

Maximum : 19°C
Minimum : 09°C
Humidity : 68%SUNSET
Today 07:19 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 05:37 AMFOOD SAFETY,
SHOPPING & COVID-19: WHAT YOU
SHOULD AND SHOULDN'T BE DOING

With online delivery slots fully booked for days ahead in big cities, doing shopping runs has been a necessity lately. Although people are trying to keep these trips to a bare minimum, contact with the outside world is inevitable, even if you are having groceries delivered to your doorstep. This is raising many questions about how safe grocery shopping is and whether the bags and containers could potentially expose people to the virus. These concerns have largely stemmed from the fact that the novel virus can survive on some surfaces for a few days....

.....LIFE & TIMES
P6

News Digest

12 TH RAMAZAN		
IFTAR	SEHRI	
TODAY	TOMMOROW	
FIQAH HANAFIYA	07:21	04:03
FIQAH JAFARIYA	07:31	04:02

Ex IAS Officer Sharma
Named PSC Chairman

Srinagar- Government of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday appointed former IAS officer B R Sharma as Chairman Public Service Commission. The order to appoint the B R Sharma as PSC chairman was issued by Dr Farooq Ahmad Lone (IAS) Secretary to the government on the directions of Lieutenant Governor G C Murmu. "In exercise of powers conferred by section 93 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019, and S.O. 3937 (E) dated 31st October 2019, read with the order issued in

Handwara Boy Buried In
Cemetery For Unknown

Kupwara- A 14-year-old boy from Qaziabad village of Handwara in Kupwara district who was killed in the cross fire at Wangam crossing Sunday evening was laid to rest in Sheeri graveyard of Baramulla where usually unidentified foreign militants are buried. Family members of the slain boy said that their son, Hazim Shafi Bhat, only brother of three young sisters was laid to rest at Sheeri, Baramulla graveyard this morning with attendance of only 17 persons.

Anantnag Deaths: DC
Assures Strict Action

Srinagar: The district authorities in south Kashmir's Anantnag on Tuesday assured strict action against any negligence, if any, into the death of two pregnant women after completion of probe within three days. Addressing journalists in the south Kashmir district today, the District Magistrate, Anantnag, Bashir Ahmad Dar said that whoever will be found responsible of negligence will be

Family In Quarantine,
Burglars Loot House

Srinagar: Unknown burglars struck an abandoned house in north Kashmir's Tangmarg as the family is currently under quarantine at a government run health facility, reports said Tuesday. Taking advantage of the family in quarantine, unidentified burglars broke into the house of Muhammad Akbar Ganai in Hardu Chiloo village of Tangmarg decamped with many valuable items, news agency KNT reported.

HC 'Rings
A Bell' On
Durbar Move

Asks Centre To Look Into Its Necessity

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU- The Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Tuesday asked decision makers, including the Centre, to look into the necessity of the 148-year-old biannual Durbar move, keeping in mind the financial implication of more than Rs 200 crore incurred by the "hopelessly fiscally deprived Union Territory".

In its 93-page judgement, a division bench of the court headed by Chief Justice Geeta Mittal also listed the suggestion made by senior advocate Monika Kohli, who had highlighted the digitisation of officials records.

Hearing a self-adopted public interest litigation, the division bench gave the historical perspective of biannual Durbar move whereby the capital of Jammu and Kashmir is shifted every six months from Jammu (winter capital) to Srinagar (summer capital).

The court said that from the facts placed regarding the Dur-

bar move, the disregard of public interest in its origins and implementation, its adverse effects, the huge fiscal, social and economic costs, amply manifest that its propriety, feasibility and efficacy of the arrangement is one such matter "overlooked and forgotten".

"The material placed before us manifests that there has been no application of mind to the changed circumstances because of technological and scientific advances. Our judicial conscience compels us to ring the bell else we would fail in discharging our judicial duty or to perform our constitutional function as demanded in the interest of the Nation and the people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially its common woman and man, the poor and the weak.

"We hasten to add that conscious of the limitations of our jurisdiction, we shall confine ourselves to 'ringing the bell' without anything more."

"We have recorded our reasons and judgment on the

WE HASTEN TO ADD THAT CONSCIOUS of the limitations of our jurisdiction, we shall confine ourselves to 'ringing the bell' without anything more."

Mehbooba's Detention Under
PSA Extended By 3 Months

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Public Safety Act against former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti was extended by three months on Tuesday, officials said.

