



P3 CITY

## GOVT ROLLS OUT HOUSEBOATS POLICY

The Administrative Council (AC), which met under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, Monday approved the roll-out of policy and guidelines for sustainable operation of houseboats in Dal and Nigeen lakes....

P7 THINK COVID-19: 2021 AND BEYOND

One year ago today, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic, the first caused by a coronavirus. As we enter year two of the pandemic, let's remind ourselves of some sobering statistics. So far, there have been more...



P5 STATE

## OUTRAGE AS TRAFFIC DEPT SEIZES NON-J&amp;K REGISTERED VEHICLES

Traffic Department's drive to seize vehicles with outside J&K registration numbers has sparked outrage among the local residents. On Monday, the ...



## Widom Quote!

The starting point of all achievement is desire  
—Napoleon Hill

## NEWS DIGEST

## Arms Cache Recovered Near LoC: Army

SRINAGAR: The state forces have seized a cache of arms and ammunition, including five AK assault rifles, from an area close to the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, an army official said on Monday. "In a major success to security forces deployed in Karnah, a huge recovery was made in the late hours of Sunday owing to high state of alertness of the army and police," the official said. He said the security forces ● [More On P10](#)

## Nine Youth 'Detained' In Baramulla

SRINAGAR: At least nine youth from south Kashmir's Shopian district on Monday were detained by police from Sheeri area of Baramulla district.

A local news agency KDC quoted Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Baramulla, Rayees Ahmad as saying that the nine boys from Zainapora area of Shopian were detained by police after noticing them in suspicious condition. He said that all the nine have been detained from Sheeri area of Baramulla, adding that after proper verification ● [More On P10](#)

## CRPF Man 'Strangles' Wife To Death

SRINAGAR: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) man allegedly strangled his wife to death at their rented house in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Monday. 36-year-old Sumi Bai was strangled to death by her husband due to some family issue in a rented house at Nagbal, Sherbagh, news agency KNO reported Monday while quoting an unnamed official. "On visiting his house, the woman's body was found lying on a ground floor. A strangulation mark ● [More On P10](#)

## Shailendra Mishra Deputed To NIA

SRINAGAR: Shailendra Mishra has been appointed as Superintendent of Police in National Investigation Agency (NIA) by the government.

"Consequent upon the approval of the Competent Authority to the induction of Dr. Shailendra Mishra, IPS (RR: 09), as Superintendent of Police in National Investigation Agency (NIA), against an existing vacancy, on deputation basis, for a period of four years w.e.f. the date of assumption of the charge of the post, or till further orders, whichever is earlier, he is ● [More On P10](#)

## BJP Councillor, SPO Shot Dead By Militants In Sopore: Police

4 Policemen Suspended For 'Inappropriate' Retaliation



Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: A Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) councillor and a

special police officer were killed on Monday in a militant attack in Sopore town of Baramulla ● [More On P10](#)

## LG, Politicians Condemn Killings

Observer Monitoring Desk

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and most mainstream political parties on Monday condemned the killing of a Municipal Councillor and a policeman by militants in Sopore town of Baramulla district. "I strongly condemn the killings of Municipal Councillor & police personnel by Terrorists at Sopore. ● [More On P10](#)

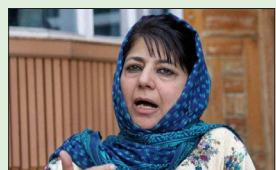
## CRPF Man Injured In Lawaypora Attack Dies

A CRPF constable who suffered injuries in militant firing died at a hospital here on Monday, taking the death toll in the attack in Lawaypora on the outskirts of Srinagar last week to three, officials said. Constable Jagannath Ray succumbed to injuries at the SKIMS Hospital in Soura after battling for life for four days, a police official said. He said Constable Ray was among the four CRPF personnel injured in the militant attack on Thursday. Two personnel -- a sub-inspector and a constable -- ● [More On P10](#)

## Mehbooba Gets 'Adverse' Police Report, Passport Application Rejected

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti's application for a passport has been rejected by the Regional Passport Office here, based on an "adverse" police



verification report. In a letter

## HC Dismisses Passport Petition

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Monday dismissed a petition filed by PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, in which she had sought a direction to the passport ● [More On P10](#)

## Art-370 Can Only Be Restored By SC, Parliament: Sajad Lone

3 Former Legislators From NC, PDP Join JKPC Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Sajad Lone-led Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference received a shot in the arm as three former legislators from the NC and the PDP joined the party here on Monday. Former minister Syed Basharat Bukhari, who recently left the National Conference; former MLA Peer Mansoor, who was associated with the



Peoples Democratic Party since its formation; and former MLC Khurshid Aalam, who had

joined the PDP after retiring from services, joined the JKPC at a function here. ● [More On P10](#)

## CAG Raps 3 J&amp;K Depts Over Improper Planning, Undisbursed Funds

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: There was an increase in accumulated balances in 1,138 bank accounts of three departments in Jammu and Kashmir between 2014 and 2019 due to factors such as improper planning and undisbursed funds for relief or compensation to victims of militancy and natural disasters, the CAG has said.

