhile, health authorities in Kashmir have kept five persons with a recent history of travelling to coronavirus-affected countries in the isolation ward of the SKIMS hospital here after they showed symptoms of the disease, officials said. "We have kept the five persons in the isolation ward at the SKIMS hospital in Soura," they said. The officials added that samples of the suspects were collected and



Pic. Abid Bhat

sent for testing to the National Institute of Virology in Pune. Of the five, one had travelled to Thailand while two had been to

Iran, they said, adding that the remaining two had a recent travel history to the epicentre of COVID-19 in China's Wuhan.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration took several steps on Wednesday as part of its efforts to control the spread of

2 Suspects Flee From Jammu Hospital, Brought Back

Two people, who had a travel history to coronavirus-hit Italy and South Korea, fled from a Jammu-based government hospital's isolation ward, but were brought back, officials said on Thursday. They were admitted to the hospital on Wednesday afternoon. Samples were taken and sent to the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune, they said. ● PIO

Govt Orders Private Hospitals To Set Up Isolation Wards

As the number of confirmed coronavirus cases rose to 30 across India, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday directed all private hospitals to establish isolation wards immediately to meet any challenge in wake of the looming threat. The directions in this regard were passed by ● PIO

Ready To Combat COVID-19: DAK

The Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Thursday appealed the government to arrange separate OPDs, outpatient entry and waiting area and wards for people suffering from flu like illness. In a statement issued here, President DAK Dr Suhail Naik said the doctor's body is satisfied over concrete measures taken by the government to prevent ● PIO

Broadband Services Restored In Kashmir After 7 Months

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar: Broadband internet services were restored in Kashmir on Thursday, a day after the Jammu and Kashmir administration lifted a ban on social media in the Union territory, ending a seven-month information blackout in the valley, officials said. Internet services were snapped across all platforms on August 4 last year. The next day, the Centre revoked the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. "The broadband services have been restored in the valley this afternoon," the officials said. The ban on accessing social media sites and applications



was revoked by the authorities on Wednesday. In an order issued as part of the weekly review process, they reiterated the restrictions imposed earlier but remained silent on the so-

cial media ban. The government lifted restrictions on access to thousands of sites like Facebook and popular messaging app WhatsApp through mobile

Omar's Detention Under PSA: SC To Hear Petition On March 17



OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

SRINAGAR: The Supreme Court of India listed the petition filed by Sara Abdullah Pilot, sister of former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, challenging his detention under the controversial Public Safety Act (PSA) for next hearing on March 17. ● PIO

NC Leader's Son Booked In 177-Crore Bank Fraud Case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The CBI has booked Hilal Rather, the son of National Conference leader and former Jammu and Kashmir finance minister Abdul Rahim Rather, in a Rs 177-crore bank fraud case, officials said on Thursday. The central agency has taken over the case on the recommendation of the Anti-Corruption Branch of Jammu and Kashmir, they said. It is alleged that Rather had taken a loan from Jammu and Kashmir Bank for his ambitious township project, known as Paradise Avenue, at Narwal Bala in Jammu in 2012, they said. The account had turned non-performing asset in



2017, they said. It is alleged that the loan amount was diverted to be invested in properties in Dubai and America, sponsorship of a T20 cricket team of a company and hosting shows of a popular stand-up comedian.

Ayatollah Tells India 'Stop Massacre Of Muslims'



AGENCIES

TEHRAN: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khamenei on Thursday asked the Indian government to confront what he called "extremist Hindus and their parties", saying the hearts of Muslims ● PIO

Chanakya's Arthashastra Still Relevant: Army Chief

• Balakot Showed Space For Conflict Short Of War
• Tanks, Fighter Aircraft On Their Way Out Like Sony Walkman

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Indian Army is focusing on "actions below the threshold of all-out war" while strengthening its conventional prowess, General M.M. Naravane has said. Addressing a seminar organised by CLAWS, the Army's think tank, in New Delhi Naravane spoke at length about the evolution of warfare even as he emphasised the continued relevance of the ancient philosopher Chanakya's famous treatise Arthashastra. He spoke about how the Balakot air strikes were an example of playing the "escalatory game" with skill. "We are refining our plans and