In a brief order, district magistrate of Srinagar handed over the continuation of her custody at her residence, hours before her present



term under the PSA was to expire. She was initially detained on August 5 last year when the Centre abrogated special

Curbs, Concealed Cameras, Couriered
Chips: How Kashmir Won Pulitzer

Jyotsna Bharti

NEW DELHI: FROM hiding their cameras in vegetable sacks to courier their chips to their New Delhi office through some airborne travellers, the two Kashmiri photojournalists did it all to picture Kashmir during its worst communication crisis last summer.

They recall the times with bemused faces, when they had to seek shelter in peoples' homes to stay close to the action spot.

With phones dead and internet snapped, following the abrogation of J&K's special status, these photojournalists like their tribe



couldn't contact their families for days together. And with additional troops manning the streets in the valley then, some of them even

faced the street hostility. However, nine months later, Mukhtar Khan and Dar Yasin, along with their Jammu-based Associated

Press (AP) colleague, Channi Anand, have bagged the prestigious Pulitzer for their remarkable work.

The award announced by Pulitzer board administrator Dana Canedy on Youtube amid the coronavirus outbreak has been given to Khan and Yasin for their exceptional work in the valley after the abrogation of Article 370 on 5 August 2019.

Soon after the announcement, Mukhtar Khan who began his journalism career with Kashmir Observer was seen sharing a happy family frame.

Similar joyous scenes came from the Dar Yasin's home following the announcement. »PAGE 02

Ex-KO Staffer Won Pulitzer

'Despite Pressure, Did My Job Honestly'

Augib Javeed

FATEH KADEL, Srinagar — Twenty two years before he would win the prestigious Pulitzer Award, Mukhtar Khan had walked in Kashmir Observer newsroom as a promising rookie, whose photos were class apart on the daily's frontpage.

"Khan had that spark and eye for detail," Sajjad Haider, editor-in-chief of Kashmir Observer, said. "But I made him run around as I could see promise in him."

That promise culminated into the highest journalism award, Pulitzer, on Tuesday, when Khan along with his Associated Press (AP) colleagues, Dar Yasin and Channi Anand, won the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography.

The trio got the prize for their "striking images of life".

"It was unbelievable," Khan told Kashmir Observer. "For a moment I couldn't believe that I have won the award." »PAGE 02



Mukhtar along with his family was glued to laptop on Tuesday night to hear the announcement. And once the news came, the family broke into midnight celebrations.

KPC Greets Winners

The Kashmir Press Club (KPC) on Tuesday congratulated the Associated Press (AP) photojournalists Dar Yasin, Mukhtar Khan and Channi Anand for winning 2020 Pulitzer Prize in feature photography. The three outstanding photojournalists from Jammu and Kashmir won the world's biggest journalism award for their coverage

Rahul Faces Flak For Greeting Kashmir Journalists

The BJP on Tuesday attacked the Congress after Rahul Gandhi congratulated three photojournalists from Jammu and Kashmir for winning the Pulitzer Prize and asked if the opposition party considers the Valley as an integral part of India or not.

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra attacked the Congress over its leader's congratulatory tweet to the photojournalists, alleging that Gandhi had wished those who considered Kashmir a "contested territory". "Will Sonia Gandhi answer? Whether she and the Congress party concur with Rahul Gandhi on the issue of Kashmir not being an integral part of India! Rahul today congratulated those who got an award for considering Kashmir as a 'Contested Territory'!" Patra said

Mother, 2 Minors Among 15 More Test Covid-19 Positive, J&K Tally At 741

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) corporator, a mother and her two minor daughters were among 15 more people who tested positive for coronavirus in Kashmir on Tuesday, taking the number of the infected people across the Jammu and Kashmir Union territory to 741, said an official.

"Fifteen new cases have been reported from Jammu and Kashmir in the last 24 hours," the officials said adding that seventeen patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals.

Nine of the cases out of 898 sam-

ples taken by the viral diagnostic lab of Valley's premier SK institute of medical sciences Soura here came positive for Covid-19. Among them, six are from Shopian, two from Baniptora and one from Baramulla in north Kashmir.

Another five new cases in Valley were confirmed by the officials at the Chest Diseases hospital here, while Udhampur district reported a fresh case, taking its tally of positive cases to 21.

The five new cases reported at CD hospital include a 34-old woman and her two minor daughters aged 7 and 13 from Wander Mohalla of Rainawari. Another case from Srinagar is

a SMC corporator from Narwara area of Old City. The fifth case is a 30-year-old woman from Telwani area of Anantnag district.

