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P3 CITY

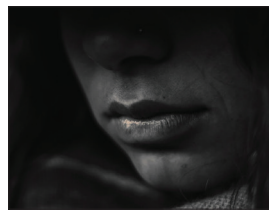
SRINAGAR RESIDENTS RUE DILAPIDATED CONDITION OF ROADS

The residents of various localities of Kashmir's capital city Srinagar Friday lamented water logging in the city areas after incessant rains lashed the valley for the last two days.

THINK

BOOK REVIEW | A SAGA OF UNENDING MATERNAL GRIEF IN KASHMIR

Shahnaz Bashir's debut novel The Half Mother is set in Natipora, a locality in Srinagar. The protagonist of the novel, Haleema, is the bearer of....



P11 SPORTS

JOFRA ARCHER REVEALS INJURY CONCERN THAT COULD KEEP HIM AWAY FROM CRICKET FOR SOMETIME

England pacer Jofra Archer said he needs to look after his troublesome elbow first before setting...



Widom Quote!

No one believes a liar even when he tells the truth

—Aesop

NEWS DIGEST

Three Deaths, 99 Corona Cases In J&K

SRINAGAR: The overall fatality count due to coronavirus inched closer to 2000 mark in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday as three more people died of the infection, while 99 fresh cases of virus were reported during the last 24 hours. Among the three victims who succumbed to coronavirus on Saturday, officials said, [● More On P10](#)

7 OGWs Held In Shopian: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested seven militant associates of Hizb-ul-Mujahideen in south Kashmir's Shopian district. Samiullah Chopan, Hilal Ahmad Wani, Ramaiz Ahmad Wani, Rouf Ahmad, Zahid Ahmad, Faizan Ahmad Khan and Shahid Ahmad Rather were arrested by state forces during a naka search in Shopian district on [● More On P10](#)

Blaze Leaves Three Families Homeless

SRINAGAR: Three families were rendered homeless after a devastating fire turned their residential houses into ashes in Watpora area of Bandipora district, reports said Saturday. Fire erupted from the residential houses of Nisar Ahmad in Watpora area on Friday night and engulfed the adjoining houses of his brothers within no time, news agency KNS reported Saturday. The report said that fire [● More On P10](#)

5 'Gamblers' Arrested In Kulgam

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested five gamblers in an input driven raid in south Kashmir's Kulgam district. Tariq Ahmad Sheikh, Mohd Idrees Naikoo, Rouf Ahmad Ahangar, Imran Ahmad Bhat and Gulzar Ahmad Sheikh were arrested by a police team during a raid at village Amaanpora of the district following an input about gambling activities, a police [● More On P10](#)

IAF Airlifts 381 Stranded Passengers To Leh

JAMMU: The Indian Air Force (IAF) on Saturday airlifted 381 stranded people from Jammu and Kashmir to Ladakh, an official said. While 197 passengers were airlifted from Srinagar to Leh in C-17 aircraft, another batch of 184 passengers were ferried from Jammu to Leh, Chief Coordinator, Kargil Courier Service, Aamir Ali, said, [● More On P10](#)



Encounter Rages On In Shopian

Top Commander Sajad Afghani Believed To Be Trapped



A pheran-clad youth holding a cricket bat smiles, as a CRPF man frisks him in Srinagar's Lal Chowk on Saturday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Two to three unknown militants,

including top commander Sajad Afghani is believed to be trapped in an ongoing encounter [● More On P10](#)

2 SPOs Injured In Sopore Grenade Attack

Two special police officers (SPOs) were injured on Saturday in a militant attack in Sopore town of Baramulla district. Around 11:30 am Saturday, unidentified militants hurled a grenade towards the police post located near the Bus Stand Sopore, a police [● More On P10](#)

Wildlife Board Clears Shahpur Dam Project

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The standing committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has given its go-ahead to multi-crore Shahpur Kandi dam project, which will benefit both Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory and Punjab. The NBWL, in its meeting held on February 18, has given its clearance for 51.08 hectares of land falling under the Conservation Reserve for the project.

"The proposed site for construction of Shahpur Kandi Dam is strategically located on the Ravi river because the particular stretch is narrow on the said location. There is no other possible alternatives for examination to avoid the submergence of Wildlife land in the Shahpurkandi Dam Reservoir. So it is necessary for Wildlife Clearance of 51.08 ha land falling under [● More On P10](#)

Rains Relent, Fresh Snowfall In Pahalgam; Kupwara

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Pahalgam and Kupwara received fresh snowfall even as rains relented after four days in Kashmir Valley, officials said on Saturday.

The weatherman has already forecast erratic weather till March 15 with possibility of more rains especially on Sunday.

