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P3 CITY

MOHAMMAD AIJAZ ASSUMES CHARGE AS DC SRINAGAR

Mohammad Aijaz Asad Thursday assumed charge as Deputy Commissioner Srinagar taking over from Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary who was accorded warm farewell in a function...

P5 ISRA WAL MI'RAJ

The event of al-Isra wal Mi'raj was one of the miracles of the noble Messenger (pbuh) that occurred in the twelfth year of his prophetic mission in Makkah. Before we discuss the circumstances in which it occurred, let us recall what the noble Qur'an says....



P7 STATE

WEST PAKISTAN REFUGEE ARRESTED FOR HATCHING CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY

The Crime Branch Jammu on Thursday said that it arrested a West Pakistan Refugee hailing from Chak Santhal of Sialkote district of Pakistan for his...



Wisdom is the daughter of experience
—Leonardo da Vinci

NEWS DIGEST

Truck Crushes Traffic Cop To Death

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday claimed to have arrested a truck driver, hours after he knocked to death an assistant sub inspector (ASI) of traffic police at Bonigam crossing in Qazigund area of South Kashmir's Anantnag district. According to a police spokesperson, ASI Mohammad Shafi Bhat of Shangus, Anantnag was killed on the spot after an ►► [More On P6](#)

3 Held For Running Fake Job Racket

SRINAGAR: Police on Thursday claimed to have busted a fake job racket by arresting three people from north Kashmir's Baniptora district. Irfan Ahmad Wani, Manzoor Ahmad Pandit, both residents of Saderkoot Bala and Bilal Ahmad Dar of Asham were arrested by police on the basis of specific information that they were misguiding youths and duping them on the pretext of providing ►► [More On P6](#)

Missing Elderly Man Found Dead

SRINAGAR: An elderly man was found dead in a forest area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Thursday, over a month after he went missing. The body of Mohammad Ismail Sayal of Chowgam area of Qazigund was found in a forest area in Verinag on Thursday afternoon, reports said. Sayal had gone missing on February 16 after which his family had lodged a missing report with the police. Meanwhile, a police officer said ►► [More On P6](#)

ACB Raids PCB Office In Srinagar

SRINAGAR: Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday carried out a raid in Sheikh-ul-Alam Complex in Rajbagh area of Srinagar. A local news agency Kashmir News Observer (KNO) quoting unnamed officials reported that the ACB conducted raid in Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Board office located at Sheikh-ul-Alam Complex in Rajbagh. Raids were going on when this report was being filed—(KNO)

3 Gamblers Held In Sumbal: Police

SRINAGAR: Three alleged gamblers were arrested in an input driven raid in Shilwat area of north Kashmir's Baniptora district, police said Thursday. Ghulam Rasool Guru, Hilal Ahmad Dar and Adil Ahmad Sofi were arrested at Shilwat Bund by the cops of police station Sumbal after receiving an input about gambling activities, a police spokesperson said Thursday. He said playing cards an amount of Rs 15020 was also ►► [More On P6](#)

Pak Army Chief Bats For Peace With India

Time For India, Pak To Bury The Past And Move Forward: Gen Bajwa

Press Trust Of India

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's powerful Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa said on Thursday that it was time for India and Pakistan to "bury the past and move forward", a day after Prime Minister Imran Khan made similar overtures towards New Delhi following an unexpected ceasefire announcement by the militaries of the two countries last month.

Addressing a session of the first-ever Islamabad Security Dialogue here, Gen Bajwa also said that the potential for regional peace and development always remained hostage to the disputes and issues between Pakistan and India - the two "nuclear-armed neighbours". "We feel it is time to bury the past and move forward," he said, adding that the responsibility for a meaningful dialogue rested with India.



India last month said that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan in an environment free of "terror, hostility and violence". India has said the onus is on Pakistan to create such an environment. Gen Bajwa's remarks came a day after Prime Minister Khan

made a similar statement at the same venue. Khan said on Wednesday that India will be benefitted economically by having peace with Pakistan as it will enable New Delhi to directly access the resource-rich Central Asia region through Pakistani territory. "India will have ►► [More On P6](#)

India Puts Onus On Pakistan

226 Militants Killed In J&K Since 2020: CRPF

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on Thursday said 226 militants were killed during operations in Jammu and Kashmir since 2020, while 296 were apprehended. CRPF Director General (DG) Kuldeep Singh said stone-pelting incidents in the Kashmir Valley have "reduced drastically", although they have not stopped completely. ►► [More On P6](#)

BJP, Opposition Spar In LS Over J&K Situation

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Lok Sabha Thursday witnessed an intense debate during a discussion on supplementary demands for grants for Jammu and Kashmir with Opposition alleging the situation has worsened there after it was made a union territory, while the ruling BJP asserted the move empowered grassroots democracy and ushered in development. BJP's Jamyang Tsering Namgyal hailed Prime



Minister Narendra Modi as a "yug purush" for realising the dream of BJP ideologue Syama Prasad Mookerjee, who had opposed special status to Jammu and Kashmir. Initiating the discussion, Congress ►► [More On P6](#)

Law And Order Situation Has Improved: Nirmala

Press Trust Of India

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said law and order situation has improved in Jammu and Kashmir and assembly elections can be held only after completion of the delimitation process. She said abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A of the Indian ►► [More On P6](#)

Omar Skeptical About Assembly Polls In 2021 Says Party, Not Elections His Priority

Agencies

SRINAGAR: National Conference vice-president and the former chief minister of erstwhile state of J&K Omar Abdullah Thursday said that he doesn't see Assembly elections taking place in 2021.

