



Maximum : 26°C  
Minum : 14°C  
Humidity : 56%

SUNSET  
Today 07:43 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 05:19 AM

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.....OPINION  
**P4**

## CORONAVIRUS KNOWS NO IDEOLOGY

“The only thing it wants is targets,” a George Mason University Ph.D. candidate in computer science, Adam Elkus, wrote of the coronavirus in March. “It does not think,” he went on, “it does not feel, and it lies totally outside the elaborate social nuances humans have carved out through patterns of communication, representation and discourse. And this, above all else, makes it a lethal adversary for the West. It has exposed how much of Western society is permeated with influential people who have deluded themselves into thinking that their ability to manipulate words, images and sounds gives them the ability to control reality itself.” In each stage of the response to the coronavirus, this delusion has been at work. In the first stage it was liberals and portions of the public health establishment (including, fatefully, key decision-makers) who treated the virus as something to be spun or narrativized away. By the time this effort at reality-denial collapsed, the baton of narrative delusion had been passed to Donald Trump, who spent crucial weeks behaving as though the power of positive thinking could suffice to keep his glorious economy afloat.....

## News Digest

### 2 Soldiers Die In Separate Accidents

Srinagar: Two soldiers died on Thursday in two separate accidents in the twin districts of Baniptora and Ganderbal in Jammu and Kashmir. Subedar Yamaha Kumar (Belt No. JC 542433F) of 6 Maratha Infantry Regiment slipped and fell down into a gorge while he was part of a patrolling party at Rekha forward post of Chakwali Tulail along the (LOC) in Gurez sector, resulting in his on spot death, reported news agency KNO. **● P-02**

### Top Army Commander Briefs LG Murmu

Jammu: Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, the commander of 9 corps, called on Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu at Raj Bhavan on Thursday and briefed him about the security situation, an official spokesman said. The LG and the GoC discussed effective security management and overall security environment in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, he said. The LG lauded the role of security forces in safeguarding the territorial integrity **● P-02**

### Man Ends Life In Anantnag

Srinagar: A 35-year-old man on Thursday allegedly committed suicide in Dooru village of South Kashmir's Anantnag district. 35-yr-old man (name withheld) from Mirmadan Dooru village of South Kashmir's Anantnag district allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself at his home, reports said. The deceased was a driver by profession. Meanwhile, police have initiated inquest proceedings under section 174 CrPc and started further investigations in this regard.

### 3 Lashkar Associates Arrested: Police

Srinagar: Police on Thursday claimed to have busted a Pakistan-sponsored narco-militant module by arresting three alleged Lashkar-e-Toiba associates and confiscating 21 kg of heroin and Rs 1.34 crore in cash from their possession in the Handwara area of Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said here. "Acting on reliable information, the police in Handwara busted a narco-terror module sponsored by Pakistan and arrested three terrorist associates of the proscribed **● P-02**

### Over 1 Lakh J&K Residents Return Home

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has brought home over 1.20 lakh residents of the union territory who had been stranded in other parts of the country due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown, officials said on Thursday. The evacuation exercises were carried out in strict observance of all necessary guidelines and standard operating procedures, they said. "J&K administration has evacuated about 1,20,868 J&K residents, stranded **● P-02**

## India Speeds Up Work On Strategic Road Near China Border

Rushes Additional Troops To Forward Positions Along LAC: Report

Press Trust Of India

PITHORAGARH: Helicopters have landed heavy road-building machinery in the tough Himalayan terrain of Uttarakhand's Johar Valley to help speed up construction of the strategic Munsiyari-Bugdiyar-Milam road near the India-China border, an official said.

After several failed attempts in 2019, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) recently succeeded in carrying heavy road building equipment by helicopters to Laspas, raising hopes of the road's faster completion, BRO Chief Engineer Bimal Goswami said.

The absence of heavy stone cutting equipment at Laspas near the alignment site of the 65-km



Image for representation

road had delayed its construction.

The Munsiyari-Bogdiyar-Milam road, which is being constructed in the high Himalayan region of Johar Valley in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district, will be a link to the last posts on the Indo-China border.

"After several unsuccessful attempts last year, we succeeded this month in landing helicopters carrying heavy machines to Laspas. We now hope that cutting work of the challenging stretch will be completed in the next three **►PAGE 02**

**THE CHINESE MILITARY HAS DONE MILITARY build-up not just in Ladakh but also in other sectors including Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh wherever it shares borders with us. The build-up includes troops and heavy weaponry which are deployed in rear positions,"**

### India, China Engaged To Resolve Ladakh Row: MEA

NEW DELHI: India and China are maintaining military and diplomatic engagements to peacefully resolve the eastern Ladakh row at the earliest, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Thursday.

At a weekly media briefing, Spokesperson in the MEA Anurag Srivastava said both sides have agreed to work for an early resolution to the issue in keeping with broader guidance provided by leaders of the two countries for ensuring peace and tranquillity along



The Pic: Anil Bhat

the border areas.

He, however, did not respond to questions relating to reports of pulling back of troops by both India and China from certain friction points

in the Galwan Valley and Hot Spring areas in eastern Ladakh in the last few days.

