

24th year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Tuesday 02 March | 17 Rajab | 1442 Hijri | Vol:24 | Issue: 50 | Pages:12 | Price: ₹3

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P3 NEWS

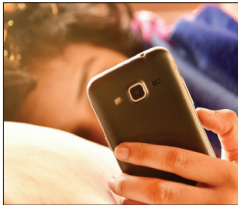
ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY HOLDS 1ST CONVOCATION

7000 meritorious students, including 163 Gold medalists were awarded degrees as the Islamic University of Science and Technology held its 1st convocation on Monday....

P7 THINK

NEWS SCOOP FROM SOCIAL MEDIA?

Digital platforms like Facebook and Google give us easy access to media and information. But our collective dependence on these tech giants could in the long run reduce the quality of journalism, making...



P11 SPORTS

RISING ABOVE MARKS, THIS KASHMIRI ROLLER-SKATER IS CREATING HIS OWN MILESTONES

On a cold February day, a boy in the Parimpora locality of Srinagar is shining his boots for a life-changing...



Widom Quote!

We meet no ordinary people in our lives
— C.S. Lewis

NEWS DIGEST

SSB Man Attempts 'Suicide'

SRINAGAR: A Sashastha Seema Bal (SSB) personal on Monday allegedly tried to commit suicide by shooting himself with his service rifle in Bemina area of this capital city. Gagan Jha, posted at the State Motor Garage in Bemina area, shot himself with his service rifle early Monday morning, officials said. Jha, was found in a pool of blood by his colleagues who heard the gunshot and rushed to the spot. [More On P10](#)

Tourist Dies Of Heart Attack

SRINAGAR: A tourist from Madhya Pradesh state died after suffering a massive heart attack in Srinagar on Monday. Pankaj Gupta, a resident of Madhya Pradesh was found lying unconscious at Hotel Ilni Gani in Munawarabad locality of Srinagar on Monday morning, reported news agency KNO. The tourist, the report said, was rushed to Khyber Hospital for treatment, where he died due to a massive heart attack. [More On P10](#)

Militant Associate Held In Tral: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Monday claimed to have arrested a militant associate in Tral area of south Kashmir's Awantipora. Muzamil Qadir Bhat was arrested along with incriminating material of the Jaish-e-Mohammad outfit by a joint team of police, army and CRPF 180 Battalion during a search operation in village Larow Jagir of Tral, a police spokesperson said Monday. He said that [More On P10](#)

Pandey Takes Charge As Director Info

JAMMU: Two days after the government reshuffled administration replacing several officers, Rahul Pandey on Monday assumed the charge of Director, Information & Public Relations here today. Immediately after assuming the charge, he convened a meeting of officers in which he highlighted the need for further strengthening the activities and core competence of the Department, an official spokesperson said. [More On P10](#)

Timber 'Smuggler' Slapped With PSA

SRINAGAR: An alleged habitual timber smuggler has been detained under stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) in north-Kashmir's Kupwara district. Aijaz Ahmad Khan of Hailhama, Gultipora was booked under the PSA on the directions issued by the Deputy Commissioner Kupwara on February 25, officials said. Khan, who officials said is a habitual timber smuggler, has four FIRs besides nine different Forest [More On P10](#)



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Kashmir Schools Reopen After 1 Year

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Thousands of students returned to classrooms on Monday as schools in Kashmir reopened for

classes 9 to 12 after re-maintaining closed for almost a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The students attended school for the first time since

March 9 last year. Over 60 per cent attendance was recorded in most government schools but the exact figures would be known after all the records have [More On P10](#)

Class XII Results To Take 5 More Days: BOSE

Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education on Monday said that the results of 12th annual examination will take "at least five days," setting to rest rumours in this regard on social media platforms. 73569 students including 58514 from Valley and 15055 from winter zones of Jammu had registered for class 12th exams this year. "The results will take at least five days," Chairperson JKBOSE Veena Pandita said. She advised the parents and students not to believe in rumours and fake news [More On P10](#)

Gulmarg Shivers At Minus 6.2 Degree Celsius

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The minimum temperature dropped to minus 6.2 degree Celsius in Gulmarg, the world famous skiing resort in north Kashmir, even as the mercury increased in most parts of the valley, weatherman said on Monday.

A meteorological department official said that Gulmarg, the venue for the ongoing second Khelo India Winter Games,

registered a drop of two notches from previous night and the minimum temperature was almost minus 0.4 degree Celsius below the normal for this time of the year.

Srinagar recorded a low of 1.4 degree Celsius against 2.1 degree Celsius on the previous night. The temperature was minus 0.1 degree Celsius below the normal for this time of the year in this summer capital, the official said. Qazigund recorded a low [More On P10](#)



J&K Reports 63 Corona Cases, 1 Death

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: An elderly woman died of coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday while 63 fresh cases of infection were detected across the Union Territory in the last 24 hours.

An 80-year-old woman from Kokernag Anantnag succumbed to coronavirus infection on Monday, officials said.

The Union Territory, they said, also reported 63 new cases of Covid-19, [More On P10](#)

NIA Arrests Four In Narco-Militancy Case

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The NIA on Monday arrested four 'drug traffickers' in Kashmir for their alleged involvement in smuggling heroin in huge quantities from Pakistan and supplying it in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country, an official said.

