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P3 CITY

IN CITY, SEGREGATION OF SOLID WASTE FROM SOURCE COLLECTED IN ONLY 12% AREAS: COURTESY SMC

In the city of 1.5 million, solid waste in nearly 88 percent of electoral wards of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC)...

THINK P7

THE STORY OF BIRYANI IS RICH AND ROYAL. HERE'S A GLIMPSE - AND A RECIPE

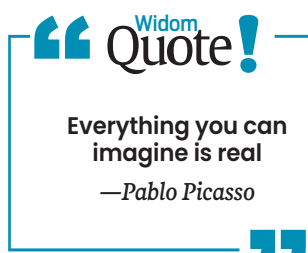
Mumtaz Mahal, the legendary wife of Shah Jahan was a creative person and truly left her mark on history. Among her many interests, she was an accomplished cook, and as legend has...



P5 STATE

TWO HR SEC SCHOOLS CLOSED IN NORTH KASHMIR AFTER STUDENTS, STAFF MEMBERS TEST COVID-19 POSITIVE

The authorities on Saturday ordered closure of two Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Sumal...



NEWS DIGEST

Ex-Deputy Director DIPR Mir Gowhar Dies

SRINAGAR: Former deputy director of the information department, Mir Gowhar Ahmad died of coronavirus at a hospital here on Saturday. A 1972 batch officer, Ahmad lost battle with the deadly infection at the Chest diseases hospital here where he was being treated after he tested positive for Covid-19. Ahmad, according to his colleagues, was a diligent and honest officer besides a good writer. He has also served as director of food and • [More On P10](#)

Youth Held Over Rifle Snatching Bid

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday arrested a youth for attempting to snatch the rifle of a bank guard in Shopian district of south Kashmir. Nadish Ahmad was arrested by police when he made a failed attempt to snatch a 12 bore rifle from the security guard at the Jammu and Kashmir Bank's Imam Sahib branch on Saturday afternoon, a police official said. • [More On P10](#)

Arms, Ammunition Recovered In Budgam

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have recovered a huge cache of arms and ammunition in Khanshib area of central Kashmir's Budgam district. Police and army's 53 RR launched a search operation in forest area of village Shanipora in Khanshib on Saturday morning on the basis of a credible input, a police spokesperson said. During searches, he said, the joint team besides incriminating material of Lashker-e-Taiba recovered • [More On P10](#)

Man Charged For Forging Sale Deed

SRINAGAR: The Crime Branch Kashmir on Saturday filed a chargesheet against a photostat shop owner for forging sale deed ascribing to Sub Registrar Srinagar. According to an official spokesperson, the Crime Branch Kashmir on Saturday produced a charge sheet against Abdul Rashid Haroon, proprietor of Shaheen Photostat, before the Court of Sub Judge Special Mobile Magistrate • [More On P10](#)

2 Grenade Throwers Held In Sopore: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have cracked a case of grenade throwing in Sopore town of Baramulla district by arresting two alleged militant associates of Lashker-e-Taiba (LeT). Mohammad Asif Najar of Noor Bagh and Sahil Rashid Bhat of Green Town Sopore were detained by police in connection with a grenade attack at the Police • [More On P10](#)

Mercury Dips In Gulmarg As J&K Braces For Wet Spell

Agencies

SRINAGAR: As weatherman has forecast a wet spell next week, the night temperature fell below sub-zero level at several parts in Kashmir Valley with Gulmarg recording a low of minus 3.5 degree Celsius, officials said on Saturday. A meteorological



department official said that the mercury settled at 2.6 degree Celsius against previous night's 4.8 degree Celsius in Srinagar. The temperature was below 3.4 degree Celsius normal for this time of the year in the summer capital of J&K, the official said. Qazigund recorded a low of 1.0 degree Celsius against 4.7 degree • [More On P10](#)

Highway Reopens Today After 2 Days

The Srinagar-Jammu highway will reopen for one-way traffic on Sunday after being closed for two days in view of maintenance. According to an official spokesperson, traffic will be allowed on the • [More On P10](#)

Peace Has Returned To Kashmir: LG

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Asserting that peace has returned to Valley after decades and "we must cash in on it," the Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday said that the administration led by him is committed to take Kashmir tourism to its new heights amid Coronavirus challenges.

"Covid cases are rising in the country and in J&K UT as well. Government here is committed to deal with the challenges and steps are being taken to contain the spread of the virus. At the same time, the UT government is committed to take the Kashmir tourist to its new heights amid Covid challenges," Sinha said while addressing the audience during a festival at famous Tulip garden here on Saturday.

He said that peace has returned to Valley after so many decades and "we must cash in on it."

He urged tourists and people of Kashmir to follow Covid



LG Manoj Sinha (Left) taking a walk inside Tulip Garden with Kerala Governor Arif Khan on Saturday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

guidelines in letter and spirit while visiting the garden and other places.

