



P3 NEWS

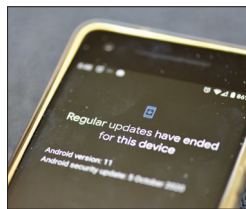
**STRANGE RULES AT LAKHANPUR TOLL PLAZA BRING TROUBLE FOR PASSENGERS**

The passengers travelling from different parts of India towards Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday complained that the authorities at Lakhapur Toll Plaza are....

P7 THINK

**WHY YOU MAY HAVE TO BUY A NEW DEVICE WHETHER YOU WANT TO OR NOT**

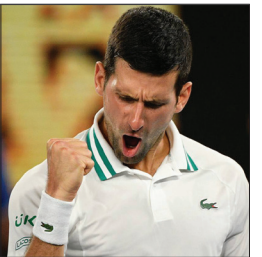
We've probably all been there. We buy some new smart gadget and when we plug it in for the first time it requires an update to work. So we end up spending....



P11 SPORTS

**AT AUSTRALIAN OPEN MEN'S FINAL, DJOKOVIC CHASES 18TH GRAND SLAM, MEDVEDEV 1ST**

Novak Djokovic lost his first career Grand Slam final at the U.S. Open. Then he won his second, which came...

**Widom! Quote!**

The unexamined life is not worth living.  
— Socrates

**NEWS DIGEST****Lt Gen Raju To Be Army's New DGMO**

NEW DELHI: Lt Gen B S Raju, the General-Officer-Commanding of the Srinagar-based Chinari Corps, will be the new Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of the Indian Army, official sources said on Saturday. Lt Gen D P Pandey, currently serving as the Director General of the Territorial Army, will succeed Lt Gen Raju at the crucial corps in Srinagar that carries out the Army's counter-insurgency operations in Kashmir, they said. Lt Gen Raju, who » [More On P10](#)

**3 Lottery Sellers Held For 'Cheating' People**

SRINAGAR: Police arrested three lottery sellers on charges of cheating people in Sogam area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said Saturday. Mehrajuddin Shah, Yawar Irshad Malla and Wasim Akram Badroo were arrested after a woman from Takipora village of Lolab complained to police that the trio were cheating people in the name of lottery, they said. In this regard case, officials said, a case FIR No-03/2021 under section 420 IPC has been registered in Police Station Sogam.

**Shell Explodes In School, Sweeper Injured**

SRINAGAR: A sweeper was injured on Saturday after an old shell went off while he was cleaning a private school in Handwara area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district. Reyaz Ahmad Ahanger was cleaning the Hillwill School when the shell went off, leading to injuries to him, official sources said Saturday. He was shifted to hospital and his condition is stated to be stable, they said. SP Handwara Dr GV Sandeep said that investigations into the incident have revealed that it was old shell which » [More On P10](#)

**Father, Son Killed In Highway Crash**

JAMMU: A 70-year-old man and his son were killed while three others suffered injuries when a van and a truck collided on the Jammu-Pathankot highway in Samba district of Jammu region in the early hours of Saturday, police said. Both the vehicles were coming from Kathua and the accident took place near Mansar Morh around 2 am, a police official said. He said Hans Raj and his son Sohan Lal (35), residents of Ramgarh area of Samba, died on the spot, while three others Ramesh Chander (60), » [More On P10](#)

**'They Were Once Mirrors': Green Srinagar's Stinking Waters**

Aujib Javed

64-years old Zahida vividly remembers her childhood days when she used to bath and fetch drinking water for home from Tsoont Kole—a navigational canal running through the Srinagar city. The water was so crystal clear, she recalled, that one could see face in it. "For us," she added, "the tributary was the makeshift mirror to groom our hair."

Zahida was born and brought-up in Kanimazar area of the old Srinagar, known as the "Venice of East" for its shimmering and serpentine water bodies. Back then, she would find solace at the banks of the water body. But now, it breaks her heart to see its putrefying plight.