Altaf Ahmed Shah of Ganderbal, Showkat Ahmad

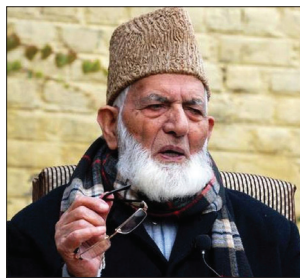
Parra of Bandipora, Mudasir Ahmad Dar of Shopian and Amin Allaie of Anantnag have been arrested from Srinagar, he said. They have been arrested in connection with the case pertaining to the seizure of 21 kg heroin and Rs 1,35,89,850 cash from the members of a drug syndicate operating in Jammu and Kashmir. [More On P10](#)



Geelani Invites Pak Snub For Questioning Truce

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Hours after senior separatist leader Syed Ali Geelani hit out at Pakistan for its contradiction between the stated policy and action over Kashmir issue following the ceasefire announcement, the Pakistan's Special Committee of the Parliament slammed the former Hurriyat Conference (G) chairman saying that anyone dubbing truce pact as a "sell-out would only serve the



cause of Hindutva regime"

The statement by Pak committee led by Shehriyar Afridi came barely hours after Geelani

through his special representative Saifyed Abdullah Gilani released a hard hitting letter questioning Pakistan for carrying out back channel talks with India despite assurances that no engagement will be held with India until August 5 move is rolled back.

"No one can ever betray Kashmir cause. The ceasefire agreement is a bid to help save Kashmiris living on both sides of the LoC. Anyone dubbing it a sellout would [More On P10](#)

Govt To Revive State Consumer Commission

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The administration of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory has initiated the process for revival of the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, which was abolished days before the reorganization of erstwhile state of J&K into two Union Territories.

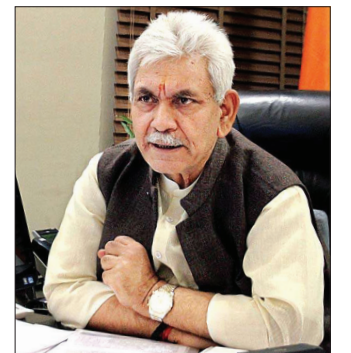
To begin with, the government has set the ball rolling

for appointment of the body's President and four members.

According to the official documents, the department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs has invited applications from suitable and interested candidates for appointment to the President and members of the Commission.

According to the department of FCS& CA, the applicant applying for [More On P10](#)

Metro Rail In Srinagar City Soon: LG



Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government said on Monday that Metro rail service will soon come to Srinagar as the Union Territory administration has already sanctioned the proposal and sent the same for approval to the central government.

Speaking on the sidelines of an official function here on Monday, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said that twin smart cities including Jammu and Srinagar will see many projects including car parking and others.

He added that work on car parking and beautification of the smart cities are going on, adding that places [More On P10](#)

KASHMIR In Capital: Carpet Chronicle Of 'Russian King'

Romaan Arora

Umer Hameed came to Delhi as a fledgling and fresh-faced merchant in 1993, when his hometown was caught in a searing strife. He had arrived to secure his late father's legendary legacy in Delhi.

Almost three decades later, and at the age of 52, the Lalbazar man has not only secured his father's legacy, but also rose to become a carpet czar in the capital.

"By 1989, as the situation turned explosive back home, my father became anxious about me and our family business," said Umar while recollecting an era when aged fathers in Kashmir had started shouldering their young sons' dead bodies.

"Being the lone son, I was supposed to address my father's growing concerns

about me and our nosedived business."

But it wasn't a walkover for him.

Kashmir was changing, so was the idea of normalcy when the young and restless started campaigning for the armed resolution. Social hangouts and public places soon came under a lock and key. Migrations and massacres only escalated the crisis. The surplus sorties flown on a war-footing and reinforcement in every nook and cranny of the valley rang war alarms. And in an ensured militant-military combat, big businesses became shut shops.

But before the situation turned tense in Kashmir, Umer's date of destiny had come in that momentous year—1989—of the massive upheaval itself. Then appearing in his MBBS entrance exam, he came out dejected.

"The moment I saw everyone cheating inside the examination hall, I tore my

question paper and made my decision to move out," he recalled.

Such curt decisions based on merit would later give him an edge over his contemporaries and competitors in the capital.

"Being ethical and upright was my father's way of doing things," he said. "And as his heir-apparent, I had to demonstrate his DNA in my demeanour."

His father, who had already worked with East India Carpet Company, had attached a great value to his name because of his enterprising and welfare work in Kashmir.

"Even today, whenever I visit the valley, carpet weavers and sellers often tell me: 'While the floor is ours, the roof over it is all because of your father!' The great man touched many lives during his lifetime with his principled professional conduct."

Umer's father worked for around 50

years and played a crucial role in establishing the carpet industry in Kashmir.

"Even CIE [Cottage Industries Exposition, one of the biggest Kashmiri Carpet brands] used to consult my late father regularly for his expert take and trade tips," the son said.

But unlike his father, the journey to Everest wasn't a fairy-tale for Umer.

The rug stalwart started his business initially from a rented apartment in Jungpura, before moving to Lajpat Nagar, the place where he now sits comfortably.

"It was harsh winters back then. I came here by road and started selling carpets from my rented [More On P10](#)