He, however, said that his priority was not elections but



to strengthen the party at the grassroots level. ►► [More On P6](#)

'New Delhi Used DDC Polls As Diplomatic Tool'

National Conference Vice President and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday accused New Delhi of using DDC elections as "diplomatic tool" ►► [More On P6](#)

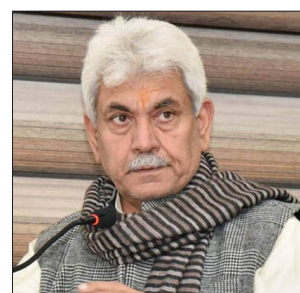
LG Welcomes Historic Budget For J&K

Says Rs 108621 Crore Budget Surpasses All Previous Allocations

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday expressed gratitude to the Centre for passing yet another historic budget of Rs 1,08,621 crore for the growth and development of the Union Territory.

"I would like to thank the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, Home Minister, Amit Shah, and Finance Minister,



Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman for yet another historic budget with emphasis on the growth and development of Jammu & Kashmir. The Government is committed to invest more money in new ►► [More On P6](#)

No Outsider Purchased Land In Kashmir: Govt Tells MPs Panel



Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Over a year after Modi government revoked semi autonomous status of Jammu and Kashmir, no non-local has purchased land in the newly carved Union Territory despite the introduction of new laws that enable them to buy land, the Hindu reported Thursday.

The report based on the information provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to a parliamentary panel said that the J&K government had received memoranda of understanding (MoUs) for 18 private hospitals with investment of 3,200 crore and 33 proposals with an investment of 2,100 crore in the education sector. In October last ►► [More On P6](#)

SC Lists Plea On Rohingya Refugees Release On March 25

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday said it would hear on March 25 a fresh plea seeking immediate release of detained Rohingya refugees in Jammu and restrain the Centre from implementing any order deporting them to Myanmar. A bench headed by Chief

Justice S A Bobde, which initially observed that there was no urgency, took note of the submissions of lawyer Prashant Bhushan that the detained Rohingyas may be deported to Myanmar where the Army has taken over and violence is taking place. "Ok, then we will hear the Rohingya matter on Thursday," said the bench ►► [More On P6](#)

Govt Calls For Quick Vaccination As Cases Spike

Observer News Service

JAMMU: As coronavirus cases continue to show an upward trend in Jammu and Kashmir, the Union Territory administration on Thursday said that it was ramping up capacity to

administer 3 lakh vaccine doses per day and urged people to get vaccinated quickly.

Chairing the third meeting of UT Steering Committee here to review the progress of vaccination drives that were rolled out in ►► [More On P6](#)

140 New Cases In J&K, 1 Death

Observer News Service

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 140 new coronavirus cases on Thursday, taking the tally to 1,28,097, while one more person succumbed to the pathogen, officials said. Out of the fresh cases, ►► [More On P6](#)

HC Refers Farooq's Plea Against ED Action To Its Division Bench

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Thursday referred to its division bench a petition filed by National Conference President Farooq Abdullah against an order by Enforcement Directorate,

attaching his properties in a case of alleged money laundering.

"Having gone through the writ petition as also the judgment of the Coordinate Bench in Ahsan Mirza's case, it can be seen that some of the issues raised by the petitioner (Farooq Abdullah) in ►► [More On P6](#)

Brother's Accidental Death Makes Kashmiri Boy Hit The Roads

Mir Yasir Mukhtar

In 2017, Azaan Bhat was a 19-year-old teenage boy dealing with his share of challenges like others in his age group — mostly wondering about his academic future and the life ahead. But a phone call from his mother in the summer of that year, set the young boy in the drivers' lane where he continues to be slow but sure.

"When I received the call, my mother's exact words were: Oh son! Where are you? Come home quick. Your brother is no more," Azaan, a resident of Harwan in Srinagar, recalls. His cousin, Adnan Bhat, on



July 18 of that year, was riding pillion on a motorbike when the driver while negotiating a blind

curve skidded off the road. The duo on motorbike were grievously injured in the road mishap

and while the driver recuperated at a hospital, Adnan lost his battle with life.

Since 2004, 46 per cent of people, including minors, involved in road mishaps have lost

their lives in Kashmir, according to a survey by the local police.

Kashmir has topped the list of 'high accidental death-prone cases' from last decade.

The year 2020, alone had 6120 accidents which caused 8655 injuries and 1073 fatalities due to road accidents.

Azaan says the words of his mother brought his world upside down. "It was of beyond my imagination that the person, I had dinner with a day ago is no more," he recounts the shocking moment of his life with a sad face. "Adnan never used to over speed, and always wore helmet before riding bike," the boy continues with a sigh. "I lost a friend

in my brother and his death has left a deep scar on my heart."

Time healed his scars, but Azaan drew the pivotal lesson from Adnan's death: Life was too valuable to lose to speed.

"I don't want any other family to suffer the same dreadful pain, my family has been through," he says. "I can't see another Adnan because his absence still haunts me."

After passing through the painful time, the 23-year-old along with some like-minded friends finally decided to float a group, with the motto to inform people about the vehicular conduct on roads.

To begin with, it didn't prove a pushover. The ►► [More On P6](#)