Regarding Shopian cases, they said, 55-year-old male from Manzpora while five others are from Heerpora, one of the worst-hit areas in the southern Kashmir district and include 18-year-old and 35-year-old women and three men—one of them a teenager (18) while two others are 25-year-old and 50-year-old respectively.

Baniptora reported two fresh cases—one of them a 6-year-old boy from Naidkhai and other 41-year-old man from Gund Kaiser while

Corporator
Tests Positive

SMC Moves Many Into Quarantine

Four days after his brother tested positive for the novel coronavirus, swap samples of SMC corporator, a resident of Narwara Srinagar, on Tuesday, returned positive for the disease.

The development has prompted Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) to move around a dozen corporators as well as staff associated with Mayor and his deputy to quarantine.

Nodal Officer Dr Saleem Khan confirmed that the corporator

To Be, Or Not To Be, That's SMC's
Quarantine Question

At a time when its ground staff is actively carrying out the disinfection drive to keep the novel coronavirus at bay, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) is witnessing a clear confusion in its higher ranks regarding the recent development.

SMC Commissioner and Mayor seem to be at the loggerheads over an order issued to corporators and staffers of the corporation to go under self-quarantine after a corporator's brother tested positive for coronavirus last week. While SMC Commissioner, Gazanfar Ali on Monday said that no order asking officials to go for home quarantine have been issued or received by his office, the Mayor Junaid Azim Mattu had a different story to narrate. In a 44-second video released from his residence, Mattu said that the brother of one of their colleagues in SMC has tested positive for the novel coronavirus and as an extra

Security Forces Have Upper Hand Over Militants: Special DG CRPF
Anti-Militancy Ops To Be Intensified: J&K DGP

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A day after three CRPF personnel were killed in a surprise militant attack in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, special Director General of CRPF Zulfiqar Hassan said Tuesday that the security forces continue to have upper hand over militant organisations and anti-national forces.

Talking to journalists after visiting the shootout spot in Qaziabad Handwara today, Hassan said that the attack was carried out on joint team of police and CRPF when they were performing their duties. He said the exchange of fire continued for nearly 30 minutes leaving three CRPF personnel killed.

"We have started working out on



it. Those responsible for this attack will not be spared and action will be taken against them," he said.

The Special DG further said that sometimes such incidents occur when the forces lose their own men

in the attacks "Militant attacks keep on happening in Valley. Indian army, CRPF and police have upper hand in fight against the militancy and anti-national organisations. »PAGE 02

Militants Fled With 2 Rifles
After Killing 3 CRPF Men

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The militants fled with two assault rifles after killing three CRPF personnel in an audacious attack in north Kashmir's Handwara on Monday, reports said Tuesday.

Quoting a senior police officer, a news agency GNS reported today that the militants associated with little known outfit The Resistance Front (TRF) snatched two rifles from the spot in Wangam crossing in Kralgund Handwara after carrying out deadly attack on the paramilitary troops.

"The investigation is underway," the officer said and responded in affirmative when asked if the militants

2 Security Men
Injured In Budgam
Grenade Attack

Two security personnel including a police officer besides four civilians were injured in a grenade attack at Pakherpora area of Chrar-e-Sharif in central Kashmir's Budgam district on Tuesday afternoon. Reports said that militants hurled the grenade towards joint deployment of 181BN CRPF and police in Pakherpora. In the attack, Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police

Govt Okays Separate
Meteorological Centre For Leh

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Government of India on Tuesday approved creation of a separate meteorological centre in the newly carved Union Territory of Ladakh for weather forecasts. So far the Met office was headquartered in Srinagar.

An order issued by the office of the Director General of Meteorology, New Delhi reads that, "It has been decided by the Government of India to establish meteorological centre (MC) at Leh, the capital of Union Territory of Ladakh, to meet the meteorological services of Ladakh."

"This Meteorological centre

will be headed by an officer of Group 'A' level, who will function directly under the control of Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), New Delhi," reads the office order issued by Deputy Director General (Admin), Y K Reddy.

According to the order, a copy of which is in possession of Kashmir Observer, the new meteorological centre will cater to all the operational meteorological services of Ladakh and issue weather forecast and adverse weather warnings etc, as per the mandate of IMD and will keep close liaison with MC Srinagar, RMC New Delhi and the state government »PAGE 02