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**P3 CITY**

## BADAMWARI TO OPEN FOR VISITORS TOMORROW

Tourism Department is organising a cultural evening at Badamwari Garden from 4 pm to 6 pm on March 20 (Saturday) to announce its opening and the garden will

**THINK**

## THE DOORWAY AMNESIA

Imagine you're in the middle of watching a riveting episode of your favourite TV show. You decide the situation calls for popcorn, so you get up and head to the kitchen. But when you arrive in the kitchen you suddenly stop and think to yourself....



**P7 STATE**

## THOUSANDS PROTEST AGAINST WASIM RIZVI IN KARGIL, DEMAND HIS ARREST

Thousands of Muslims staged a protest in Kargil after Friday prayers against former Shia Waqf Board chairperson Waseem Rizvi who has filed a petition...



**Widom Quote!**  
Wanting to be someone else is a waste of who you are  
—Kurt Cobain

### NEWS DIGEST

#### J&K Logs 152 Corona Cases

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Friday 152 more cases of coronavirus, while the deadly claimed another life in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. The victim, officials said, belonged to the Jammu division and raised the fatality count to 1979 in the Union Territory—732 in Jammu and 1247 in Kashmir. About the new cases of **► More On P6**

#### Youth Injured In Solar Battery Blast

SRINAGAR: A 25-year-old youth was injured after a solar battery exploded in Arwani area of Bijbehara in South Kashmir's Anantnag district on Friday evening. An official said that the solar battery installed at a readymade shop, which belongs to Zahid Zahoor War, son of Zahoore Ahmad War of Arwani exploded this evening, thus resulting in injuries to the shop owner. He said the injured **► More On P6**

#### Six Gamblers Held With Rs 5700: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Friday claimed to have arrested six gamblers from Mir Bazar area of south Kashmir's Qazigund. Jitender Singh, Charan Singh, Ranjit Singh, Lohi Singh, Karan Singh and Mohd Rafiq Kumar were arrested by a police team from Palpora area of Qazigund after receiving a tip-off about gambling activities, a police spokesperson said Friday. He said Rs 5,700 and playing cards were seized from the spot during the raid. **► More On P6**

#### Biker Collides With Bridge, Dies

SRINAGAR: A biker died in a road accident in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Friday afternoon. Reports said that a biker lost control over a two-wheeler and collided with a bridge at Prang, resulting in critical injuries. He was immediately rushed to Hajin hospital for treatment where doctors declared him dead. The deceased has been identified as Attula Dar son of Sonaulah Dar. **► More On P6**

#### Missing KU Student Traced

SRINAGAR: A PG student of Kashmir University who was reported to be missing has been traced from Jammu. The University administration places on record its appreciation to the local police, especially SP Hazratbal, SDPO Hazratbal and SHO Nigeen police station, for their efforts in tracing the missing student within 24 hours, reports said. The University was, with a sense of deep concern, in constant contact with the **► More On P6**

## J&K's Debt Piles Up, Liabilities Over Rs 83000 Crore

**Agencies**

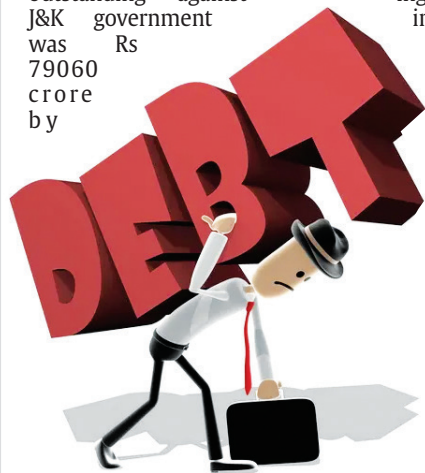
SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory is slipping into a "debt trap" as its liabilities have mounted over Rs 83000 crore, reports said Friday.

Official documents reveal that J&K's liabilities have piled up to Rs 83573 by 2019-20 up by Rs 4513 crore from preceding financial year. The overall debt outstanding against J&K government was Rs 79060 crore by

2018-19.

According to the documents, Rs 13487 crore liabilities were raised by J&K in 2018-19 and Rs 11999 crore in 2019-20, news agency KNO reported.

The liabilities include Rs 34291 crore market borrowings, Rs 1237 crore loans from Centre, Rs 3370 crore special securities issued to the National Small Saving Fund, Rs 3574 borrowings from financial institutions/ banks, Rs 692 crore from Ways and Means Advance (WMA) from Reserve Bank of India, Rs 27162 crore from small savings, provident funds, etc., Rs 9709 crore reserve funds/deposits (Net). This also includes Rs 3573 crore borrowings under UDAY power bonds. In **► More On P6**



## Major Reshuffle In J&K Police Sandeep Chowdhary Is New SSP Srinagar

**Observer Monitoring Desk**

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday ordered transfer of 25 SSPs and SPs in Jammu and Kashmir with immediate effect.

