



P5 STATE

LOCALS, TOURISTS THROUGH DOODHPATHRI TO PARTICIPATE IN TOURISM FESTIVAL

The Department of Tourism in collaboration with District Administration Budgam Saturday organised a Tourism festival at famous tourist resort Doodhpathri...

THINK

WE THE WOMEN! ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The International Women's Day which is celebrated on the 8th of March every year has evolved over the years in different ways. Beyond the world of consumerism which tokenises on...



P11 SPORTS

INDIA THRASH ENGLAND ON DAY 3, WIN SERIES 3-1 AND BOOK WTC FINAL SPOT

Axar Patel and Ravichandran Ashwin once again made a mockery of an eternally confused English batting line-up as India cantered into the inaugural World Test...



Widom Quote!

If you want to be happy, be.

— Leo Tolstoy

NEWS DIGEST

One Death, 79 Covid Cases In J&K

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Saturday another death due to coronavirus even as eighteen travellers were among 79 new cases of Covid-19 detected in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. The victim belonged to Jammu Division and the death took the toll to 1961—1234 in Kashmir and 727 in Jammu, officials said. About the new cases, they said. **More On P10**

Canines Kill Minor In Pulwama

SRINAGAR: A minor boy on Saturday was mauled to death by street dogs in south Kashmir's Pulwama district. 8-year-old Azhar Manzoor, son of Manzoor Ahmad was attacked by a pack of stray dogs near the family's Agricultural field in Pingelan area of the district, reports said Saturday. The locals, the reports said, tried to save the boy, but couldn't rescue him on time as he received severe injuries. **More On P10**

Two UP Residents Held With Pistol

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday arrested two residents of Uttar Pradesh from Kulgam district after recovering a pistol from their possession. Police, army and the personnel of CRPF 24 battalion established a checkpoint near Jawahar Tunnel on the intervening night of March 5-6 after receiving specific information that illegal arms and ammunition was being transported **More On P10**

CASO Conducted In Shopian

SRINAGAR: The government forces on Saturday carried out a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Zainpora area on south Kashmir's Shopian district. According to the reports, special operations group (SOG) of police, army and CRPF cordoned off Chidipora village of Zainpora on early Saturday morning and launched a search operation. The joint team, reports said, sealed all entry and exit points leading to village **More On P10**

Man Found Dead In Bandipora

SRINAGAR: Body of an unidentified person was on Saturday recovered under mysterious circumstances in north Kashmir district of Bandipora. Panic gripped village Pannar in Bandipora on Saturday morning, when some locals spotted the body of a man lying on the roadside, reports said. The locals, reports said, immediately informed the police. According to the reports, a **More On P10**

Govt Shifts 155 Rohingyas To 'Holding Centre' In Jammu



File Photo

Drive Launched To Collect Biometric, Other Details

Observer Monitoring Desk

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday shifted at least 155 Rohingyas to a 'holding centre' in Jammu and launched a drive to collect the biometric and other details of the persecuted community.

At least 155 illegal immigrant Rohingyas who escaped persecution in Myanmar and were

living in Jammu and Kashmir were on Saturday sent to a 'holding centre', under section 3(2)e of the Foreigners Act, New Delhi based CNN-News18 reported.

Quoting unnamed officials, the report said that the immigrants were not holding valid travel documents required under section (3) of the Passports Act.

Meanwhile, the J&K administration on Saturday began a drive to collect biometric and other details of Rohingyas staying in Jammu, officials said.

The Rohingyas are a Bengali-dialect speaking Muslim minority in Myanmar. Following persecution in **More On P10**

Lower Primary Classes To Reopen From March 15

Schooling For 6th To 8th Resumes Monday

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Directorate of School Education Kashmir on Saturday postponed the proposed re-opening of schools in the valley for lower primary classes by a week even as it announced that students from 6th to 8th shall open from next week.

The schools resumed class work for classes 9-12 from March 1 while as standard 1st to 8 were scheduled to resume class work from March 8.

"It is hereby ordered that the educational institutions including recognised private schools shall open physically in a staggered **More On P10**

HC Quashes Budgam Youth's Detention Under PSA

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Authorities are guilty of committing infraction of a constitutional right by not informing a detainee about right to make representation to detaining authority, Jammu and Kashmir High Court has said.

"It can safely be stated that the respondents (authorities) by not informing the (detainee) about his right to make a representation to the detaining authority against the impugned order **More On P10**

SEC Orders Re-Polling Pck Candidates Name Dropped From Rolls

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir's State Election Commission has ordered re-poll in two seats of district development council in north Kashmir, saying that two female candidates contesting polls in them have failed to prove their Indian citizenship and have illegally entered into India.

Both these candidates are from Pakistan controlled Kashmir and are married to Kashmiris, who crossed the Line of Control for arms training but returned to live life peacefully after Omar Abdullah-led government announced policy for return of such youth in 2010.

In two separate orders, the State Election Authority of Jammu & Kashmir, has concluded that each contesting candidate in Drugmulla in Kupwara and Hajin-A in Bandipora don't have Indian citizenship and have **More On P10**

LG Hails Doctors Role In Pandemic Time



Inaugurates Netaji Subhas Medical College & Hospital In Patna

Observer News Service

PATNA: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Saturday hailed the role of doctors and frontline medical professionals in fight against coronavirus saying that with the spirit of selfless service and working day and night to help and heal the patients, doctors have emerged as "real

heroes of our society".