It is recommended that there is an effective monitoring mechanism in the union territory in this regard and



government instructions are strictly implemented, it said in a report tabled in Parliament recently.

The massive increase in balances were in accounts of 131 Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) of the public works, ● [More On P10](#)

## '128 Solar Power Plants At Police Establishments Defunct'

As many as 128 solar power plants at police establishments in Jammu and Kashmir remained non-functional since 2014 due to non-settlement of payment of works contract tax, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has said. The CAG has asked the J&K Home Department to settle works contract tax (WCT) on priority and ensure rectification ● [More On P10](#)

## Rainfall Plummets Mercury In Kashmir

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Rains lashed Kashmir overnight dropping mercury by a few notches even as the minimum temperatures remained considerably above normal across the Valley, weatherman said on Monday.

A meteorological department official said that Srinagar received 3.1mm of rain in 24 hours till 0830 hours while mercury settled at 11.2 degree Celsius against previous

night's 12.2 degree Celsius in the summer capital. The temperature was above by 5.1 degree Celsius in Srinagar for this time of the year, the official said.

Qazigund received 1.2mm of rain and recorded a low of 7.4 degree Celsius against 8.2 degree Celsius on the previous night, he said. Pahalgam received 13.0mm of rain while mercury settled at 7.0 degree Celsius against 6.9 degree Celsius on the earlier night at the famous resort in south Kashmir, ● [More On P10](#)

## J&amp;K Logs 235 More Covid Cases

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Monday recorded 235 new positive COVID-19 cases, taking the infection tally to 1,30,228, even as no fresh death due to the disease was reported in the Union territory in the past 24 hours, officials said.

These fresh cases also include 58 travellers, they said.

Out of the new cases, 51 were reported from Jammu division and 184 from Kashmir division of the Union territory (UT), they said. Srinagar district recorded the highest of 99 cases, including 40 travellers, followed by 35 in Baramulla ● [More On P10](#)

## Health Dept Rules Out Man's Death Due To Vaccine

Observer Monitoring Desk

The health department has refuted media reports about the death of an elderly man, hours after he was administered a coronavirus vaccine jab in north Kashmir's Handwara on Saturday last. ● [More On P10](#)

## The Band Show: The Quiet Return Of Theatrics In Kashmir

Saqib Jameel

A year before the "return of democracy" in Kashmir's trouble theatre, its folk play house resurrected from the belt which would be declared as the first "militancy-free" district in Kashmir during its "healing touch" years.

By 1995, the band known to "enlighten and entertain" the grassroots was back to revive the cultural pulse left paralysed by the political arising in the valley. 26 years later, on the occasion of the World Theatre Day, as the raging strife is still at the center stage, the cultural forum remains work in progress.

Their efforts, however, have revitalised some of the folk activities when Kashmir over the

years has failed to produce a prominent theatre artist like Shadi Lal Koul.

While many young and talented—some of whom are forced to give up on their passion pursuits—blame the lack of forums in the valley, Gulshan Cultural Forum Kashmir (GCFK) is keeping the artistic promise intact.

"For the first four years [since its inception 1995], GCFK played it quiet, as the valley was still in the middle of a raging phase of insurgency," says one of the band members from Budgam.

"Most of us were caught in quandary, as one group was against our pursuits, while the other would warn us: the show must go on."

The hint was purportedly heaved at the erstwhile folk-artist



who would then play a ringleader of renegades. Seasoned sleuths and scribes in Srinagar call the chieftain—backed by the martial-muscle matrix—as someone who set the stage for the 'political theatre' in 1996.

"But before that," says a senior scribe, then actively covering Kashmir, "the gloom had to be uplifted from the valley."

A certain Indian premier, the scribe states, was then talking about implementing Punjab model

in Kashmir. "It was in this backdrop that cultural activities were restarted in the desolated valley."

As some of these folk-artists regrouped under new banners, they were hailed as the 'band ambassadors' of Kashmir culture.

"While some of them show up in propaganda programmes in Doordarshan, others took the folk theatre where it was rooted — grassroots," the scribe says.

Amid this show optics in the valley, GCFK oiled its cultural

canons and consistently organised events on Art, Literature, Music and Drama.

The group would initially operate in the rural pockets of Budgam—known to house Kashmir's iconic folk-artists—with an objective of encouraging theatre as a medium of conveying social and cultural, if not political, messages.

But as the landscape was still exploding with the deafening defiance, the forum had to wait for regularizing their troupe.

The formal recognition came when 1999 Kargil War almost threatened to devour the "uneasy calm" in the valley.

"Back then, the folk-artists were badly bitten by the political paralysis in Kashmir," the senior scribe continues ● [More On P10](#)