



P5 STATE

PSAJK OFFERS GOVT TO TAKE OVER STUDENTS' TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department Thursday held a road show at Ahmedabad in Guajrat as part of its promotional campaigns across India to attract tourists...

P7 THINK

WHEN POPE VISITS GRAND AYATOLLAH

ALL eyes are on the 84-year-old pontiff's first-ever pastoral pilgrimage to the birthplace of Prophet Abraham (AS) in Iraq and his historic meeting with Grand Ayatollah Sayed Ali...



P11 SPORTS

PANT CENTURY CARRIES INDIA TO 294/7 ON DAY 2 OF FINAL TEST AGAINST ENGLAND

Rishabh Pant changed his game-plan and in turn India's fortunes with a magnificent century, helping the side snatch control from England's grip to finish the second...



Widom Quote!

Spoon feeding in the long run teaches us nothing but the shape of the spoon.
— E.M. Forster

NEWS DIGEST

J&K Records 81 New Cases, 1 Death

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Friday recorded 81 new coronavirus cases, raising the tally to 1,26,853, officials said. The union territory also reported one death due to the infection in the past 24 hours, they said. Of the fresh cases, 20 were detected from the Jammu division and 61 from the Kashmir division. The officials said Srinagar district recorded the highest of 35 cases. **More On P10**

8 Gamblers Held In Raids: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Friday claimed to have arrested eight gamblers in separate raids in Sumbal and Awantipora town of north and south Kashmir. After receiving a tip-off, a police team carried out a raid at village Pushwari in Naidkhal Sumbal and apprehended four gamblers from the spot, a police spokesperson said Friday. He said playing cards and an amount of Rs 28,100/- were recovered from their possession. **More On P10**

Arms Recovered In Reasi, 1 Held

JAMMU: Police on Friday arrested a man and recovered arms and ammunition from a hideout in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, officials said. Reyaz Ahmed, 21, was apprehended by a police team from Mahore town, they said. On interrogation in the presence of the executive magistrate, Mahore, he disclosed that he has hidden a cache of arms and ammunition in a hideout located between Makhidhar and upper. **More On P10**

2 Men Wanted In Jammu Robbery Case Held

THANE: Two people wanted in an armed robbery case in Jammu and Kashmir were held in Thane in Maharashtra, police said on Friday. The case against the two among others was registered in Jammu's Bahu Fort police station on January 31 this year after a gang entered a house there and robbed it at gun-point, said Mumbai police station senior inspector Madhukar Kad. Acting on a tip off from. **More On P10**

Heroin-Like Substance Seized In Poonch

POONCH: Heroine-like substance weighing 840 grams has been recovered from Mendhar town, police said on Friday. Senior Superintendent of Police Poonch Ramesh Angral said that on a specific input, a police team along with Army's 37 RR and NCCIU launched a joint operation in Dharana area of Mendhar. "During search, around 840 grams of heroin like substance was found" he said. The police team which was part of operation was. **More On P10**

Following Developments In J&K Closely: US

'Will Continue To Support Direct Dialogue Between India, Pak On Kashmir'



Press Trust Of India

WASHINGTON: A day after welcoming the steps taken by New Delhi to return Jammu and Kashmir to full economic and political normalcy, the United States said on Thursday that the Biden

administration will continue to support direct dialogue between India and Pakistan on Kashmir and other areas of concern. "We have continued to follow very closely developments in Jammu and Kashmir. Our policy towards the region **More On P10**

WHEN IT COMES TO HOW WE WILL support that, we continue to support direct dialogue between India and Pakistan on Kashmir and other areas of concern."

'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav'

LG Calls For Grand Celebrations In J&K

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday directed administrative secretaries to organise various commemoration activities across the union territory as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav', a central government programme to mark 75 years of India's independence, an official spokesperson said.

Chairing a high-level meeting on preparations for the programme at the

civil secretariat here, Sinha also asked the officials to ensure that birthplaces of freedom fighters are selected for curtain-raiser events on March 12.

The LG called for grand celebrations for 'Azaadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav' across Jammu and Kashmir and directed the administrative secretaries to organise various commemoration activities to mark the beginning of the programme, the spokesperson said.

He issued instructions for holding. **More On P10**



ALL DEPARTMENTS WERE DIRECTED to submit their respective action plan with the detailed calendar of commemoration activities for 75 weeks, covering all districts.

Militants Attack Police Post, Trigger IED Blast

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Suspected militants on Friday lobbed a grenade towards a police post in Fateh Kadal area of the Old City here and triggered off a low intensity improvised explosive device (IED) in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, officials said.

Panic gripped Urdu Bazar locality of Fateh Kadal on Friday evening when suspected militants hurled a grenade towards a police post that exploded with a bang, officials said.

However, they added that the grenade attack did not cause any loss of life or injury.

Soon after the attack, additional forces of police and CRPF reached the area to launch a manhunt to nab the attackers.

Meanwhile, suspected militants triggered off a low intensity IED blast in Dangerpora area of Pulwama district, officials said.

However, they said there was no loss of life or injury reported in the explosion which took place at Dangerpora area.

A senior police officer said that the small sized IED was placed near a shop " there was no loss of life **More On P10**

MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

ED Summons Mehbooba For Questioning On March 15

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate on Friday summoned former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti for questioning on March 15 in a money laundering case, officials said.

The 60-year-old PDP leader, who was released last year after more than a year in detention following the scrapping of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, has been served notice to appear at the ED headquarters in the national capital.

After the ED summons, Mehbooba said the Centre's "tactics to intimidate and browbeat political opponents" won't work.



