



P3 CITY

PROTEST IN SRINAGAR AS PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES SOAR

Protests were held in the capital Srinagar City on Wednesday against the prolonging mutton crisis, curtailment in ration supplies, rising prices of fuel and other edible commodities in...

P7 THINK

HOW CAN VITAMIN D SAVE US FROM COVID-19 ?

When we move from one place to another, during that time our body requires energy not only for the movement but also for respiration and other metabolic activities....



P11 SPORTS

REAL KASHMIR FC CAPTAIN MASON ROBERTSON'S 4 MATCH BAN REVOKED

In a major relief to Real Kashmir FC, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) revoked the four-match suspension on its centre-back, Mason Robertson....



Widom Quote!

A house divided cannot stand.
—Abraham Lincoln

NEWS DIGEST

3 More Covid-19 Deaths In J&K

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported three more coronavirus deaths on Wednesday while 97 fresh cases of virus, including 20 travellers were detected across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. All the victims, officials said, were residents of Kashmir Valley and their deaths have taken the fatality count to **More On P10**

Army's Counter Infiltration Strategy Robust: Govt

NEW DELHI: The Indian Army has adopted a robust counter infiltration strategy focusing on a mix of technology and human resources to effectively check infiltration in border areas, the government said on Wednesday. The measures to check infiltration include boosting surveillance architecture and intelligence gathering. **More On P10**

Dead Sheep Creates Bomb Scare

SRINAGAR: Panic gripped Subhanpora village of Qaimoh Kulgam here in south Kashmir when a blood stained bag was found by locals along the Srinagar-Jammu highway on Wednesday morning. Police rushed to spot and stopped vehicular movement on the highway. Sources told local news agency KNT that a bomb disposal squad (BDS) was also called **More On P10**

2 Held With Sharp-Edged Weapons

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir police on Wednesday claimed to have arrested two persons along with "sharp-edged" weapons in Udhampur district. An official said that a police party of PS Udhampur laid a surprise naka near airforce road Udhampur for checking vehicles. "During the naka checking police party signalled to stop one car bearing registration **More On P10**

Man's Body Found In Anantnag

ANANTNAG: An unidentified male dead body was recovered beneath snow in South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Wednesday, officials said. They said that some locals spotted the body near Kapren village of Verinag area of the district and immediately informed the police about it. Soon a police team reached the spot and recovered the "decomposed" body, the officials said. They said that a case has been registered and investigations set into motion. (GNS)

US Helped India During LAC Stand-Off: Pentagon Commander

'Provided Some Info, Equipment To India In Its Border Crisis With China'

Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: The US provided some information, cold-weather clothing and some other equipment to India during its recent border crisis with China, which has adopted an increasingly assertive military posture to exert pressure and expand its influence across the region, a top Pentagon commander has told American lawmakers.

Admiral Phillips Davidson, Commander of the US Indo-Pacific Command, also told the powerful Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday that China's recent activities along the Line of Actual Control have opened India's eyes to what cooperative effort with others might mean for their own defensive needs as he observed that



New Delhi, in the very near term, will deepen its engagement with the Quad.

"India has long had an approach called strategic autonomy, you know, a nonaligned approach with others, but I think certainly the activities along the Line of Actual Control with China has opened their eyes to what cooperative effort with others might mean for their own defensive needs," Admiral Davidson told lawmakers during the Congressional hearing. "We have provided some information to India **More On P10**

Two Militants 'Trapped' In Bijbehara Encounter

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Two unidentified militants are believed to be trapped in an ongoing encounter with government forces in Bijbehara area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district, officials said Wednesday.

Acting on specific information about the presence of militants, special operations group (SOG) of police, army's 3 RR and CRPF laid a siege around Kandipora village of Bijbehara on Wednesday evening and launched a cordon and search operation, they said. As the search operation was in progress, the officials said that the militants hiding in the village opened fire upon the joint team.

The search team, the official said, returned the

Training Camps Active In Pck: GOI

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Many militant training camps are active in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PcK) and such facilities are used for training and subsequently, infiltration into Jammu and Kashmir, Parliament was informed on Wednesday. In a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy also said the government has consistently emphasised to Pakistan to put an end to cross-border infiltration of militants and dismantle the infrastructure supporting militancy on a permanent basis.

"According to reports, there are several **More On P10**

2 Major IED Blasts Foiled, 7 Arrested: IGP



Says Sticky Bombs Have Added New Dimension To Militancy In Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday claimed to have pre-empted two major improvised explosive device (IED) explosions in south Kashmir by arresting seven

people allegedly associated with Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashker-e-Taiba outfits.

