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The most complicated skill is to be simple.

— Dejan Stojanovic

NEWS DIGEST

Car Used By J&K House In Delhi Stolen

NEW DELHI: A car used by the Jammu and Kashmir House in Delhi was allegedly stolen from outside Prem Nagar market here, police said on Thursday. The car was stolen on Tuesday when the driver parked the vehicle outside the market, they said. A case has been registered in this regard at the Kotta Mubarakpur Police Station, said Atul Kumar Thakur, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South). The car's bonnet had government vehicle' printed on it, police said, adding that CCTV cameras are being scanned to identify the accused and trace the vehicle.

PM Greets Soldiers On Army Day

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday greeted soldiers on Army Day and praised the Indian Army, saying it is strong, brave and resolute. In a tweet, he said Indian soldiers have made the country proud as he wished them on behalf of the people. "Our army is strong, courageous and determined, which has always raised the head of the country with pride. I salute the Indian Army on behalf of all the countrymen," PM Modi tweeted in Hindi. Army Day is celebrated to mark the first Indian general taking over the command of the Indian Army from a British officer in 1949.

Sarjan Barkati Released

SRINAGAR: Religious preacher Sarjan Barkati was released on Friday, a day after he was detained in Zainpora area of Shopain by police. Barkati was released on Friday afternoon, a day after he was rounded up by police from his residence in Reban area of Shopain on Thursday, news agency GNS reported while quoting official sources. Barkati was released on October 28 last, four years after he was arrested during unrest in the aftermath of the killing of Hizb commander Burhan Wani in 2016. Soon after his arrest, he was subsequently booked under Public Safety Act for organising anti-government rallies. The cleric had earned the sobriquets like "pied piper" • More On P6

5 Passengers Hurt As Minibus Overtakes

SRINAGAR: Five passengers were injured when a minibus they were travelling in turned turtle in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday. Around 8:40 am Friday, a minibus (JK02V-8466) was on its way from Mandi towards Poonch when it met with an accident at Chandak near Christ School, resulting in minor injuries to five passengers, local news agency GNS reported. The injured identified as Ashaq Hussain, Mohammad Javaid, Wali Mohammad, Mohammad Iqbal and Mohammad Shabir were shifted to district hospital Poonch for treatment.

Hideout 'Busted' In Lolab Forest

SRINAGAR: The government forces on Friday busted a militant hideout and recovered arms and ammunition from it during a search operation in Lolab area of Kupwara district, reports said. A joint team of Army's 28 RR, Special Operations Group (SOG) of police and the personnel of CRPF162 Battalion launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) after receiving inputs about suspicious movement in Nawabehak Kawari forest area of Lolab, news agency GNS reported while quoting official sources. During searches, the team, as per the official sources recovered a cache of arms and ammunitions in the dense forests. • More On P6

Vaccination Drive To Roll Out Today



Press Trust Of India Saturday with over 3 lakh healthcare workers to be inoculated on the first day of the much-anticipated drive, • More On P6

Covishield Shots At 40 Vaccination Sites In J&K

Agencies The Jammu and Kashmir administration is all set to kick-start the Covid-19 vaccination drive on Saturday, days after the Union Territory received the first shipment • More On P6

Div Com Delivers Vaccine In Gurez

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, PK Pole on Friday visited snowbound Gurez Valley for two day marathon camp to deliver COVID-19 vaccine and also to have first-hand appraisal of winter preparedness and snow clearance efforts. • More On P6

COVID-19 5 Deaths Reported In J&K

Observer Monitoring Desk SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Friday five more coronavirus deaths, including two middle-aged women, even as 144 fresh cases were detected across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. Among the victims, officials said, three were from Jammu division and two from the Valley— a 55-year-old woman from Kulgam and a 50-year from Beerwah in Budgam district. The victims from Jammu division included a 75-year-old man from Gadigarh, a 67-year-old man • More On P6

Trial Run On Bailey Bridge Today

Observer News Service SRINAGAR: The trial run on Bailey bridge along the Srinagar-Jammu highway in Ramban district will be conducted on Saturday before opening it up for traffic, officials said Friday. This was stated by Deputy Commissioner (DC), Ramban, Nazim Zai Khan after inspecting the progress of construction work of Bailey bridge besides repair work of damaged concrete bridge, at Kela Morh Ramban on Friday, an official spokesperson said. Chief Engineer BRO, Brigadier IK Jaggi, Additional Deputy Commissioner, • More On P6

Govt Relaxes Upper Age Limit For CCE Exams

Agencies SRINAGAR: The Government on Friday announced "one-time" relaxation in the upper age limit for the ensuing Jammu and Kashmir Combined Competitive Examination (JKCCE). The announcement was made by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha keeping in view the demands from aspirants and several delegations. "In view of demand of several delegations/ aspirants, the J&K government for the last time granted one- time relaxation in upper age limit • More On P6



