



P3 CITY

ADV KHAN ASKS OFFICERS TO EXPEDITE REGISTRATION PROCESS OF HOUSEBOATS

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan Saturday chaired a meeting of officers and took review of the status of Bio-digesters in Houseboats in Dal Lake, at...

P7 THINK

INTERNET OF BODIES (IOB)

Jammu and Kashmir is almost always in the news for one reason or another. Apart from the obvious political headlines, J&K was also in the news because of covid-19. As the world struggled with covid-19 pandemic, J&K faced a peculiar situation...



P5 STATE

ACB ARRESTS JPDC ENGINEER FOR ACCEPTING BRIBE

The Anti Corruption Bureau Saturday said it arrested Sushma Parihar, JE (Electrical) posted at Nai Basti Fish Market, Jammu for accepting bribe. In a statement...



Widom Quote!
The road to success is dotted with many tempting parking spaces.
—Will Rogers

NEWS DIGEST

LG Extends Holi Greetings

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday extended his heartiest greetings to the people on the eve of 'Holi'. In his message of felicitations, the Lt Governor observed that Holi, a spring festival of colours is an integral part of our rich composite culture which promotes the tradition of 'Unity in Diversity' and strengthens the social fabric, an official spokesperson said. "The auspicious occasion also endorses affection. ● More On P10

Fraudster Arrested In Rajouri

JAMMU: A fraudster, allegedly involved in swapping of ATM cards, was arrested in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, police said. The arrest followed a complaint lodged by Kulsum Akhtar of Gakhrore alleging that her ATM card was fraudulently replaced by a person during a transaction in the town, a police official said. The official said an investigation was set into motion and the accused was identified as Faizan Ali, a resident of Poonch, who was subsequently arrested from his rented ● More On P10

8 Injured In Highway Accident

SRINAGAR: At least eight people, including a driver were injured in a road accident that took place along the highway at Pampore-Lasjan bypass on Saturday. Police officials said that a Tavera bearing (JK03B-8668) met with an accident around 03:50 pm at Pampore-Lasjan bypass leaving the driver and seven people on board the cab injured. The officials informed that all the injured were shifted to a nearby hospital and are undergoing treatment—(KNO)

Four Held With Narcotics In Jammu

JAMMU: Four alleged drug peddlers were arrested on Saturday after they were found in possession of narcotic substances in three different cases in the Jammu region of the Jammu and Kashmir, police said. Two persons were arrested in Udhampur district while one each was nabbed in Reasi and Ramban districts, they said. The two arrested from Bimra Pull in Udhampur district were identified as Dheeraj Sharma and Anil Sharma, police said, adding they were found in possession of 5.5 grams of heroin, one weighing machine and a sum ● More On P10

2 Militants, Soldier Killed In Ongoing Shopian Encounter

Two Army Men Injured, 2-3 Militants Believed To Be Trapped



File Photo

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Two unidentified militants and a soldier were killed and two others injured in an ongoing encounter in south Kashmir's Shopian district. According to the reports,

a heavy contingent of police, army's 34 RR and CRPF personnel cordoned off Wangam on Saturday evening on a tip-off regarding the presence of militants in the village, officials said. When the joint team started the ● More On P10

CASO In Kulgam Ends After 2 Days

Government forces called off a major search operation against militants in south Kashmir's Kulgam district, nearly two days after it was launched on Wednesday, reports said Saturday. Special operations group (SOG) of police, army's 9 RR and the personnel of CRPF 18 battalion laid a ● More On P10

Bukhari Demands Revision Of Mining Policy

SRINAGAR: Apni Party President Syed Altaf Bukhari on Saturday reiterated his demand for revision of Geology and Mining policy that according to Himalayas has severely affected livelihood of lakhs of families besides halting private and public developmental works across Jammu and Kashmir.