Addressing a news conference at the police control room (PCR) here on Wednesday, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Vijay Kumar said that police have achieved a major success by busting two big modules of Lashkar and Jaish before they could carry out IED or suicide attacks in south Kashmir areas. "Awantipora **More On P10**

LeT Commander in Srinagar, Police Sounds Alert

SRINAGAR: Police have sounded an alert over the presence of Lashker-e-Taiba commander Abbas and the possibility of a militant strike in this **More On P10**

Stone Pelting Unacceptable, Says IGP

39 Booked Over Friday's Nowhatta Clashes

SRINAGAR: Inspector General of Police Kashmir Vijay Kumar Wednesday said stone pelting will not be tolerated at any cost stating that 39 youth who indulged in creating law and order issue in Srinagar have been arrested of which 15 will be slapped with PSA. **More On P10**

US Defence Secretary To Visit India Next Week

WASHINGTON: US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin will visit India next week along with Japan and South Korea, the Pentagon announced on Wednesday, in the first overseas trip of a senior member of the new Biden Administration. This is the first time that India has been included in the itinerary of the first overseas trip of a US Defence Secretary. **More On P10**

President Xi Tells Army To Be Ready

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping has told the country's military that it must be prepared to respond to a variety of "complex and difficult" situations at any time, and to resolutely safeguard national sovereignty. Xi, 67, who heads the ruling Communist Party and the military made the remarks at a panel discussion attended **More On P10**

DDC Members Call Off Protest, To Meet LG On Friday

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The newly-elected District Development Council (DDC) members on Wednesday called off their two-day long protest in support of better status and monthly honorarium, saying they have got an assurance from Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha whom they are meeting on Friday.

However, the DDC members said they will decide their future course of action after the meeting with the Lt Governor, reiterating their demand for cancellation of the warrant of precedence and honorarium scale set up by the Union Territory administration.

Cutting across party lines, the newly-elected DDC members

had on Tuesday boycotted a two-day training programme here and staged a protest in support of their demand for better status and monthly honorarium, forcing the Lt Governor to cancel his inaugural session.

Various political parties including the BJP, the Congress, the CPI(M) and the Peoples' Conference came out in support of the agitating DDC members and urged Lt Governor Sinha to ensure they have adequate powers to mobilise government departments and address public grievances.

The maiden DDC elections to 280 seats — 14 each in 20 districts — were held in November-December last year and the chairpersons and their deputies in all **More On P10**

Bukhari Seeks PM, Shah's Intervention

The Apni Party on Wednesday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to resolve protocol power and honorarium issues of DDC members, alleging that the bureaucracy has always attempted to uproot the democratic edifice in Jammu and Kashmir. This comes on a day District Development Council (DDC) **More On P10**



Gulmarg Receives More Snow As Mercury Dips In Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The upper reaches of Kashmir Valley, including Gulmarg, received fresh snowfall while rains lashed

plains amid forecast for erratic weather till March 15.

A meteorological department official said that Gulmarg, the world famous skiing resort, received 2.5

centimetres fresh snowfall in last 24 hours till 0830 hours. In past 72 hours, the famed tourist destination in north Kashmir received 52.5cm of snow and **More On P10**

Delhi High Court Stays ED Summons To Mehbooba



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the Enforcement Directorate not to press for former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti's personal appearance in a money laundering case till the court hears her petition on March 18, her daughter said.

The matter came up for hearing before a division bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Anup Jairam Bhambhani. The matter was posted for March 18 with a direction to the ED not to press for her personal appearance on March 15. The PDP leader had challenged **More On P10**

Kashmir's 'Holy' Heist Driven By Dope?

Zeenish Imroz

In the early fall of 2020, a half-naked man showed up in Srinagar's Dastgeer Sahab shrine to commit yet another dark deed.

Amid pandemic, sanctums of Kashmir faced a wave of thefts. Such acts of stealing were first noticed by the early risers—muezzins—before a group of gumshoes would arrive at the crime scene for inspection.

At Khanyar, the boyish burglar's midnight arrival looked like a classic case of burglary. His oily body reminded many of those hoary robbers of yore who would loot shelters and shops, and give slip to their captors with their greasy skin.

The bolstered thug, it seemed, was only following his tribe's textbook rule.

With the dawn of 13 September



2020, the security guard of the shrine woke up for a routine inspection round. Leaving his wooden chamber through the entrance, he walked into the narrow corridor to the sanctum

of Ghouse-ul-Azam Dastgeer, Sheikh Abdul Qadirjeelani [RA], where he was shocked to witness the security breach. The donation box lied broken, empty of all the cash and gold.



The appalled guard immediately called Khalid Geelani, one of the members of the Intizamiya Committee of the shrine, to inform him about the robbery. Khalid, still asleep, woke up with a jerk.

Shocked to hear about the theft, he decided to visit the shrine where he witnessed the chaotic scene of crime.

Khalid waited for other members to arrive for the pre-dawn prayer. On

viewing the mind-numbing situation, the shrine custodians were in a dilemma — whether to offer prayers or not. After Khalid persuaded them to pray as there was no logic in visiting the police station so early, the prayer was held with disarrayed minds.

Inside the sanctum, Khalid along with some members of the Intizamiya Committee waited for the police station to become operational for filing the First Information Report (FIR).

Given the centrality of the shrine, the matter looked sensitive. But unlike last time, 2012, when the sanctum rose up in flames, cops faced no flaring tempers in "Naya Kashmir". Heightened fortified foothold had created its own hush when the investigation team led by SDPO Farhan Jehanzaib, Inspector Parvaiz Ahmad Wani, ASI and head **More On P10**