Tsoont Kole is presently gasping



for breath, so do the other tributaries of the Dal Lake—that used to act like lungs for the iconic water body. The streams are choked with

garbage mostly polythene that could be seen piled up on the embankments as well as in the water. Successive regimes, environment

activists say, have failed to restore the glory of the pristine water bodies of Srinagar.

"In a place like Kashmir, when everything is dominated by politics and conflict, these things hardly get any space," said Zareef A. Zareef, a chronicler once part of Kashmir's 'Chipko Movement'.

Zareef blamed "unchecked political corruption" in the successive governments and peoples' ignorance towards religious and social values for the current situation of the water bodies.

"During my childhood days," the chronicler continued, "Nallah Mar was an important link connecting the business centre of Srinagar. It was considered as a lifeline of the city. However, with the arrival of motor transport, it gradually lost its sheen."

Also known as Mar Kol, Nallah Mar

connected the Brari Nambal lagoon to the Khushal Sar lake and thus provided navigability between the Dal and Aanchar lakes. It was filled up and converted to a road in the 1970s. Environment activists and experts term the "mindless move" as a death-knell to the Dal Lake.

Today, most of the pristine water streams of Srinagar have become open dumping yards. From households to shops, everything and anything finds its way to these water channels.

According to a report by the Jammu and Kashmir State Pollution Control Board, Srinagar generates 201 million litres of sewage daily but has the capacity to treat only 53.8 million litres.

"Disposal of untreated sewage into the Dal Lake and Jhelum river is one of the main » [More On P10](#)



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

**Security Beefed Up In Srinagar After Fresh Militant Strikes**

Badar Bashir

SRINAGAR: The government forces on Saturday stepped up vigil around vital installations and conducted random frisking in parts of this capital city in wake of spurt in militant attacks this week that left two policemen dead and a civilian injured.

Wearing bullet proof vests and helmets and carrying

assault rifles, CRPF personnel and cops carried out random frisking and identification checks at several places in the city, a day after two policemen were shot dead by militants in Baghat Barzulla area of the city on the Srinagar International airport road, witnesses told Kashmir Observer.

The forces, they said, had also erected » [More On P10](#)

**IGP Calls For Strengthening Security Grid**

Press Trust Of India

In the wake of the recent spurt in militant attacks in Srinagar, Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar on » [More On P10](#)

**Bihar Resident Arrested For Militancy Links**

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: A 25-year-old Bihar resident was arrested for his alleged links with militants in Jammu and Kashmir and was brought here on transit remand for questioning on Saturday, police said.

Javid Alam Ansari's name surfaced during questioning of Lashkar-e-Mustafa (LeM) chief Hidayatullah Malik and was arrested from his house at Deobahua village in Chapra on Monday night, a police official said.

Malik, a resident of Shopian, was arrested from the Kunjwani area of Jammu on February 6. He had formed LeM, an offshoot of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad outfit, in August last year.

Ansari was arrested from his house on Monday night by the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), Patna after it came to light that he had links with Malik and had supplied pistols » [More On P10](#)

**PDP To Hold Presidential Polls On Feb 22**

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) will conduct elections for the post of party President on February 22.

In a statement issued here, a party spokesman said that the members of the electoral college from Kashmir & Jammu provinces will vote to elect the party president on Monday in Srinagar and Jammu respectively. The three-year term of Mehbooba Mufti as the party president ended on October 31st last year but fresh elections couldn't be held » [More On P10](#)

**Alert Sounded At Srinagar Airport****Covid-19 Test Report Now Mandatory For Inbound Travellers**

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Taking no chance in view of rising coronavirus cases in parts of the country, the divisional administration on Saturday ordered a set of preventive measures, including preventing the inbound travellers to leave the airport until their test reports are received, in a bid to avert the spread of virus in the Valley.

The directions in this regard were passed by Incharge Divisional

Commissioner Kashmir Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary in a meeting convened here as part of the preventive plan to avert spread in the Kashmir division, an official spokesperson said.

