



P3 NEWS

STUDENTS' ROLE IMPORTANT IN RAISING AWARENESS ON CLEANLINESS: MAYOR SMC

Srinagar Municipal Corporation Wednesday organised SWACHTA SAMMELAN, an initiative under ongoing Swachh Survekshan 2021, in collaboration with IEC partners at Central...

P7 THINK

COVISHIELD VS COVAXIN YOUR VACCINE GUIDE TO LIST OF POSSIBLE

India has entered the second phase of its vaccination drive with two 'Made in India' vaccines- Covishield and Covaxin- against the coronavirus disease....



P11 SPORTS

'THERE IS TOO MUCH NOISE ABOUT SPIN-FRIENDLY TRACKS,' SAYS VIRAT KOHLI

Stop the noise, tighten up that defence and get on with the game -- a combative Indian skipper Virat Kohli....

**Quote!**

Obstacles are those frightening things you see when you take your eyes off your goal.

— Henry James

NEWS DIGEST

Mudslides Shut Kashmir Highway

SRINAGAR: Kashmir highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir Valley with the rest of the world, shut Wednesday after a massive mudslide in the Banihal area of Ramban district. Official sources said that the mudslide hit near Shabanbass Banihal on the highway, leading to the suspension of the thoroughfare early morning. Deputy Commissioner Ramban said the debris removal was in progress.

CBI Arrests Patwari For Graft

NEW DELHI: The CBI arrested a patwari allegedly while receiving a bribe in a mutation case, officials said on Wednesday. This is the first trap operation in Kashmir valley since the erstwhile state was bifurcated into union territories in 2019, while the agency has carried out four such operations in Jammu division. Mohammad Afzal, a patwari in Bemina of Budgam district, had allegedly demanded a bribe of Rs 35,000 from a complainant to mutate a piece of land in the name of his brother. After negotiations, the bribe amount was reduced to Rs 23,000 of which Afzal had already ► **More On P10**

95 Traffic, 36 COTPA Challans Registered in Srinagar: Police

SRINAGAR: Acting tough against the traffic and COTPA violations, Srinagar Police on Wednesday said that it registered 95 traffic challans and 36 COTPA challans in Srinagar. Police spokesman in a statement issued to the news agency said that Srinagar Police acted tough on the violations of Motor Vehicle Act and Cigarettes & Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) registered a total of 95 traffic challans under various sections of law in Srinagar. Police have also registered 36 challans against the persons who were smoking in public places and were violating the COTPA rules. ► **More On P10**

Block Diwas: DC Holds Public Meetings At Harwan, Panzina

SRINAGAR: District Administration, Srinagar organised weekly Block Divas at Harwan, Panzina, Srinagar and Balhama blocks. The Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj organised the programme which was attended by all the departments. Deputy Commissioner, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary held public interaction at Harwan and Qamarwari blocks where several issues were discussed and resolved. Departments extended benefits of various schemes, addressed issues raised and also help awareness sessions. Meanwhile, Rs. 2.08 Cr were released by the district ► **More On P10**

Jammu Traders Demand Security For Non-local Businessmen In Kashmir

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: Protesting the recent killing of an eatery owner's son in Srinagar, a group of traders staged a protest here on Wednesday and demanded safety and security of the non-local businessmen working in the Kashmir valley.

Akash Mehra was shot at by militants inside the Krishna Dhaba, a popular eatery in a high-security area of Srinagar, on February 17. He succumbed to his injuries at a hospital on February 28.

Mehra was the second non-local businessman shot dead by terrorists in Srinagar in the recent past. On December 31 last year, Satpal Singh Nischal, a goldsmith, was killed in his shop. The traders staged a protest against Mehra's killing at the Nehru Market here and appealed to the government to identify the assailants at the earliest.

"Militants are targeting non-local businessmen in Kashmir, which is not a good sign.... The way traders from outside are being targeted



File Photo

in Kashmir, an atmosphere of fear is being created," Deepak Gupta, general secretary of the Warehouse Traders' Federation, said.

After the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in August 2019, the government is inviting traders and industrialists from all over the country to invest in Jammu and Kashmir, he pointed out and wondered who would come to the valley in such a situation.

Gupta said the government provides protection to separatist leaders such as Syed Ali Shah Geelani, but has left the traders at the mercy of militants.

"The government must ensure the safety and security of all outsiders, especially the traders, working in Kashmir," Gupta said.

He also demanded adequate relief to Mehra's family members and their protection in Srinagar.

MILITANTS ARE TARGETING NON-LOCAL businessmen in Kashmir, which is not a good sign.... The way traders from outside are being targeted in Kashmir, an atmosphere of fear is being created."

Lt Col Shoots Self Dead In Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: An army officer of lieutenant colonel rank Wednesday committed suicide by shooting himself dead at an army depot in the Khonmoh area in the outskirts of Srinagar, official sources said.

The officer was identified

as Sudeep Baghat Singh.

The sources said that upon hearing the gunshots, some soldiers rushed to the spot and found him in a pool of blood. Later, he was shifted to a hospital where doctors declared him brought dead. A police official said that necessary proceedings into the incident have been launched.

