



P3 CITY

TRADERS MEET COMM SMC, DEMAND PARKING FACILITIES, REDRESSAL TO WATER LOGGING ISSUES

Advocating for drainage, parking of vehicles and installation of street lights in the markets, Kashmir Trade Alliance...

P7 THINK

THE JAM AT SUEZ CANAL

In the early hours of March 23, the container ship Ever Given was blown off course by high winds on its way through the Suez Canal. At 400 metres long, the Ever Given is longer than the canal is wide, and the ship became wedged firmly in both banks,



P5 STATE

'LEAK IN KISHANGANGA DAM': 30 FAMILIES EVACUATED AS LANDSLIDES HIT BANDIPORA

Authorities in north Kashmir's Bandipora district Friday evacuated 30 families to safer places after the fresh landslides occurred at Chak-Mantrigram area of...



Widom Quote!
The best way to see Faith is to shut the eye of Reason.
—Benjamin Franklin

NEWS DIGEST

Rockslides Block Banihal Highway

SRINAGAR: While the Srinagar Jammu highway remained closed on Friday for maintenance, the rockslide at Sarmoli has blocked the road temporarily. An official said that while the restoration process to clear the debris have started, the decision on allowing the traffic movement on the highway will be taken on Saturday morning. **More On P10**

2 Non-Locals Held Over Abduction

SRINAGAR: Two non-locals on Friday were arrested by police for allegedly trying to abduct a girl from Uri town of Baramulla district. Hardev Singh and Gujrant Singh, both residents of Gurdaspur, Punjab were arrested by a police team when they tried to abduct a girl after luring her with a job offer through social media, news agency GNS reported Friday. "After meeting **More On P10**

Shooting Stone Kills Truck Cleaner

SRINAGAR: A truck cleaner on Friday was killed after being hit by shooting stones in Ramban district along the Srinagar-Jammu highway. The cleaner identified as Junaid Ahmad Bhat was killed after his truck stranded on the highway near Digidol area of Ramban came under shooting stones on Friday morning, reports said. Meanwhile, a traffic official said that people are **More On P10**

Ex NHAI Officer Booked In Tender Case

NEW DELHI: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday said that a case has been registered against the then Regional Officer, national highway authority of India (NHA) and others for allegedly awarding a work contract to an ineligible company. The case was filed against Hem Raj, Regional Officer, NHAI, Jammu and Rakesh Kumar Chaudhary, proprietor of the private company **More On P10**

Missing Driver's Body Found In Chenab

SRINAGAR: Police on Friday recovered the body of a driver, who went missing after an accident in Doda district of Jammu division early this month. Body of 32-year-old Vikram Singh of Sunder Nagar Thakri Kishtwar was recovered on Friday afternoon in Chenab river in Doda, twenty days after he went missing after his vehicle rolled into the river on March 6, officials said. Meanwhile, SHO concerned Abid Bukhari said that the **More On P10**

Ghost Of 2016 Unrest Returns To Haunt PDP

NIA Claims Parra Paid Rs 5 Cr To Geelani's Son-In-Law To Keep Kashmir In Turmoil

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The NIA has alleged that PDP youth leader Waheed-ur-Rahman Parra paid Rs 5 crore to the son-in-law of hard-line Hurriyat Conference leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani for keeping Kashmir in turmoil after the death of Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani in 2016.

In an exhaustive charge sheet recently filed in a special court in Jammu, the National Investigation Agency accused Parra, who was arrested last November, of being involved with banned militant groups like Hizbul Mujahideen and Lashker-e-Taiba.



The NIA alleged that after the death of Wani, who was killed in an encounter with the Army in July 2016, Parra got in touch with Altaf Ahmad Shah, alias Altaf Fantoosh, and asked him to ensure that the Valley was kept on the boil with widespread unrest and stone pelting. Parra, through his lawyer, has been denying these charges and claimed he was arrested for political reasons. He was granted bail by the NIA court, which said there was no reference to him in the original, as well as the supplementary charge sheets presented in July and October last year respectively. **More On P10**



Govt Trying To Dismantle PDP: Mehbooba

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Friday accused the Centre of trying to dismantle her party by luring and threatening its members. Her remarks come a day after she was grilled for five hours by the Enforcement Directorate at its Srinagar office in connection with a money laundering case. In a tweet, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister charged, " **More On P10**

ROHINGYAS DETENTION

Country Can't Be Capital For Illegal Immigrants, GoI Tells SC

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The country cannot be the capital for illegal immigrants, the Centre told the Supreme Court which on Friday reserved order on a fresh plea seeking directions for immediate release of detained Rohingya refugees in Jammu and restrain the government from implementing any order deporting them to Myanmar.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde refused to

hear at this stage the intervention application filed by United Nations special rapporteur in the matter. We will not hear you today. There is serious objection to it, the bench told the counsel appearing for the UN special rapporteur.

