

24th year OF PUBLICATION

KASHMIR OBSERVER

Friday 09 April | 25 Shaban | 1442 Hijri | Vol:24 | Issue: 83 | Pages:12 | Price: ₹3

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P3 CITY

DC SRINAGAR ORDERS MASS VACCINATION OF HOTEL STAFF

The Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Thursday said that mass vaccination of hotel staff, drivers, houseboat staff and others concerned with the tourism sector as frontline workers shall...

THINK

THE SHADOWS OF CHILDHOOD ON YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

Development is a series of rebirths. The child passes through certain phases during development each of which has its own particular needs. The characteristics of each are so different that the passages....



P5 STATE

ULEMA CONGLOMERATE DEMANDS RELEASE OF MIRWAIZ UMAR

Religious preachers, imams and other Ulema of Jammu and Kashmir under the aegis of Muthahida Majlis Ulema (MMU) on Thursday held a joint press conference...



Widom Quote!

Great Things Never Came From Comfort Zones

—Neil Strauss

NEWS DIGEST

Missing Youth Found Dead

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday recovered body of a missing youth in a forest area in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. Bilal Ahmad Mir of Shalpora village in the north Kashmir district was found dead by some local women who had gone to collect mushrooms from Baddi Rakh Jugtial forest area of Haihama on Thursday morning, reports said. Mir, as per the reports went missing on March 22 following which his family... [More On P10](#)

OGW Nabbed With Heroin: Police

SRINAGAR: Police have seized nine kilograms of heroin worth Rs 60 crore from an alleged overground worker of militants in Karnah area of Kupwara district in Jammu and Kashmir, an official said on Thursday. "On a reliable information, police have busted a Pakistan sponsored narco-militant module and arrested one militant associate," a police spokesperson said. He said the... [More On P10](#)

Shopian Teenager Goes Missing

SRINAGAR: A teenager has gone missing from south Kashmir's Shopian district triggering fears among his family that he has joined militancy. 14-year-old Faisal Gulzar, a resident of main Chitragam who was studying in class 10th at NIPS Zainapora according to his family went missing on Tuesday and since then there are no whereabouts of him. His family members said that Faisal left home on Tuesday to bring some grocery items but didn't return home. [More On P10](#)

Undertrial Hangs Self In Kathua Prison

JAMMU: A 42-year-old under-trial prisoner from Punjab allegedly hanged himself inside a jail in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Thursday, officials said. Rajinder Singh of Kundal village in Fazilka was lodged in district jail Kathua since November 7, 2019 and was facing trial in a case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, they said. The officials said... [More On P10](#)

IUST Suspends Classes, Postpone Exams

SRINAGAR: Amid spike in Covid19 positive cases, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) in south Kashmir's Awantipora Thursday suspended the physical class work at all the departments on the campus including Mantaqi Memorial College of Nursing and Medical Technology till April 12. "Online classes for the students shall continue as per schedule. The heads of the... [More On P10](#)

3 Militants Killed, Two Soldiers Injured In Ongoing Shopian Encounter

AGUH Chief Trapped, Operation Underway: Police

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Three unidentified militants were killed and two soldiers injured on Thursday in an ongoing gunfight in the main town of south Kashmir's Shopian district.

Special operations group (SOG) of police, army's 44 RR assisted by paramilitary CRPF personnel laid a siege around Jan Mohalla in Shopian town on Thursday after receiving specific inputs suggesting presence of militants in the locality, an official said. When the joint team launched combing operation, he said, the militants hiding in a residential house opened fire upon them in a bid



to escape from their dragnet.

"The joint team retaliated to the fire setting off an encounter. In the exchange of gunfire,

a soldier was injured. He has been removed to the hospital for treatment," the official said. He said as... [More On P10](#)

Suspected Militant Arrested At Jammu Airport

ED To Quiz Mehbooba's Mother On Apr 15

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday visited People's Democratic Party (PDP) Chief Mehbooba Mufti's residence here in Srinagar and served a notice to her mother Gulshan Nazir seeking her presence at the agency's office on April 15.

The ED notice has directed Mehbooba's mother Gulshan Nazir, to appear before the probing agency at their Srinagar office on April 15, official sources said.

Pertinently, ED on March 25 had questioned the former chief minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief... [More On P10](#)

Ex-KU VC Prof Riyaz Punjabi Is No More

KO Web Desk

SRINAGAR: Former Vice Chancellor of University of Kashmir, Professor Riyaz Punjabi died on Thursday at his Delhi residence. Prof. Punjabi breathed his last this morning at his Delhi residence after a brief spell of illness.

Prof. Punjabi served as the VC, Kashmir University from 1 January 2008 to 1 June 2011.

He was granted the Padma Shri, one of India's highest

civilian awards, in 2011.

Meanwhile, Vice-Chancellor University of Kashmir Prof Talat Ahmad, Registrar Dr Nisar Ahmad Mir and other officers and functionaries of the varsity condoled the demise of Punjabi.

Recalling the contributions of Prof Punjabi as KU Vice-Chancellor as well as his rich academic and literary pursuits, Prof Talat and Dr Mir prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul while expressing their deep... [More On P10](#)

Is RTO Authority To Seek Re-Registration Of Outside Vehicles?

