

People's Poet

In his birth centenary year, a look at Kaifi Azmi, his works, his place in the Progressive Writers' Movement

NEW DELHI, LATE CITY
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IDEA EXCHANGE PAGE 12
'MARKET NOT CREATING PRESSURE ON PRIVATE SECTOR TO WORK TOWARDS SKILLING PEOPLE'
Manish Kumar, NSDC CEO

BIG PICTURE PAGES 14-15
Inside India's largest cancer hospital



Time for Pakistan Prime Minister to stand by his words, says Modi

India-Pakistan situation very dangerous: US President

45 CRPF companies, 35 BSF, 10 SSB, 10 ITBP sent; officials say for LS polls

After 50 yrs, India invited to OIC meet, Sushma to attend

PM on attacks on J&K students: Our fight for Kashmir, not against Kashmiris

Says Valley residents also victims of terrorism



Security personnel at Lal Chowk in Srinagar on Saturday. Shuaib Masoodi MORE REPORTS, P 10

Jamaat leaders picked up, 100 companies of security forces sent

BASHAARAT MASOOD & ADIL AKHZER SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 23

LEADERS OF the Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir, including its chief Dr Hameed Fayaz, were picked up in a sweeping crackdown across the Kashmir Valley overnight.

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 23

FIFTY YEARS after being disinvented from the 1969 Conference of Islamic Countries in Rabat in Morocco at Pakistan's behest, India will make its maiden appearance at the foreign ministers' meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on March 1 as a "guest of honour".

EXPLAINED E. A victory, for now

THE INVITATION to address the OIC meet is a significant diplomatic victory for India. The invite may be an important outcome of the visit of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, apart from an indication of New Delhi's improved ties with both Saudi and the UAE.

DEEPA MUKHERJEE JAIPUR, FEBRUARY 23

SPEAKING OUT against the attacks on Kashmiris in the wake of the terror strike in Pulwama on February 14, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday that "our fight is for Kashmir, not against Kashmir or Kashmiris".

Trump: India looking at something very strong

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 23

UNITED STATES President Donald Trump has described the situation between India and Pakistan in the aftermath of the terror attack in Pulwama as "very dangerous", and said that he can understand India's desire for a "very strong" response.



Pakistan, as has the State Department. On Thursday, the UN Security Council issued a statement that "condemned in the strongest terms" the Pulwama attack, and named Jaish for the "heinous and cowardly suicide bombing".

No visas for Pak players, snooker meet scrapped

MIHIR VASAVDA NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 23

AN ASIAN snooker meet, which was to be held in Bengaluru next month, has been called off after India refused visas to six Pakistani and Pakistan-origin players.

SUNDAY STORY PAGE 13



The Little Kashmiris Many parts of India still hold out the promise of hope, dreams that first drew Valley students



150 CARS CHARRED Firefighters at Aero India 2019 in Bengaluru on Saturday, where about 150 vehicles were gutted in the parking lot outside the Yelahanka Air Base. AP REPORT, PAGE 9

In last India-Pak border village: Can't forget Pulwama, but war leaves lifelong scars

RAAKHI JAGGA MOHAR JAMSHER (FAZILKA), FEBRUARY 23

SINCE THE Pulwama terror attack on February 14, Makhan Singh hasn't had a full night's sleep. His eyes and ears are fixed across the border and even his son's wedding solemnised three days ago, didn't weaken his vigil.



border in Fazilka, Punjab — has been on high alert. And with good reason. For, every time there is a disquiet on the border, they pay a price.