Briefing the media persons about the protest programmes launched by the Apni Party across J&K, Bukhari appealed to the ● More On P10

Weather Turns Pleasant In Kashmir

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Kashmir witnessed pleasant weather on Saturday as mercury rose across Kashmir Valley with Gulmarg recording minimum temperature above sub-zero level, officials said.

A meteorological department official said that the mercury settled at 6.4 degree Celsius against previous night's 3.6 degree Celsius in Srinagar. It is above 0.3 degree Celsius in the summer capital of the J&K for this time of the year, the official said. ● More On P10

Registration For Amarnath Yatra To Start From April 1

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Registration for the upcoming annual pilgrimage to the Himalayan cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir is going to start from April 1, an official said on Saturday.

The 56-day yatra to the 3,880-metre-high shrine is scheduled to start from the twin routes of Pahalgam and Baltal on June 28 and culminate on August 22.

In a meeting earlier this month, officials had said that all COVID-19 protocols are in place and standard operating procedures ● More On P10

HC Quashes PSA Detention Of Pulwama Youth

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has quashed detention order under Public Safety Act against a youth from Pulwama and ordered authorities to release him forthwith provided he was not required in any other case.

"Bare perusal of the grounds of detention reveals that the detaining authority has relied upon three FIRs while issuing the order impugned. ● More On P10

CAG Raps J&K Govt Over Departmental Deficiencies

Calls For System Revamp To Ensure Proper Response To Audit Observations



Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Stating that its audit has pointed out several deficiencies in the implementation of various programmes and internal-control measures in selected departments in Jammu and Kashmir, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has asked the Union Territory

administration to look into the matter and revamp the system to ensure a proper response to the audit observations in a time-bound manner.

In its report on the social, general, economic (non-public sector undertakings) sectors for the year ending March 31, 2019, the CAG said the pendency of a large number of paragraphs ● More On P10

'9 PSUs Non-Operational For Last 5 To 29 Yrs'

There are nine Public Sector Undertakings which are non-operational for the last five to 29 years, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has said.

The CAG, in its report on social, general and economic (non-PSUs) in the erstwhile state for the year ending 31 March, 2019 said among the nine PSUs, four are in Power Sector alone and have investment of Rs 56.60 crore towards share capital (Rs 55.77 crore) and long term loans (Rs 0.83 crore), by the State Government. The nine PSUs include Jammu and Kashmir Power Transmission ● More On P10

'LAHDC Leh, Kargil Fail To Submit Audit Accounts'

The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs) for Leh and Kargil districts have failed to submit accounts for audit since their inception, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India said, terming it a "serious financial irregularity". The audit reports of eight other autonomous bodies in Jammu and Kashmir, including both wings of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Science and Technology (Kashmir and Jammu) (SKUAST), J&K state housing ● More On P10

Man Dies Hours After Vaccine Shot In Handwara



Representative image

Agencies

SRINAGAR: An elderly man from north Kashmir's Handwara on Saturday died hours after he was administered a coronavirus vaccine jab by the health department officials.

A close relative of the deceased said that the septuagenarian— Ghulam Mohammad Ganie son of Habibullah Ganie of Haril Mawer— was inoculated

Saturday afternoon. However following some 'complications', he subsequently died at around 3 pm.

Village-head of the area said that the elderly man was administered the vaccine at around 12:40 pm, at serial number 67, following which he normally went home and took his meals. The elderly man, as per the village-head, had taken his sheep to a nearby ● More On P10

J&K Reports 271 New Corona Cases

Jammu and Kashmir recorded 271 new COVID-19 cases on Saturday, which includes 58 travellers, taking the infection tally to 1,29,684, while one fatality pushed the death toll in the union territory to 1,985, officials said. Seventy-five of the fresh cases were from Jammu division and 196 from Kashmir division, they said. The officials said Srinagar district recorded the highest number of 118 new cases, which includes 39 travellers, followed by 56 in Jammu district and 42 in Baramulla. Four districts did not report any cases, while 12 others detected new cases in single digits. The number of active cases, which has been rising steadily over the past week, has now reached 1,813 in the union territory, while 1,25,886 patients have recovered so far, the officials said. ● More On P10