"A meeting was held between core commanders of India and China on June 6. **►PAGE 02**

## Srinagar Doctor Hides Covid-19 Status, Flies Home

Agencies

SRINAGAR: District administration Srinagar has ordered police to register an FIR against a doctor for allegedly hiding his COVID-19 positive status and travelling to Srinagar in a GoAir flight from New Delhi three days ago.

A resident of Parraypora Srinagar, the doctor had been declared positive for COVID-19 infection in New Delhi, officials said.

Despite having knowledge of this, he boarded (Go Air 191 flight) from New Delhi on June 8, thereby risking the life of co-passengers.

He then directly drove to his

home from the airport and later the COVID-19-infected doctor approached health officials and urged them to admit him in a covid-19 hospital. However, on being told that he has to undergo a test first, he informed them that he had already done the test in New Delhi which has confirmed the infection.

Subsequent to the development, the district administration Srinagar has written to the police to register FIR against him.

Confirming it, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary said that on being spotted at airport, the doctor **►PAGE 02**

## CIC Rejects RTI On Centre Denying Prosecution In 47 J&K AFSPA Cases

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Central Information Commission (CIC) has rejected a Right to Information Act (RTI) petition seeking access to the files over Centre denying prosecution sanction under the Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir) Special Powers Act 1990, in 47 cases involving allegations of custodial deaths and disappearance of civilians, fake encounters, instances of rape and kidnapping, torture, and extortion in Jammu and Kashmir.

The CIC on June 5, rejected the petition filed by activist Venkatesh Nayak, who had sought permission



File Pic

to inspect the files. The CIC rejected Nayak's plea to access the documents in the "larger public interest". The appeal pertains to the gov-

ernment of Jammu and Kashmir having sought sanction from the Centre for prosecuting the accused in 50 such alleged cases **►PAGE 02**

### Masrat Zahra Wins Top Photojournalism Award

SRINAGAR: Masrat Zahra, a freelance photojournalist from Kashmir has won the 2020 Anja Niedringhaus Courage in Photojournalism award from International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF).

Named in the honor of German photojournalist Anja Niedringhaus who was killed in Afghanistan in 2014, the prestigious award recognises the **►PAGE 02**



## 2 Shopian Youth Arrested In Punjab On Militancy Charges

Press Trust Of India

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab Police on Thursday claimed to have foiled a major attempt to smuggle arms and ammunition into Kashmir to carry out militant attacks there with the arrest of two alleged Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) operatives.

Ten hand grenades, an AK-47 rifle with two magazines and 60 live cartridges were seized from the duo, identified as Aamir Hussain Wani (26) and Wasim Hassan Wani (27) of Shopian, the police said.

"The duo, actively involved in transporting automatic weapons and hand grenades from Punjab to the Kashmir Valley, were nabbed by the Pathankot police, which intercepted a truck bearing J&K registration

number at a naka on the Amritsar-Jammu highway," Punjab Director General of Police Dinkar Gupta said in a statement here. **►PAGE 02**

### Youth Held After Brief Gunfight In Budgam

Government forces on Thursday arrested a youth after militants gave them a slip during a brief gunfight in Pathanpora area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district. Special operations group (SOG) of police, army and CRPF cordoned off Pathanpora area on Thursday morning amid reports **● P-02**

## A Decade Later, Dad's Devotion Defines His Defiance

Fahad Amin

SRINAGAR: Three boys were eagle-eying street football at Srinagar's Saika Kadal area when a familiar figure emerged from an alley. Sporting snow-white hairdo and moustache, the man took a modest walk around, before quietly going for the court hearing.

"There we go again," said a boy in blue shirt and grey trousers. "The poor father is again out to chase the long denied justice."

"It's not about justice only," interrupted another boy flaunting a long hairdo, "it's equally about injustice done to his son."

"Rather," a sulking one, among the trio, chipped in, "it's his way

to console himself: 'Son, you can't be forgotten'."

Mohammad Ashraf Mattoo, the man about whom the boys were talking about one summer day in recent past, has indeed demonstrated through his decade-long court battle that he's fighting to uphold his son's memory against the concerted efforts of forgetfulness.

But what's his idea of memory all about, he was once asked.

"It's to remember him the way he was — the apple of my eye, who was badly plucked from my garden."

Today, it's his constant fight for elusive justice which explains Ashraf Mattoo's resilient world.



Photo By: Syed Shahmir

But over the years, as the scope for justice got squeezed, the father only grew stronger in his resolve.

He held his ground even after the official probe-makers termed schoolboy Tufail Mattoo's killers

as "untraceable". Later, the father would be even denied the contents of the probe commission report.

And yet, he remains, as the boys in his neighbourhood described him, 'the rebel with a cause'.

By now, his son's seething summer obituary has fared on every possible global publication. But the details of that day, June 11, 2010, continue to unsettle the father who along with others has only become a courtroom campaigner for his son's sake.

Today, Mattoo Sr turns taciturn when people say the slain son could've been a promising 27-year-old man right now. He could've been a scientist. **►PAGE 02**