Army Soldier Ends Life in Rajouri

A 24-year-old soldier shot himself dead Wednesday with his service weapon at an army camp in Rajouri district, officials said. The soldier who fired shots on himself died en route to the hospital, they said. ► **More On P10**

LG Asks Forest Dept To Open Dachigam For Tourists

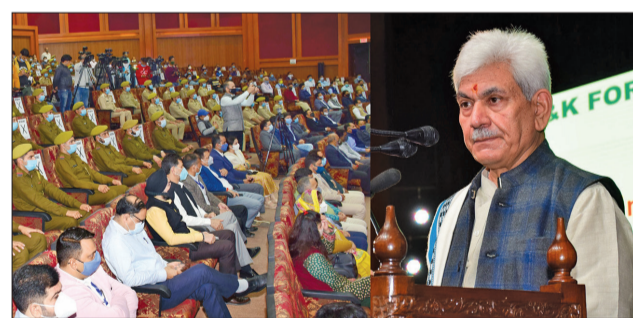
Observer News Service

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday asked the forest department to focus on increasing the 'hangul' (Kashmiri stag) population at the Dachigam National Park and opening the destination to a limited number of tourists.

Sinha was addressing the passing-out ceremony of 98 forest guards here.

The 32nd batch of the Soil Conservation Training School Jammu, the 56th batch of the Forest Guard Training School Jammu and the 66th batch of the Kashmir Forest Training School Bandipora have successfully completed their course despite the disruption caused by the pandemic.

He asked the forest department to explore the possibility of developing Dachigam as a tourist destination, safeguard



Mansar and Surinsar lakes near Jammu and work on a plan to protect wetlands and waste lands visited by lakhs of migratory birds every year.

"Four-five days back I visited Dachigam National Park in Srinagar. What is the hangul population there, and how many more can be added? We have to think over it," Sinha said.

The antlered deer, known as the hangul, were once a major attraction in the mountain-ringed forests of Dachigam,

but the population of the endangered species has drastically come down over the years.

"Can we bring a system where locals and tourists from across the country can go there (to Dachigam to see the hangul) even as we have to keep the numbers limited," Sinha asked.

Asking the department to adopt a humane approach towards forest dwellers, he said, "We are implementing the Forest Rights Act, which came into force across ► **More On P10**

Petitioners Fail To Prove Dr Farooq Sought Chinese Help, Fined 50K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Supreme Court of India on Wednesday dismissed a petition against Jammu and Kashmir MP and senior National Conference leader Dr Farooq Abdullah and panelized the petitioners.

It also directed the petitioners to deposit 50,000 for filing the petition.

The top court as per news reports ruled that expression of views which are different from government opinion cannot be termed as "sedition".



File Photo

The petitioners Rajat Sharma and Neh Srivastava had objected to the comments of the senior Kashmiri leader

protesting against the abrogation of Article 370 as seditious. Sharma is the secretary and trustee of the

Social Cohesion Soul Of India: LG

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha delivered his valedictory address through a Video message at 8th Indian Social Work Congress jointly organised by National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI), International Consortium for Social Development-AsiaPacific (ICSADP) & Department of Social Work, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor observed that deliberations held during 8th India Social Work Congress on the theme "Social Cohesion, Collective Responsibility and Social Work Profession" will prove to be important for society and administration.

The global health crisis that we are going through today has brought families, people, groups and countries together to fight this pandemic and created a new chapter of social cohesion and collective responsibility, he added.

The concept of ► **More On P10**

Not A Cakewalk: A Banker's Rise as A Baker



Aqib Javeed

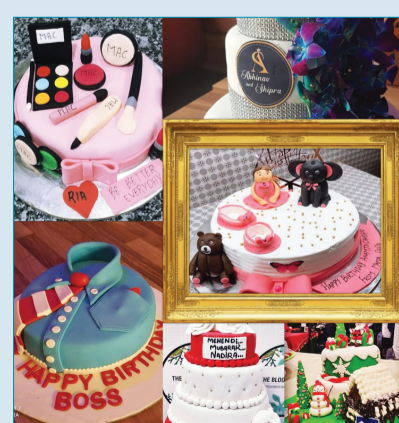
30-year-old Shahid Fayaz was in his third semester of MBA course, when he got a job in Jammu and Kashmir Bank. The jubilant Shahid joined the corporate world wholeheartedly. But three months later, he decided to hang up his banker boots due to growing mental blocks.

He quit the job and decided to start something of his own with the help of his brother.

The idea was to start making homemade cakes but to get the experience he flew to Dubai and got an opportunity to work with Multinational Corporation for five years.

At that time, his brother, Sameer Fayaz, a graduate in Hotel Management, was working as a restaurant manager in Dubai.

After years of toil and togetherness in a faraway country known for keeping



professionals on toes, the brothers decided to try their luck in Delhi.

It was January 2019 and the idea was to shape up their dream venture.

They got in touch with a friend from Delhi and started cafe and cake house

in the Gurgaon area. This was a partnership venture. However, the enterprise nosedived, forcing the siblings to shut it down in November 2019.

"We failed," Shahid says with a straight face. "We had put all our savings and had also borrowed some money from friends and family but lost it all in this venture."

After that failure, they had only two options — either go back to Dubai, or start their own business in Kashmir.

"But we knew that working in the valley was not a cakewalk," Shahid continues. "But yes, that failure taught us some very important life lessons, like not to give up in the face of failures. So we took it on our chin, and started preparing for the next move."

They shortly decided to start their own cake house—The Bloom Bakers—at their residence in Shalimar area of Srinagar City. ► **More On P10**