"GOI's tactics to intimidate & browbeat political opponents to make them toe their line has become tediously predictable. They don't want us to raise questions about its punitive actions & policies. Such short-sighted scheming won't work," she wrote on

Twitter, without any mention of the ED notice.

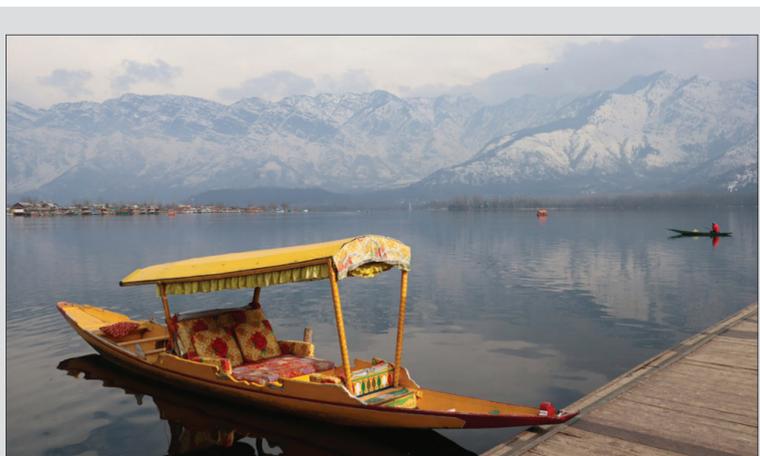
According to officials, the case has been filed under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Agency sources did not specify the case in which she has been. **More On P10**



FAROOQ MOVES HC AGAINST ED ATTACHING HIS PROPERTY, JUDGE RECUSES

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah has approached the Jammu and Kashmir High Court against an Enforcement Directorate order attaching his properties worth nearly Rs12 crore in a case. **More On P10**



Mercury Dips In Parts Of Kashmir Amid Rain Forecast

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Barring Srinagar and Qazigund, the minimum temperatures decreased across Valley ahead of the wet weekend predicted by the weather department from Saturday.

A meteorological department official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 4.2 degree Celsius against 3.9 degree

Celsius on the previous night. The temperature was 2.2 degree Celsius above normal for this time of the year in this summer capital, the official said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 2.3 degree Celsius against 2.2 degree Celsius on the previous night while the mercury settled at minus 0.3 degree Celsius at the famous resort of Pahalgam against. **More On P10**

Two Way Traffic On Highway Today

The Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir Valley with the outside world, will reopen for two ways on Saturday, officials said. **Tomorrow (March 6), More On P10**

MP Akbar Lone's Son Released On Bail



Agencies

BANDIPORA: National conference leader Hilal Akbar Lone, who was booked under UAPA, was released after additional session judge Baramulla granted him bail in a "hate speech" case that was registered against him by Hajin police a month ago, officials said Friday.

An official said that Hilal Lone, who is also the elder son of member parliament from north Kashmir and senior NC leader Mohammad Akbar Lone was released late Thursday night.

He said Additional Session Judge Baramulla granted bail to Hilal in a hate speech case that was registered against him by Hajin Police, a month ago.

Earlier, Hilal was booked under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for delivering a "hate **More On P10**

Police Orders Seizure Of Vehicles Over Militancy

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Carrying out its crackdown against alleged militant supporters, the Jammu and Kashmir police on Friday ordered seizure of five vehicles to restrict militant activities in the Union Territory.

In exercise of power conferred by section 25 of Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, (UAPA), Jammu and Kashmir Police Headquarters has accorded permission for seizure of five vehicles to restrict the militant activities in Jammu and Kashmir," a handout issued by police here said Friday.

It further said that following

due procedures of the law, the police have accorded sanction for seizure of four vehicles which included a Mahindra Bolero, a load carrier, an Eon Car, a Tavera vehicle besides a truck through different orders to ensure that the militant activities are kept under check.

"These vehicles were used for transportation of arms/ammunition and militants. In 2021 so far, PHQ has accorded sanction for seizure of fifteen vehicles which include ten four wheelers and five two wheelers. The permission for seizure has been granted under section 25 Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967," **More On P10**

World's Highest Rail Bridge On Chenab Nearing Completion

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The world's highest railway bridge on Chenab river in Jammu division is all set to be ready this year.

Officials said that the Chenab bridge is being built in the deep gorge and the main arch of the bridge has a length of 476 metres which is the largest arch in India. They said that once this arch will be complete, work will be started on track laying beside the viaduct.

The bridge is built at a height of 359 metres above the river bed and is said to be around 30 metres taller than



the Eiffel Tower. The length of the bridge is one kilometre and 315 metres.

Sources said that due to

inclement weather and challenging terrains bridge has missed several deadlines so far.

They said that. **More On P10**

DELIMITATION EXERCISE

ECI Puts On Hold Special Summary Revision In J&K

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Since re-organisation of Jammu & Kashmir, the Election Commission of India has not undertaken its annual exercise of revision of electoral roll in the newly carved out Union Territory, sources disclosed Friday.

They said that the poll-body will not undertake special summary revision of voters in the UT till delimitation exercise is not completed.

"The ECI doesn't carry out special summary revision of electoral roll in the States and Union Territories where the

delimitation exercise is underway or where polls are scheduled," they said, adding that Special Summary Revision-2020 and SSR-2021 were not carried out in the UT due to the delimitation exercise.

A delimitation commission was set-up by central government on March 05, 2020 to fix boundaries for Assembly and Parliamentary segments of the UT.

The panel headed by former Supreme Court judge, Justice (ret'd.) Ranjana Desai and comprising Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and J&K's State Election. **More On P10**