He said that Choudhary directed for strengthening the preventive mechanism at the Srinagar airport instructing the Srinagar and Budgam district administrations to set up additional coronavirus testing facilities there and to enable quick receipt of test reports. "Dr Shahid instructed that no inbound traveller be allowed to leave the airport until their COVID-19 test report is received directing that test reports be issued on the spot before letting the » [More On P10](#)

**IAF Withdraws Jammu Airport Closure Order****Restricted Flight Operations During Runway Resurfacing Work**

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The flight operations to and from Jammu airport would be restricted to seven hours for 41 days from March 10 as the Indian Air Force withdrew its earlier order proposing complete closure of the

airport for 15 days next month for resurfacing work of the runway, officials said on Saturday.

The decision was reviewed and modified by the IAF in consultation with the Airport Authority of India (AAI) at a meeting on Friday following instructions from the Union Defence Ministry, the officials said.

A day earlier, Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar chaired a joint meeting » [More On P10](#)

**HC Closes 'Unnecessary' PIL On Sangarmaal Allotments**

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court has closed as "unnecessary" a Public Interest Litigation which had sought cancellation of all allotments in "Sangarmaal Shopping Complex" here and recovery of all dues as arrears of land revenue so that the amount

was used for welfare schemes within SDA's jurisdiction. "We do not feel that the Court has to remind the authorities about the implementation of the provisions of law and plans, regulating the development of the cities, towns etc., in Jammu and Kashmir," said a bench of Justices Ali Mohammad Magrey and Vinod Chatterji Koul.

"The petitioner has come in the PIL with vague pleadings and have not detailed out as to how

the public interest litigation is involved, in default of the authority having failed to adhere to the provisions of law," the court said, adding, "It is for the Government to look into all these matters, which are already regulated by the laws of the land...the instant petition, being unnecessary, shall stand closed."

In essence, the court said, the petitioner—Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Forum—was interested in promoting and securing the development of the local area, according to plan.

For that purpose, the court said, the authority has the power to acquire, hold, manage and dispose of land and other property to carry out building, engineering and other operations, to execute works in connection with supply of water and electricity, disposal of sewerage and » [More On P10](#)

**Govt Aiming To Take J&K's Export Worth To Rs 5000 Crore: LG**

Urges Srinagar, Jammu Be Opened To Regular Commercial International Flights

Observer News Service

Jammu: Asserting that his government is aimed to take Jammu and Kashmir's export worth from Rs 1400 crore to Rs 5000 crore in the next two years, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday requested that the twin capitals of Srinagar and Jammu be opened to regular commercial international flights to give a boost to tourism and trade.

Sinha made these remarks while speaking at the 6th Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog, through virtual mode, an official spokesperson said Saturday. During the meeting, he said, the LG highlighted major reformative measures taken by the UT administration, besides appraising the meeting about the



new trajectory that the newly carved UT has undertaken in the past 17 months.

"After 5th August 2019, Jammu & Kashmir got new opportunities of socio-economic development that were not there for many decades. J&K is passing through a period of transition for development,

peace and prosperity. Today, among the people of Jammu & Kashmir, there is an outlook of hopeful optimism," Sinha said, as per an official spokesperson.

While making suggestions for giving further push to the developmental process in Jammu and » [More On P10](#)

**HC Orders FIR Against Facebook India, Others In Online Fraud Case**

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has directed that an FIR be registered against Facebook India, its country head and six others on the complaint of a local resident that he was duped of over Rs 20,000 by an online fraudster through an advertisement placed on the popular social networking website last year.

In an order dated February

17, Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur said the in-charge, cyber cell of police would register an FIR and the same would be investigated by the concerned branch dealing with cyber offences.

The order was passed on a petition filed by Vivek Sagar through advocate Deepak Sharma.

The high court set aside the September 2, 2020 order by the special railway magistrate, Jammu directing SSP Crime Branch to » [More On P10](#)