File Pic.

capacities in this regard — both, along the western (Pakistan) and northern (China) borders. We are developing kinetic and non-kinetic responses to address the threat," he is quoted to have said by the online portal The Print. He said

the world was witnessing a new phenomenon — the availability of sufficient space for demonstration of military prowess and ascendancy that doesn't erupt in an all-out conflict. "Supposed acts of war not leading to

Kashmir Ranked 'Not Free' In 2020 Freedom House Report

KO WEB DESK

NEW DELHI — Kashmir freedom status has declined from 'partly free' to 'not free' in the latest report of freedom in the world 2020 published by Washington based 'Freedom House', a non-profit advocate of democracy and human rights. In the latest edition of Freedom in the World, an annual report published by US government funded Freedom House, India has suffered the largest decline in its political rights and civil liberties score among the 25 most populous democracies because of the Narendra Modi

government's "alarming departures from democratic norms." India has now been placed among "countries in the spotlight." This category lists countries where important developments in 2019 affected their democratic trajectory and deserve special scrutiny in 2020. While half the world's established democracies have deteriorated over the past 14 years, India's drop is the sharpest and could "blur the values-based distinction between Beijing and New Delhi", the India chapter in the Freedom in the World 2020 report noted. 195 countries are

Coronavirus Is Changing The Way Muslims Worship Across The World

OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

SRINAGAR — People around the world are avoiding crowded places, cutting back on non-essential travel and taking precautionary measures such as working from home to avoid catching the new coronavirus. Several countries have also urged their citizens to change the way they greet one another, or celebrate certain festivities. The coronavirus outbreak has even disrupted worship across many countries. In the Middle East as Saudi Arabia on Wednesday banned

its citizens and other residents of the kingdom from performing the pilgrimage in Mecca, while Iran canceled Friday prayers in major cities. Palestinian media have reported that the Christian churches of Palestine have decided to close the Church of Nativity, the birthplace of Jesus Christ for two weeks. Here are some examples of the new measures and advice from Muslim countries, organisations and Islamic sites for worshippers and pilgrims. Pilgrimage to Mecca stopped The Saudis on Wednesday ex-

panded a ban on foreigners visiting Mecca and Medina, home to the holiest sites in Islam. That decision alone disrupted travel for thousands of Muslims already headed to the kingdom and potentially affects plans later this year for millions more ahead of the fasting month of Ramadan and the annual hajj pilgrimage. Even after that announcement on Feb. 27, people already in Saudi Arabia could still travel to Mecca's Grand Mosque. The crowds were far smaller than usual before Wednesday's statement by Interior Ministry. Millions attend the annual



MUSLIMS WEARING MASKS PRAY FOR CORONAVIRUS patients at a mosque in Ahmedabad, India [Credit: Reuters]

hajj, which this year is set for late July into early August, and

many more visit the kingdom's holy sites year round. ●PAGE 10

KPC Concerned Over 'Harassment' of Journalists

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Kashmir Press Club (KPC) on Thursday expressed concern over the alleged harassment of two video journalists by police in south Kashmir's Pulwama district. Video journalists Qayoom Khan and Qsar Mir, working for CNN-News 18 and TV9 Bharatvarsh were prevented by the police in presence of SSP Pulwama from conducting their professional work on March 4, KPC said in a statement issued here today. "Not only this, their camera

and two mobile phones were snatched and returned after almost 5 hours," the statement said. The KPC issued statement on the basis of a written testimony by Mir. He also alleged that he was thrashed and "made human shield" during the CASO by soldiers at Babgund on February 29. "These latest incidents indicate that the harassment of journalists and media workers continues unabated in the Kashmir region and is tantamount to muzzling the press," the statement said. The Kashmir Press Club wants to bring it on record that