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P3 CITY

NOORBAGH-QAMARWARI BRIDGE TO BE OPERATIONAL BY YEAR-END

After missing several deadlines in the past nearly one decade, the much-awaited Noorbagh-Qamarwari Bridge is all set to be completed by the end of this year...

THINK

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP THEIR CHILDREN WITH MANAGING ANXIETY DISORDERS?

When a child does not outgrow the fears and worries that are typical in young age, or when there are so many fears and worries that they interfere with school,



P5 STATE

PARLIAMENTARY PANEL WARNS AGAINST USE OF DYNAMITES FOR INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS IN J&K, LADAKH

Stating that there is a need to learn lesson from the recent glacial outburst at Chamoli in Uttarakhand...



Widom!
Every generation needs a new revolution.
—Thomas Jefferson

NEWS DIGEST

Ex CE Shuja Hussain Passes Away



SRINAGAR: Former Chief Engineer Syed Shuja Hussain Shah passed away here on Thursday after a brief spell of illness. Shuja Hussain was laid to rest at Al Noor Graveyard Rajbagh. ● More On P10

Tulip Garden Opens for Public

SRINAGAR: Asia's largest tulip garden overlooking the Dal Lake in Srinagar was thrown open to the public on Thursday, marking the beginning of the new tourism season in the valley. Formerly known as Siraj Bagh, the Tulip Garden was opened in 2008 by then chief minister of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state Ghulam Nabi Azad. The idea of the garden, spread over 30 hectares in the foothills of snow-clad Zabarwan range, was conceived to ● More On P10

Asiatic Society Honours KU VC

SRINAGAR: Vice-Chancellor of University of Kashmir Prof Talat Ahmad has been honoured with the 'G.S.I. Sesquicentennial Commemorative Medal' for the year 2020 by the Council of the Asiatic Society Kolkata. A communication to Prof Talat from General Secretary of the Society—an Institute of National Importance declared by an Act of Parliament under Ministry of Culture, Government of India—reads: "It gives me immense pleasure to inform you that the Council of the Asiatic Society, ● More On P10

Exp/Cash Management In Last FY Week

JAMMU: In order to avoid rush of last minute expenditure at Treasuries, the J&K government has issued certain instructions for the Drawing & Disbursing Officers / Treasury Officers. As per a circular issued by the Finance Department, cutoff date and time for receipt of bills at Treasuries in the whole of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will be up to 01.00 PM on 30.03.2021. Treasury Officers will not entertain any bill/claim for payment after 01.00 PM on 30.03.2021 and all the Drawing & Disbursing Officers ● More On P10

2 CRPF Men Killed in Lawaypora Militant Attack

Four Militants Fired On The MBV of CRPF



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a broad day light strike on the busy Srinagar-Uri highway, militants on Thursday killed two paramilitary CRPF personnel and injured two others, one of them critically.

The hit and run militant attack took place at Lawaypora in Srinagar outskirts.

Speaking to reporters at the site of incident, Deputy Inspector General of CRPF Srinagar sector, Kishore

Panday said that at least four heavily armed militants fired on the Mobile Bunker Vehicle (MBV) of CRPF that was part of the Road Opening Party (RoP) at Lawaypora. "Two CRPF men were killed in the attack, third one is critical and fourth one is stable," Panday said.

He said that joint teams of CRPF and police sealed the area and launched searches to nab the attackers.

The slain CRPF men have been identified as Sub Inspector/GD ● More On P10

LADAKH STANDOFF

China Silent On Further Troop Pullout

Agencies

NEW DELHI: The Chinese military on Thursday said the situation at eastern Ladakh has "eased distinctly" thanks to the joint efforts with India on the disengagement of troops from the Pangong Lake area but gave no indication about when the pull out will take place from the remaining areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

As a result of a series of military and diplomatic talks, the two countries had completed withdrawal of troops and weapons from the North and South banks of Pangong Lake last month in line with an agreement on disengagement.

But the disengagement is yet to take place in remaining areas along the LAC. The Indian Army has been pitching for a faster disengagement process in areas like Hot Springs, Gogra and Depsang to bring down tension in the mountainous region.