According to Home Department's order, Rayees Mohammad Bhat (IPS), AIG (P&T), PHQ has been transferred and posted as SSP Baramulla vice Abdul Qayoom.

Dr. Vinod Kumar (IPS), awaiting orders, has been posted as SSP Poonch vice Ramesh Kumar Angral. Sandeep Choudhary (IPS), SP Anantnag has been transferred and posted as SSP Srinagar vice Mohd. Haseeb Mughal.

Chandan Kohli (IPS), SP Rajouri has been transferred and posted as SSP Jammu vice Shridhar Patil (IPS).

Dr. G.V. Sundeeep Chakravarthy (IPS), SP Handwara has been transferred and posted as SP Kupwara vice Ambarkar Shriram Dinkar (IPS). Sudhanshu Verma (IPS), SP Hazratbal, Srinagar has been transferred and posted as SP Sopore vice Javid Iqbal.

Sandeep Gupta (IPS), SP North, Srinagar has been transferred and **► More On P6**

## Night Flights Start From Srinagar Airport Go Air Takes Lead With First Ever Night Flight From Valley

**Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: In a major relief to fliers, the Srinagar International Airport has finally started much awaited night flight operations from the Valley with Go Air becoming the first private player to take off a flight from Srinagar to New Delhi.

The Go Air flight G8 7007 took off from Srinagar Airport around 7:35 pm Friday though the timing will be



rescheduled from tomorrow. Go Air operates on Jammu, Delhi and Leh sectors of the erstwhile state.

"Today we started a trial flight at 7:35pm. The flight will now depart at 8:30pm. It is for the first **► More On P6**

### PMLA CASE

## Court Refuses To Stay ED Summons To Mehbooba

**Press Trust Of India**

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Friday refused to stay summons issued to former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case.

### Bajwa's Statement Good Opportunity: Mehbooba

Srinagar PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Friday said Pakistan Army Chief's statement calling for better ties with India has provided a "good opportunity" for the two **► More On P6**



A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice **► More On P6**

## 169 Major Landslides Hit J&K In 5 Years: GoI

**Agencies**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has reported 169 major landslides in last five years, impacting life and infrastructure, government of India said on Friday.

In all 3656 major landslides have occurred across India and were collected by Geological Survey of India through onsite field investigations under the Post-Disaster Studies programme taken up annually by **► More On P6**

## Friday Following Me'raj-e-Alam Observed



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

**Agencies**

SRINAGAR: Emotional scenes were witnessed at Hazratbal shrine on Friday following Me'raj-e-Alam after the devotees had a glimpse of the relic of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) post congregational prayers.

The devotees including men and women from different parts of the Valley, who thronged to the shrine today, were seen reciting Durood, many with moist eyes, when the holy relic was displayed. Witnesses said that the rush of devotees was higher than last Friday when the **► More On P6**

### HOSPITAL HORROR

## Minor Fights For Life After Given 'Expired' Injections

Hospital Administration Suspends Nurse, Orders Probe

**Observer Monitoring Desk**

SRINAGAR: A minor girl is battling for life at the district hospital Shopian where she was administered expired injections four days ago, sparking anger and outrage among the locals and prompting administration to order a probe.

Six-year-old Bazila Jan of Devpora village was admitted to the district hospital Shopian by her family four days ago with the complaint of pneumonia, her father Mohamad Iqbal Khataria said Friday. At the hospital, he said, the minor girl has been given expired Monocef injection **► More On P6**

## Mercury Rises As Kashmir Braces Up For Wet Spell

**Press Trust Of India**

SRINAGAR: Mercury increased in Kashmir Valley amid forecast for wet spell next week, weatherman said on Friday.

A meteorological department official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 5.8 degree Celsius against 4.2 degree Celsius on the previous night. The minimum temperature was 1.1 degree Celsius above normal for this time of the year in the summer capital of J&K, the official said.

Qazigund, the gateway town of Kashmir, recorded a low of

5.7 degree Celsius against 3.8 degree Celsius on the previous night while mercury settled at 0.7°C against 1.1 degree Celsius on the earlier night at Pahalgam, the famous resort in south Kashmir.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a low of 6.0 degree Celsius against previous night's 2.6 degree Celsius, the official said. The minimum temperature settled at 6.6 degree Celsius in Kupwara against 2.6 degree Celsius on the previous night, the official said.

Gulmarg recorded minimum temperature **► More On P6**

## US Defence Secretary Arrives In India

**Press Trust Of India**

NEW DELHI: In the first visit by a top Biden administration official, US Defence Secretary Lloyd J Austin arrived in India on Friday on a three-day visit, aimed at further boosting bilateral defence and security ties in the wake of China's growing military assertiveness in the region including in the Indo-Pacific.

India is the third stop for Austin during his three-nation first overseas tour as the Defence Secretary, and the visit is seen as a reflection of the Joe Biden administration's strong commitment to its relations with its close allies and partners in the region. The US defence secretary visited Japan and South Korea before India. The US official was received at the Palam airport by senior Indian military officials and diplomats from the American embassy. **► More On P6**

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