Speaking here after inaugurating Netaji Subhas Medical College & Hospital, Amhara, Patna, and 1st Batch of 100 MBBS students of the college, Sinha called upon the youth to connect themselves with community service and understand their responsibility.

"If every person, whatever profession he or she may be associated with, has a duty towards upliftment of the society, only then the country can move forward." **More On P10**

ACB Files FIR In Rs 1000 Crore Loan Default Case

Probe Reveals Funds Diverted, State Land Encroached; Sold Illegally

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The anti-corruption bureau (ACB) on Saturday filed a case into a multi-million loan default case in which a large amount of funds were diverted and state land was encroached and sold illegally.

On the basis of a complaint received from the government's general administration department (GAD) to look into the allegations of defaulted in repayment of loan amount of Rs. 40.63

Crore raised from HUDCO by the J&K Cooperative Housing Corporation (JKCHC) in which the J&K government was the guarantor and owned 70% of the capital, a preliminary Enquiry was registered by the anti-graft agency, an ACB spokesperson said Saturday. The GAD complaint, he said, further revealed that on July 26, 2017, an amount of

Rs. 90 crores, including interest was outstanding against the Corporation.

"HUDCO had further blacklisted the government till liquidation of the outstanding loan and no further loan facilities were granted by HUDCO for execution of various projects in J&K," the ACB spokesperson said.

He further said that the investigations revealed that JKCHC availed **More On P10**



New IT Rules Can Undermine Media Freedom: Editors Guild

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The Editors Guild of India on Saturday voiced concern over the government's new Information Technology rules, saying the guidelines will "fundamentally alter" and put "unreasonable restrictions" on digital media.

In a statement issued on Friday, the EGI expressed deep concern over the recent notification of the rules and asked the government to consult the stakeholders.

"The Rules, issued under the Information Technology



Act, 2000, fundamentally alter how publishers of news operate over the Internet and have the potential to seriously undermine media freedom. They empower the Union government to block, delete or modify published news anywhere in the country without any judicial oversight and mandate all publishers **More On P10**

BJP For Hike In Monthly Relief To KPs

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: JK BJP leader Ashwani Chhurgoo urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to enhance the monthly relief provided to Kashmiri migrants from Rs 13,000 to Rs 20,000.

"The price index has gone high a number of times over the last five years, and consequent price rise in almost all fields of public purchases has also touched new heights. This has disturbed the domestic budget of the displaced community of Kashmir. It has become very difficult for the relief holders among them to make both ends meet, he said.

Chhurgoo, in-charge, Department of Political Affairs and Feedback, Jammu and Kashmir, requested that the relief amount **More On P10**

PDP Slams Centre's 'Vindictive Politics'

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Saturday said the Enforcement Directorate summons to its president and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti was part of the Centre's "vindictive" politics, and asserted that such tactics would not dampen the will of people of Jammu and Kashmir to struggle for restoration of their constitutional rights.

The party said "the ED summons is yet another ploy to try and arm-twist the people and leadership of Jammu & Kashmir, to kill dissent and disagreement across regions and to silence the genuine demand" for the restoration of statehood and special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Such tactics won't dampen our will to have our constitutional status restored. This is the price one **More On P10**

'Govt Can't Force Us To Sell Mutton On Low Rates'



INTERVIEW

Auqib Javed

Despite a local trade body suggesting a way out in its "fact-finding report", the mutton deadlock is refusing to end in the valley, even as butchers have been directed to open their shops within two days or face action.

However, as a counter move, the butchers have sent legal notice to the concerned authorities, questioning which law permits them to seize the closed shops.

Terming the official stand rigid, the mutton dealers of Kashmir say the ball is in government's court as "they

have to listen to our grievances as well".

"We have already lost over Rs 400 Cr in last 4 months and we don't know when this deadlock will end," the Mutton Dealers Association Kashmir (MDAK) said.

In an interview with Kashmir Observer, Khazir Mohammad Riggo, President MDAK, said his tribe is ready to negotiate with terms and conditions.

Why the crisis about the rates suddenly?

The rate for the meat was fixed in the year 2016 at Rs 400 per kilogram. The rates have to be revised every year. But when the government failed

to do so, mutton traders raised the rates on their own.

However, four months ago, the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, revised the rates and fixed it at Rs480per kilogram from Rs600.

This was unacceptable to us, as we wouldn't be able to earn anything out of it.

So we have decided not to sell the meat till the rates are fixed as per our demands.

What are your demands?

See, the government and people as well, have to understand the expenses we have to bear for bringing the livestock from the other states.

We have travel expenses,

slaughtering expenses, commercial tap water charges, labour expenses, shop rents, etc.

Then we have to pay animal protection NGOs at Madavpur in Punjab. They charge usRs10,000 per truck under the guise of torturing animals.

Its pity that such a huge business is in mess. The traders and the drivers who bring livestock from outside Mandis to Kashmir face mental torture from different agencies. Since nothing is organized, we are in loss.

The government has to look into our problems and try to address them, rather than forcing the rates upon us.

But the government maintains that the current rate is justified by a scientific report