Centre Asks States, UTs To Increase Testing

As India recorded the sharpest rise in weekly COVID-19 cases since May last, the Centre on Saturday came out with a five-point containment strategy for the 12 states and union territories reporting a surge that included exponential increase in testing while the worst affected Maharashtra announced a complete ban on all types of gatherings. The magnitude of the rise in coronavirus cases could be also gauged from the fact that India registered 62,258 new infections in a day, the highest single ● More On P10

India, Pak Must Move Beyond Secret Talks: Omar

Says The Two Countries Must Resolve Issues Through Open Dialogue

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah Saturday welcomed the peace overtures between India and Pakistan but said the two countries must move beyond secret talks and have an open dialogue to resolve all issues including Kashmir.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a party function in Pulwama district in south Kashmir, he said his party has always maintained that the betterment of not only Jammu and Kashmir, but the whole of south Asia lies in the friendship between the two countries.

"It is good that the two



countries are talking about friendship rather than threatening each other, but there is still much more to do," he said.

Referring to reports of secret talks between India and Pakistan, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said the two ● More On P10

Keep Kashmir At The Front, Centre Of Parleys: PDP

Srinagar: The PDP Saturday urged India and Pakistan to go beyond rhetoric, deepen the process of dialogue and broaden the scope of political engagement by keeping Jammu and Kashmir at the "front and centre of the process" to make it result-oriented and sustainable. The party held a meeting of its political affairs committee (PAC) - its top decision-making body - which was ● More On P10

O B I T U A R Y



Shuja Hussain: A Perfect Gentleman

Zaid Bin Shabir

Taking turns to recall the legend of the departed engineer, a multitude of masked mourners are endlessly detailing their own encounters with Syed Shuja Hussain who would always wear his dapper looks and diligence on his sleeves.

The solemn footfall is gathering mass and momentum inside a heritage house shadowed by a nearby paramilitary barrack in one of the peaceful pockets of plush Rajbagh locality of Srinagar.

A pitched tent in the middle of a manicured lawn is housing the mourners — who call the departed 'a long-time friend' and 'the gentleman they don't make anymore'.

"Engineer Shuja Hussain was a landmark man," says an elder inside the tent.



"His expert touches are visible in the major city and countryside signposts. The man's service is a shining example of a legacy one should leave behind as a professional."

While there seems no dispute on the departed engineer's robust legacy, his

own tribe members are idolizing his methods and mentorship as part of their farewell speech.

"An engineer of his own repute," says Er Manzoor Nawchoo. "A great human being who helped everyone," says Gazi Ahmad, a government official. "A life so beautifully lived deserves to be beautifully remembered," says Nisar Gilani. "A great personality, very charming and always dapper," says Muzaffar Shah of ANC.

Amid this torrent of tributes, Er Shuja Hussain's lawyer son, Syed Zulfikar Hussain, is swarmed by black coats in the lawn.

After his grandfather Syed Nisar Hussain—the erstwhile Wazir-e-Wazarat—retired as Financial Commissioner, Zulfikar says his father sustained the family's service culture as an engineer.

"Growing up, we had this impression that the Hazratbal shrine was constructed by our father only," Zulfikar says.

"We learned it much later that he had only finished the project. But such was his sway that his name became synonymous with the shrine project."

Today, that shimmering white marvel on the banks of Dal Lake remains one of the major engineering feats of his career. However, the celebrated civil engineer, Zulfikar says, was equally adept in bridges and buildings.

"During his lifetime only, his workmanship never went unnoticed," the son says.

"I remember during his posting in Anantnag, Mufti Mohammad Saeed said that my father was his favourite engineer. Even during the Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah's ● More On P10