"Prime Minister recently stated that people of India and the rest of the world must visit Kashmir and its Tulip garden. So PM himself is the brand ambassador of tourism promotion of Kashmir. We are hoping for the bumper tourism season in Kashmir this year," the LG said.

He said Covid has been and is again a challenge. "We have put in place hi-tech testing facilities at airports and railways stations. People coming positive for Covid are being put under quarantine," he said.

The LG said that Tulip garden is like an open book of poems and people like "poets and nature lovers can better explain its beauty in their own words." "The garden is • [More On P10](#)

No Dumping Ground Established, HC Raps Baramulla Admin

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Observing that "probably nothing has been done" for establishing dumping ground for the garbage in Sopore, Jammu and Kashmir High Court has sought an action taken report from authorities.

Hearing a public Interest Litigation regarding dumping of the waste near

Sopore, a division bench of Chief Justice Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul observed that the District Legal Services Authority vide its report dated 8 February 2021 had suggested three places for establishing dumping ground for the garbage.

"But probably nothing has been done to establish the dumping • [More On P10](#)

501 New Cases, Two Corona Deaths In J&K

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Showing no sign of decline, Jammu and Kashmir reported on Saturday 501 new cases of coronavirus, third highest single-day count in three days, even as the deadly infection claimed two more lives in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

Among the fresh cases, 108 were reported from Jammu division and 393 in Kashmir Valley, the officials said. Also two more persons succumbed to the virus, taking the total toll due to



the pathogen to 2005 in J-K—740 in Jammu and 1265 in the Valley.

Providing district-wise details, they said that Srinagar reported 207 cases, Baramulla 89, Budgam 35, Pulwama 14, Kupwara 12, Anantnag 11,

Bandipora 8, Ganderbal 5, Kulgam 9, Shopian 3, Jammu 69, Udhampur 5, Rajouri 4, Doda 1, Kathua 18, Samba 8, Poonch 1, Ramban 1 and Reasi 1.

Moreover, they said, 140 more patients have recovered • [More On P10](#)

Dr Farooq Hospitalized Days After Testing Positive

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah was hospitalized on Saturday, few days after he tested positive for the novel coronavirus. "Based on the advice of doctors to enable them to better monitor my father, he has been admitted to hospital in Srinagar," Omar Abdullah, his son, tweeted. "Our family remains grateful to • [More On P10](#)

HC Quashes 2 PSA Detention Orders

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has quashed detention orders against two persons and asked authorities to release them forthwith if not required in any other case.

Quashing detention order of one Zubair Ahmad Laway from Kulgam, a bench of Justice Rajnesh Oswal said that he was ordered to be detained on the basis of three FIRs registered in 2016 but nothing has been stated if he indulged in any illegal activity till 2019 when PSA order was passed by the deputy commissioner.

"The perusal of the grounds of detention reveal that all these three FIRs pertain to year 2016, and thereafter in the grounds of detention, there is no whisper that after the year of 2016, the petitioner has • [More On P10](#)

Ex-J&K Bank CMD Parvez Ahmad Arrested Accused Of Tender Fraud In Housekeeping

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The anti-corruption bureau (ACB) on Saturday arrested former chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Bank, Parvez Ahmad Nengroo in connection with a case of tender fraud in housekeeping.

Nengroo, former Chairman and Managing Director of J&K Bank was arrested for causing a loss of crores to the bank with illegal allotment of tenders for housekeeping to a Mumbai based company SILA, an ACB spokesperson said Saturday. He said that the ex-CMD had not followed proper tendering norms as provided in the contract to the firm despite not falling into the criteria of any such allotment and his arrest was executed in connection with investigation of a case registered by the agency last year.



"Due to not following the proper tendering processes, improper ATM cleaning, undue addition of the management fee and other omissions and commissions detected during the course of investigation, the J&K Bank has suffered losses worth crores of rupees from the date of award of contract," the ACB spokesperson said.

Besides this case, he said, charge sheets have also been filed before the Anti Corruption • [More On P10](#)

No Trade With India Possible This Time: Pak PM

Press Trust Of India

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan decided that Pakistan cannot go ahead with any trade with India under the current circumstances after holding consultations with key members of his Cabinet on importing cotton and sugar from the neighbouring country, a media report said on Saturday.

The prime minister after consultations on Friday instructed the Ministry of Commerce and his economic team to immediately take steps to facilitate the relevant sectors, value added, apparel and sugar, by finding alternative cheap sources of import of the needed commodities, the Dawn newspaper quoted sources as saying.

Various proposals have been presented to • [More On P10](#)

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Kashmiri American Society of Healthcare, Medical Education and Research (KASHMER)