A meteorological department official said that Srinagar received 9mm of fresh rain in the last 24 hours till 0830 a.m. even as it recorded a low of 3.8 degree Celsius against 2.2

degree Celsius on the previous night. The temperature was 0.1 degree Celsius above normal for this time of the year in this summer capital, the official said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 3.7 degree Celsius against 3.0 degree Celsius on the previous night and received 30.8mm of rain during the time.

The mercury settled at minus 0.7 degree Celsius against 0.3 degree Celsius on the earlier night at Pahalgam while the famous south Kashmir resort received 17.4mm rain and 6.5cm snowfall. [● More On P10](#)

Kashmir Highway Cleared Of Landslide

The Jammu-Srinagar highway was on Saturday afternoon cleared of the debris brought in by a massive mudslide in Ramban district, paving the way for resumption of one-way traffic after two days, officials said. The traffic on the highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with rest [● More On P10](#)

Ex-Legislators Call For Resumption Of Political Process



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A group of former legislators belonging to different political parties held a meeting on Saturday here, terming the situation in Jammu and Kashmir as "chaotic" and demanded early resumption of a democratic political process.

The legislators including former ministers, MLAs and MLCs affiliated with National Conference, PDP and Congress

also expressed serious concern over "rampant corruption" in some of the government offices and sought intervention of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in checking the system.

Issuing a statement after the meeting held under the leadership of former National Conference MLA Qazi Jalal-ud-Din, the participants said the former legislators and political workers of Jammu and Kashmir have a constructive [● More On P10](#)

Annual Amarnath Yatra To Begin On June 28

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The annual 56-day Amarnath yatra will commence on June 28 with all COVID-19 protocols in place, and culminate, as per the tradition, on the day of Raksha Bandhan festival on August 22, officials said on Saturday.

They said the registration process for the pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre high Himalayan cave shrine in south Kashmir would begin on April 1 through 446 designated branches of Punjab National Bank, Jammu and Kashmir Bank and YES bank in 37 states and Union Territories.

A decision to this effect was taken at the 40th board meeting of the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) chaired by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhavan here, the officials said.

Last year, the yatra was restricted to a group of Sadhus due to coronavirus pandemic, while in 2019 it was [● More On P10](#)

KASHMIR In Capital: From The House of Shaws

Romaan Arora

On a mildly cold morning, a tall and striking man—sporting his signature shawl style—walks inside the Shaw Brothers showroom with a smiling face.

In his early 50s, Miftah Shaw—who's Mifi Shaw for his friends and family—carries the enthusiasm of a young entrepreneur filled with futuristic vision.

"You see, I have to instruct them for every job," says Mifi Shaw while referring to his staff members.

One of the two Shaw/Shah scions, Miftah Shaw first came to Delhi in 1990 to carry forward his family business of Kashmiri handicrafts—shawls, carpets, jackets, and coats. His journey since then has only made Shaw Brothers a heritage brand in the capital.

"It was my father who had opened up a shop in Connaught



Place in 1978," Miftah continues in a genial tone. "It was a seasonal business at that time."

But for him, the seasonal business became permanent when he

left Kashmir in 1990 because of the political turmoil. The strife-fuelled situation back home had brought the heritage handicraft business to its knees.

Such was the level of unemployment in Kashmir at that time that, as per him, the labourers involved in the renovation of his family house were owners of two houseboats each.

This dramatic scene motivated him to move out for better career opportunities and a better life. However, the journey of the brand, almost a synonym to Kashmiri Shawls and carpets, had started long back.

In the very beginning, Shaw Brothers was established as a brand by Mohammad Akbar Shah and his brothers in 1840. But the foundational journey had already started in the early 1800s when Akbar's father Sidiqullah Shah started trading all along the Silk Route.

Initially started as Shah Brothers, the brand was renamed Shaw Brothers in the year 1912 to create a more general image and to attract customers from all

across British India.

Soon came the year of the great divide—1944—when the Shaw Brothers (now under the leadership of Miftah Shaw and his brother Mubashir Shaw) was split into two separate entities: Shaw Brothers and Shah Arts Emporium (owned by Miftah's cousin, Mohsin Shah).

In what could be described as its days of glory, the Shaw Brothers used to have its outlets in all major business hubs of British India namely Calcutta, Peshawar, Karachi, and even in Singapore.

But, in the aftermath of the partition, they had to restructure their complete business.

Many years and milestones later, a man of gratitude, Miftah Shaw holds his father in high regard.

"It was feasible and possible for me to permanently establish here only because of the platform provided by my father," he recalls.

"I, along with my [● More On P10](#)