We are closing it for order, said the bench, which also comprised Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, after hearing submissions on the fresh plea. During the arguments, advocate Prashant Bhushan, **More On P10**

Modi Honours Mujibur Rahman With Gandhi Prize

Press Trust Of India

DHAKA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday handed over the Gandhi Peace Prize 2020, being conferred by India upon Bangladesh's 'Father of the Nation' Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, to his daughter Sheikh Rehana and the younger sister of premier Sheikh Hasina.

Modi arrived in Bangladesh on a two-day visit to attend the celebrations of the golden jubilee of the country's independence, the birth centenary of **More On P10**

Teen Brother Of Slain Militants Goes Missing

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A teenager has gone missing from his home in south Kashmir's Tral town for nearly a week triggering speculation of him having joined a militant outfit.

19-year-old Kashif Mir a student of eleventh standard, as per a family member went missing from his home in Dadsara, Tral on March 20. "We have been looking for him at every possible place however have been unable to locate him for nearly a week

RS 270 CRORE LOAN FRAUD

ACB Charges 2 Former J&K Bank Managers, Others

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau on Friday filed a charge sheet against two former managers of J&K Bank and others in the whopping Rs 270 crore J&K Bank loan fraud case.

The ACB has registered a case (FIR No. 15/2019) on 24 July 2019 at police station ACB Srinagar on the basis of an information which was the outcome of a verification conducted into the allegations of financial irregularities in the loans availed by M/s Aman Hospitality Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi from the Ansal Plaza Branch of



the J&K Bank New Delhi, ACB said in a statement.

"It was alleged that the officers of J&K Bank Ansal Plaza Branch had given loan worth crores of rupees to this firm and in connivance with the firm the

loan amounts so sanctioned were declared as NPA to facilitate the firm to have a One Time Settlement to its advantage."

The firm had apparently availed Rs 227 crores as term Loan alongwith **More On P10**

CAG Report Picks Holes In SRTC Planning, Operations

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A performance audit of the Jammu & Kashmir State Road Transport Corporation between 2014-15 to 2018-19 has brought out instances of certain deficiencies in its planning, operational performance, internal controls etc.

In its report for the year ended March 31, 2019, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India have revealed that capital infused by the Government was not efficiently used by the Corporation,

which was set-up in 1976.

"Despite 20 per cent increase in paid up share Capital from Rs 204.74 crore in 2014-15 to Rs 245.57 crore in 2018-19, there was a 33 per cent increase in accumulated losses from Rs 1,229.56 crore to Rs 1,639.01 crore which indicated that capital infused by the Government was not efficiently utilized by the Corporation," reads the report.

The shortfall in achievement of targets of operative fleet and revenue collection targets during the period from 2014-15 to **More On P10**

Driving Licence, Vehicle Docs Valid Till June: Govt

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The government on Friday extended the validity of motor vehicle documents like driving licence (DL), registration certificate (RC) and permits till June 30, 2021, in view of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

In an advisory to states, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) said it is extending the validity of fitness, permit, driving licence, registration and **More On P10**

J&K Logs 210 Cases, Highest Single Day Spike

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded sharpest single-day spike in number of coronavirus cases this year as 210 fresh infections, besides one fatality due to the virus were reported in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. Officials said Friday that one more person succumbed to **More On P10**

Over 84% Active Cases In 4 Districts

The four districts of Jammu and Kashmir count for over 84 per cent of the total active cases of Covid-19. As per **More On P10**

Kashmiri Beautician's Brush With Big Screen

Auqib Javeed

She may be part of yet another domino effect in the valley, but unlike others, Monisa Zargar's rise as a celeb cosmetologist is a childhood love affair almost shattered by her father's sudden demise in her teens. But the departure couldn't gobble her passion, as she found a supporting sibling at her side, before her spouse became her shadow.

There're stories, and then there're glories glossed by her sharp-eyed pursuit.



"Would you believe it," says the 34-year-old makeup artist with a teen's curiosity, "that I did my own makeup on my

wedding day!" Since her childhood, Monisa Zargar has been fond of beauty brushes. She would initially adorn her relatives on special occasions, like marriage ceremonies and other parties.

Over the years, the walled passion became a full-fledged profession for this Srinagar girl. "When I was still trying to explore my dreams, my father passed away," she says. "It was a big blow for me."

As a teenager, she saw her mother struggling as a single parent to support her and her

two siblings. Later, her brother's abroad shift brought the much-needed relief.

Years later, and after her marriage in 2018, Monisa shared the idea of starting a make-up studio with her husband.

With his support, she flew to New Delhi and completed a yearlong course in cosmetology from Lakmé.

When she came back, the concept of makeup art was still emerging in Kashmir, with many young Kashmiri women trying to make career out of it. "I never **More On P10**