Gurdas Singh (front) with his brothers. Gurmeet Singh were asked to leave their homes and moved to a safe location. Surrounded by Pakistan on three sides and the Sutlej river

Alarm over flurry of orders; don't panic, says J&K Governor

ADIL AKHZER & NAVEED IQBAL SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 23

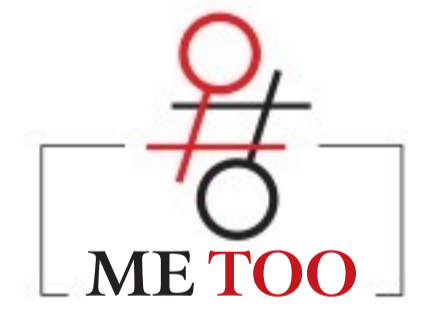
IN A series of administrative orders Saturday, the Jammu and Kashmir government asked hospitals to stock medicines, cancelled the winter vacation of the medical faculty, ordered the rationing of fuel, and directed ration shops to ensure the complete sale of foodgrains by evening.

Jamaat-e-Islami leadership and another order to deploy additional security forces in the Valley. Speaking to The Sunday Express, J&K Governor Satya Pal Malik said there was no need to panic since the "Centre and the state administration will not do anything against the Kashmiri people".

Let women who don't want to complain to ICC go to NCW: Panel

SHALINI NAIR NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 23

AN INTER-MINISTERIAL sub-committee of officials, set up by the Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted in the wake of the MeToo India movement last year, has proposed that women who are apprehensive of approaching their organisation's Internal Complaints Committees (ICC) should be allowed to complain directly to the National Commission for Women (NCW) and state commissions for women.



Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, and effective implementation of sections in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) relating to sexual violence. The GoM, headed by Home Minister Rajnath Singh, was announced on October 24 last year, to examine the legal and

THE CITY KEJRIWAL: WILL SIT ON INDEFINITE FAST FROM MARCH 1 PAGE 6

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Assam hooch toll up to 114, deaths across villages in two districts

ABHISHEK SAHA GOLAGHAT, FEBRUARY 23

THE FIRST four victims were from Halmira Tea Estate in Golaghat district of Upper Assam. They died on Thursday night, hours after they were admitted to hospital after drinking spurious liquor. Over the next two days, more deaths were reported from four other areas, including from the neighbouring district of Jorhat, some about 40 km away from Halmira Tea Estate. By Saturday evening, the toll had climbed to 114.

The victims include a mother-son duo, who are suspected to have supplied the local jaggery-based liquor, called 'sulai', at Halmira. The woman, Dhraupadi Urang (62), was among the first to report sick at the Halmira Tea Estate Hospital on Thursday evening, along with three other women — Angni Gowala (60), Bondhoin Bowri (54) and Belo Bhumij (62). All four women died at the Golaghat Civil Hospital later that night. Since Thursday night, deaths have also been reported from Wokha (about 25 km from Halmira), Gobinpur (about 40 km from Halmira), Borholla in Jorhat (about 30 km from Halmira) and Titabor in Jorhat (about 30 km from Halmira). "Seventy-one residents of Golaghat district and 43 residents of Jorhat district have died," Additional Director General of Assam Police, Law and Order, Mukesh Agarwal told The Sunday Express. He said seven people have been detained from Golaghat district and three from Jorhat. Dr Pranjal Sarma of the Halmira Tea Estate Hospital said at least 38 of these victims were



Grieving relatives of a victim in Golaghat on Saturday. PTI

from the tea garden. While the Jorhat Medical College and Hospital (JMCH) received 220 patients, about 100 were admitted to the Golaghat Civil Hospital. On Friday, Sanju Urang (28), son of Dhraupadi Urang, was among those dead. While police have seized 1.5 litres of liquor from their house, senior police officers said that with the deaths being spread across a 40-km radius, at least 17 other sellers have been identified. Of these, at least five, including the Urangs, have died. Police are now investigating whether all these sellers had a common supplier. "Primarily, we have to find the producers of the spurious liquor that killed so many people, investigate the distributors and then, with the help of the FSL team which arrives later tonight, find out what the adulterant was," said Golaghat SP Pushpraj Singh. The liquor seized from Urang's house will be sent for forensic analysis. According to relatives of victims in Halmira, the 'sulai' sellers in the village used to procure the liquor from Jogibari, a neighbouring village which reported at least two deaths. In Jogibari, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2