At present, China and India have disengaged front-line troops in the Pangong Lake area and both countries have positively commented on the current moves, ● More On P10

...MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

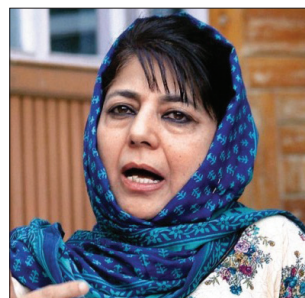
ED Grills Mehbooba Mufti For 5 Hours

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Enforcement Department (ED) on Thursday questioned the former chief minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti for five hours in Srinagar in a case related to money laundering.

Notably, Mehbooba had last evening confirmed that she will appear before the ED at its Srinagar office at 11:00 AM in the morning.

According to reports, Mehbooba reached the ED office



at Rajbagh at around 11:00 AM where she was questioned for nearly five hours and was let go only at around 04:35 PM.

Pertinently, ED ● More On P10

'Dissent Criminalized', Says Mehbooba After Questioning

Agencies

DP president Mehbooba Mufti on Thursday likened her questioning by Enforcement Directorate in alleged money laundering case with "criminalizing" ● More On P10

JK Police Opposes Passport for Mehbooba

The Jammu and Kashmir Police has opposed giving passport to former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti citing "adverse report" against her, officials said on Thursday. A report has been submitted to the Jammu and Kashmir High Court which is hearing a petition filed by Mehbooba over the delay in clearing ● More On P10

Mountains In J&K Fragile, Glaciers Need To Be Monitored: Panel

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In view of Uttarakhand tragedy, a Parliamentary Committee has recommended conducting study and monitoring of glaciers to ensure such incidents do not take place in Jammu and Kashmir.

In the first week of February,

a glacier broke in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district leading to massive flooding and around 80 people died and over 120 people are missing.

This has triggered worries in Jammu and Kashmir, which has a large presence of glaciers.

A Standing Committee on Home Affairs which comprises

members from both Houses of the Parliament has said in its report that mountains in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh are fragile. "There is a need to establish and install state of the art infrastructure along with modern equipment of proven efficiency that would play a very crucial role ● More On P10

J&K Reports 172 Fresh Covid-19 Cases

Over 100 Infections Reported For 9th Connective Day

SRINAGAR: Covid-19 cases continued to show worrying upward trend as 172 more people were confirmed to have been infected with the virus, taking the total case tally to 129203 in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Thursday. It was for the ninth consecutive day that more than a hundred cases were recorded in the J&K.

The officials said that among the 172 new cases including 46 travelers, 41 were from Jammu Division and 131 from Kashmir Valley.

Giving the district-wise details, the officials said that Srinagar reported 65 cases including 25 travelers, Baramulla 30, Budgam 16, Pulwama 5, Kupwara 2, Anantnag 8, Bandipora 3, Ganderbal 0, Kulgam 0, Shopian 2, Jammu 34(5 travelers), Udhampur 0, Rajouri 0, Doda 2, Kathua 3, Samba 2, Kishtwar 0, Poonch 0, Ramban 0, and Reasi 0.

A number of these cases were confirmed at diagnostic laboratories of SKIMS Soura, CD hospital and GMC Anantnag. The SKIMS ● More On P10

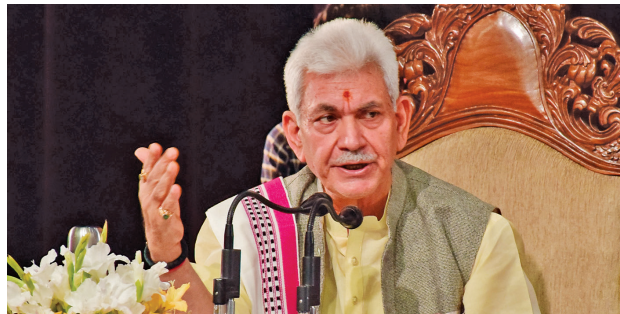
Historic Budget Aims to Rebuild Economy, Create Jobs: LG

- Quantum Jump For All Sectors; Money Will Be Utilized For Welfare Of The People Without Discrimination
- Financial Support Extended To 25,000 Youth Under Various Schemes, Target Set For Doubling The Numbers This Year

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha today held a press conference to highlight the significance of Budget-2021-22 for Jammu and Kashmir, besides the set targets & road-map being laid down by the J&K Government for the development of the UT and welfare of its people.