HC Seeks Response As Govt Defends Move

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The government has defended its order on re-registration of outside vehicles which "remained in the J&K for a period exceeding 12 months" even as J&K High Court asked it to file reply if the Regional Transport Officer has the authority under law to

issue the circular in this regard.

Advocate General D C Raina, questioned the maintainability of a petition challenging authority of the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir, vis-

à-vis issuance of a Circular on March 27 last, mandating the vehicle owners who have purchased their vehicles bearing outside registration

number to apply for a new registration as per the provisions of Section 47/50 of Motor Vehicle... [More On P10](#)

HC Puts Physical Hearing Of Cases In Abeyance For Now

Observer News Service

In compliance of the order issued by High Court of J&K, the physical hearing of the cases has been kept in abeyance for the time being and the hearing of the cases in the district and subordinate courts shall be conducted through virtual mode till 18 April, 2021. However, as per an official statement liberty has been granted... [More On P10](#)

Each Dept To Have Nodal Officers For Media Reports

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In a significant development, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has directed the authorities in Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory to nominate nodal officers in each administrative department for responding to media reports pertaining to their department.

In an official communiqué, the General Administration Department (GAD) has directed the administrative secretaries

that the LG has desired that nodal officers are nominated in each department for responding to various media reports and for furnishing factual position in respect of such issues to the directorate of Information & Public Information (DIPR) for publication through various means of media.

"Accordingly, the undersigned is directed to request all the administrative secretaries to nominate nodal officers (not below the rank of special secretary) additional... [More On P10](#)

Health Dept Disengages Staff Hired To Combat Covid-19

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The health department on Thursday ordered disengagement of medical, paramedics and nursing staff hired last year on contract basis to combat the spread of coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a circular issued here on Thursday, the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) has ordered all the Chief Medical Officers (CMOs), Medical Superintendents (MSs)

and other territorial offices to disengage the medical, paramedical and nursing staff hired on contractual basis in view of the extraordinary situation that had arisen due to the spread of Covid-19. Pandemic under different orders purely in pursuance to Govt. Order No.347-(K) HME of 2020 Dated: 28.03.2020 shall deem to have been disengaged from their contractual appointments and from their respective place of postings forthwith... [More On P10](#)

MeT Predicts Mainly Dry Weather In Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid forecast for dry weather, the minimum temperature across Kashmir Valley remained below normal with Gulmarg, the world famous skiing resort, recording minus 2.4 degree Celsius, officials said.

A meteorological department official said that the minimum temperature was minus 2.5 degree

Celsius below normal for this time of the year in Gulmarg.

He said that the mercury settled at 5.5 degree Celsius against 5.2 degree Celsius on the previous night in Srinagar. The temperature in summer capital which received 0.4mm of rain in last 24 hours till 0830 a.m., was minus 1.4 degree Celsius for this time of the season. Qazigund, the... [More On P10](#)

Highway To Be Closed On Wednesdays

Authorities have notified all upcoming Wednesdays till end of the next month shall be "traffic dry days" for the repairs and maintenance on Jammu... [More On P10](#)

‘Shroud Stealer’ Returns In Kashmir’s Swoop Series

Zaid Bin Shabir

Growing defection and disintegration of his patron's party has left Mushtaq Amin bitter. In the troupe retreat rendering ranks of his outfit hollow, this city foot-soldier sees the resurrection of the bygone tribe known for their riggings and regroupings.

"If our ship is sinking today," Amin says, "the blame goes to those 'Kafan Chuurs' (shroud stealers) who once used to break bread with our patron for their political launchpading."

The resounding phrase further resurged in Kashmir talks amid the recent wave of bank robberies in the valley.

"Although these money heists are nothing new, but their frequency in the highly-guarded 'Naya Kashmir' is troubling," says Shariq Mehraj, a banker from south Kashmir. "It seems as if 'Kafan Chuurs' have returned to rob from poor Kashmiris battered by back-to-back lockdowns."

Legend has it that the slang was often used in bygone Kashmir to describe opportunists and aggressors. However, the history behind this name-calling seems stranger than the name itself.

Back in Dogra days, as "patrons of resistance" found themselves hanged from the fabled bridges or jailed in the dirty dungeons for their defiance, one GA Rather of Srinagar, it's said, started spreading the

"Kafan Chuur" connotation.

But this wasn't the first time that Kashmiri locals had come up with this form of resistance against the "band of bandits".

In the early years of Kashmir's subjugated history filled with persecution of the locals, when the Mughals interred their legs in Kashmir affairs—after Yousuf Shah Chak was overthrown and exiled by emperor Akbar—local population was lurching through their resources.

But when the crown raised its scorns, even though the economy was profitable, a sense of terror gradually started to instill among the locals resulting into defiance that was soon crushed by the monarchy's musclemen.

The population was barred from challenging the Mughal autocracy, which gradually became the reason for the rise of "Pougi Moa'gal" (Petty Mughal) connotation.

"When challenging the establishment became a crime," says Javed Aziz, a Kashmiri scholar studying Medieval Kashmir, "the physical resistance became extremely difficult. So, such terms that highlighted the ghoulishness of the rulers gained more and more popularity among the locals."

GA Rather had already informed his confidants about the larger consequences of using "Kafan Chuur" against any of the patrolling royal guard, regime's local enforcers.

The hothead, as Rather's son Abdul Ahad terms him, wasn't... [More On P10](#)