Biden Team Picks 2nd Kashmiri Origin Member

Observer Monitoring Desk SRINAGAR: President elect Joe Biden has picked another Kashmiri origin expert in his core team as he prepares to roll out his initial proposal for pandemic relief later Thursday. Sameera Fazili will be a deputy director of the National Economic Council focused on manufacturing, innovation and domestic competition. Born to Kashmiri parents Sameera was director of engagement for the community and economic development department of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. This is the second appointment of a Kashmir-origin expert in the Biden administration. Earlier Biden selected a young Kashmir-American Aisha Shah, as one of the main functionaries in the Digital Strategy Team of the White House. While Sameera Fazili will be a deputy director of the National Economic Council focused on • More On P6

Govt Forms Panel To Check Fraud Appointments In SDD

Agencies SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor-led dispensation has ordered for re-constitution of Fact Finding Committee to examine 'fraudulent appointments in Skill Development Department.' "In suspension of Government Order No. 578-GAD of 2019 dated 11.05.2019, it is hereby ordered that the Fact Finding Committee constituted in terms of aforesaid Government order for looking into 'fraudulent appointments made between 2010-2018' in the Skill Development Department and Autonomous Bodies/ Corporations/Organizations under Administrative Control shall comprise of; Principal Secretary to Government, Housing & Urban Development Department as Chairman besides Secretary to the Government, Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction and Secretary to the Government, Tribal Affairs Department as members," reads an order issued by the government in this regard. The Committee, as per the order, shall identify those responsible for fraudulent appointments, if any, and submit its report by 15.02.2021. (GNS)

Army Chief's Message To China

'Don't Make Mistake Of Testing Patience'

Press Trust Of India NEW DELHI: In a clear message to China, Chief of Army Staff Gen MM Naravane on Friday said no one should make any mistake of testing India's patience though it is committed to resolve the border standoff along the northern frontier through talks and political efforts. In an address at the Army Day parade, Gen Naravane said a "befitting response" was given to



the "conspiracy" to make unilateral changes on the border and that the sacrifice of the Galwan heroes in eastern Ladakh will not go waste. • More On P6

Top Journalist Who Became News Herself Quit NDTV For Teaching At Harvard Says Job Offer Was Fake

KO Web Desk SRINAGAR: Job scams in India are rampant and countless victims have fallen for them. But it is perhaps for the first time in India a prominent personality has fallen victim of a spectacular phishing attack. Six months after a popular TV journalist and new anchor Nidhi Razdan quit her job after a 21 years long stint at NDTV to teach at the prestigious Harvard University, she revealed on Friday that she was a victim of a sophisticated phishing attack and that



the job offer was fake. In June 2020, Nidhi revealed her resignation from NDTV and her new career path, which will be teaching journalism at the prestigious

Harvard University. "After 21 years at NDTV, I am changing direction and moving on. Later this year, I start as an Associate Professor teaching journalism • More On P6

Recently Held Gram Sabha's Fake: RTIM

Observer Monitoring Desk SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir RTI Movement on Friday claimed that fake gram sabhas were held across many places in Jammu and Kashmir recently to constitute the Forest Rights Committees (FRCs) under the Forest Rights Act 2006 (FRA) which has been rolled out in the Union Territory. In a statement issued to media, Chairman J&K RTI Movement Dr Raja Muzaffar Bhat said that due to cold weather conditions and snowfall not even one percent people attended the Gram Sabha meetings across J&K • More On P6

Police Much Free In Governor Rule: Former Top Cop

TALKING POINT Auqib Javeed Once thought as a leading light of 'opinionated police'—who wanted the media to correct its Kashmir branding—former Director General of Police, SP Vaid is currently using words as his weapon. He lately threw his weight behind his parent department's "fake encounter" fact-finding, demanding that the culprits who killed the three innocent boys at Amshipora should be charged with murder.

After hanging up his boots, the tech-savvy ex-cop who presided over an intense anti-militancy campaign in Kashmir is now wondering about the unabated recruitment in the post-abrogated political landscape. While calling for a study and societal participation to stop boys for heading woods, Vaid in a chat with Kashmir Observer talks about the security situation of the valley in detail. How do you see the current security situation in Kashmir?



The situation seems to be under control. You can hardly see any disruption of law and order. But infiltration attempts

are still made by militants in Jammu and Kashmir. Despite hundreds of militants killed during your tenure, recruitment is still unabated. Has the counter-insurgent offensive failed as a strategy to curb militancy? Yes, it remains the fact that militant recruitments haven't stopped. That is why I am saying we need to find out why local youth are joining the militant ranks and what drives them towards it. The youth are leaving their homes, bright careers and near and dear ones, despite knowing that they will be killed within months. We need to know, because they are after all our boys. By whatever means it will happen, we've to stop them from joining militancy. During your tenure you repeatedly maintained that Pakistan is instigating youth through social media. And yet, 2020 saw 167 youths from Kashmir joining militant groups, despite restrictions imposed on the internet? See, I agree. • More On P6