Addressing the media persons, the Lt Governor termed the Rs 1,08,621 cr Budget



approved by the Central Government as historic.

"This is a budget to rebuild the economy, ● More On P10

'Rehabilitation of KP Migrants on Cards'

Hinting that a proper rehabilitation plan for migrant Kashmiri Pandits may be in the pipeline, Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said a lot has been thought about the community and soon "something is going to happen which you have not even imagined". He also said 8,000 underground ● More On P10

Sun Shines After 4 Days Of Rains, Snowfall In Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Following four days of incessant rains in plains and snowfall in upper reaches, the minimum temperature has increased in Kashmir Valley barring Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Kupwara, officials said on Thursday.

A meteorological department official said that the mercury settled at 4.7°C against previous night's 4.6°C in Srinagar. The summer capital of the J&K received 2.0mm of rainfall in the last 24 hours

till 0830 a.m. today, he said. In the last four days Srinagar received 72.3mm of rainfall.

Qazigund, the gateway town of Kashmir, recorded a low of 5.7°C against 4.0°C on the previous night while it received 1.8mm of the rain during the time, he said.

Mercury settled at minus 1.5°C against 0.3°C on the earlier night at Pahalgam, the famous resort in south

Kashmir which also received 2.0mm of rain during the ● More On P10

Govt Plans Largest Ever Amarnath Yatra This Year

Elaborate Arrangements In Place On Civil, Admin Front: SSP Srinagar

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Ajaz Asad on Thursday said the annual Amarnath pilgrimage 2021 would be the largest religious pilgrimage in Kashmir, scheduled to begin from June 28 this year. "This year's annual Amarnath pilgrimage would

certainly be the largest religious pilgrimage. We will ensure that pilgrims would not face any difficulty so far as accommodation is concerned," DC Srinagar told reporters during his visit to Panthachowk to review the yatra arrangements. He said that Amarnath pilgrims would be accommodated at Panthachowk while arrangements in this direction have almost completed.

Flanked by SSP Srinagar, Sandeep Chaudhary, DC Srinagar also ● More On P10



KASHMIR In Capital: 'Shahnama' Of Legacy Shawl

Romaan Arora

When the Shaw Brothers split into separate entities during the "Quit Kashmir" era, it was more devastating for the group that had to leave the glorious name behind. However, rather than falling despair, they chose to make their way through the mountains and now sits comfortably in a marvelous shop at one of New Delhi's commercial hubs.

Sounding like a sage, Syed Masood Ahmad Shah is trying to secure a commercial call that since decades has created his cult in Delhi's shawl syndicate.

Along with his son, Mohsin Shah, Masood is the face behind

the popular showroom—Shah Arts Emporium—that stands tall in the Adchini business locality of New Delhi.

"It's not the same anymore," says Masood while handing over his loyal clients to his son Mohsin. "I get tired too early now, and find it hard to work in this scorching heat of March."

Masood is the third generation Shaw scion and a man who frequented the Indian capital from 1962 to 1984 just to master the art of business. He got immense yet tiring success in establishing a powerful foundation in the name of his "blessed forefathers" for the next 20 years.

Now, at 81, Masood, a native



of Ishber Nishat area of Srinagar, hopes to carry forward the Shah legacy in his own exquisite style. "It's majorly his work now," says the octogenarian in an impressive

yet pale voice while signalling towards his son. "I've done my part."

Masood traces his trade evolution from the classic cashmere split of 1944, when the seven brothers of the Shah clan divided into a group of four and three.

While the three carried the legacy of the Shaw Brothers, the group of four, including Masood's father, formed Shah & Company.

In 1979, however, the brand was renamed to its present form and hasn't seen any change since then.

It was hard initially, Masood says, as the four brothers lacked the legacy name. Nonetheless, they managed to take the flight, and became successful in their own enterprises. ● More On P10

FEATURE