

Maximum: 11º Today 05:22 PM Minmum: 0° Humidity: 68%





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P6 LIFE & TIMES

TWITTER ALLOWS USERS TO DIRECTLY **SHARE TWEETS ON SNAPCHAT**

Twitter has made it possible for its users to now share their tweets directly on Snapchat. Till date, one had to take a screenshot of the tweet ..

Children of divorce do a little bit worse on educational attainment, have slightly more behaviour problems, and are slightly more likely to suffer from anxiety and depression.



P8 OBSEVER OUTPOST **DOCTORS OF AIIMS, OTHER HOSPITALS JOIN IMA CALL FOR** PROTEST WITH BLACK RIBBONS

The IMA has given a call for withdrawal of non-essential and non-COVID services ...



Contact: -0194-2502327



where you are coming from. All that matters is where you are going." —Brian Tracy



Grenade Lobbed On CRPF Camp In Srinagar

SRINAGAR: Militants on Friday lobbed a grenade on a CRPF camp in Noorbagh area of the city, police said.

No loss of human life or injury has been reported in the incident. The militants lobbed the grenade on the camp at 6:40 am. The grenade exploded outside the camp, killing a stray dog, a police official said.

Cop Injured In Road **Accident Dies**

SRINAGAR: A policeman, who was injured on Wednesday in a road accident in Bijbehara area of Anantnag district, succumbed to his injuries at a hospital here on Friday.

Head Constable Joginder Singh died at the SK institute of medical sciences here on Friday morning after battling with life for two days, a police official said. Singh, he said, was in-+ jured when he lost control over his car (JK14D-1905) at Tulkhan area of Bijbehara on Wednesday.

Burglars Make Bid To Loot Bank

SRINAGAR: Burglars made an abortive bid to loot Jammu and Kashmir bank's branch in Kalamabad Mawar Handwara area in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said on Friday.

A police officer said the burglars entered the Bank during the ervening night of December 11 and 12 as is evident from the broken window of the branch, reported news agency GNS.

Hideout Busted In Shopian

SRINAGAR: The government forces busted a hideout in a forest area in south Kashmir's Shopian district, reports said Friday.

Special operation group (SOG) of police and army's 62 Rashtriya Rifles in a joint search operation busted a militant hideout in the upper forest belt of Herpora in Shopian, news agency KNT reported Friday. More On P2

Winter Vacations In Schools From Dec 21

SRINAGAR: The authorities on Friday ordered winter vacation in all the Government Educational Institutions including recognized Private Schools upto Higher Secondary Level functioning in the Kashmir Division and winter zone of Jammu Division from December 21 till February 28.

" It is hereby ordered that all the Government Educational Institutions including recognized Private Schools upto Higher Secondary Level functioning in the Kashmir Division and winter zone of Jammu Division shall

Leh-Jammu Flight **Operations Resume**

JAMMU: Flight operations between Leh and Jammu, capital cities of union territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir, have resumed after remaining suspended for months due to the coronavirus pandemic, officials said on Friday.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation had suspended domestic passenger flights across the country in March this year to restrict travel and check the spread of the virus.

Paying heed to a request by the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), the Ministry of Civil Aviation resumed Air India flight



J&K REPORTS 11 MORE DEATHS FULL STORY ON → P2

A HEALTH WORKER collects swab samples from a woman for Covid-19 test, at TRC Srinagar on Friday. -KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Wet Weather In J&K Till Saturday: **MeT Dept**

SRINAGAR: Gulmarg and Pahalgam were the only places in Kashmir which recorded sub-zero night temperatures on Friday, even as the MeT office predicted moderate rains or snowfall over the higher reaches of the Union

Territory from tonight. The minimum temperature across Kashmir, except in Gulmarg in the north and Pahalgam in the south, stayed above the freezing

They said the mercury in Culmarg settled at a low of minus 5.2 degrees Celsius, while Pahalgam recorded a low of minus 0.8 degrees

CBI Submits Action Taken Report In HC

PROCESS OF HEARING REVIEW PETITIONS INITIATED

JAMMU: The CBI on Friday sub- date in the Roshni Act which was High Court on the progress in cases registered to probe alleged irregularities in the Roshni Act as the process of hearing review petitions from various individuals was initiated.

CBI counsel Monika Kohli submitted the status report in a sealed point on Friday, officials said. cover before the division bench of Acting Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal

> The Jammu and Kashmir administration had approached the high court with an urgent hearing motion for preponement of the

mitted its Action Taken Report scrapped by the court on October (ATR) in the Jammu and Kashmir 9 by an order and was also de-

ROSHNI SCAM

clared "illegal, unconstitutional and unsustainable". The court had also asked the CBI to probe the allotment of the land under this law.

During the physical hearing, the counsel handed over the ATR in a sealed cover after the court took note of the progress of the investigation carried out by the CBI so far. Kohli also sought court's directions to all individuals seeking

review of the October 9 case for providing copies of their petition.

The CBI has so far registered nine FIRs, known as Regular Cases (RC) in agency's parlance, so far in its Jammu and Srinagar branches, besides four Preliminary Enquiries (PEs) to probe the allotment.

The CBI has booked former Jammu and Kashmir minister Taj Mohiuddin in connection with alleged illegal regularisation of encroached forest land in his name under the Roshni Act. The case also names Mohammaed Ramzan Thakur, former deputy commissioner Shopian, Mohammed Yousuf Zargar, the → More On P2

PANCHAYAT BY-ELECTIONS

60 % Turnout In Fifth Round Of Panch Polls

52.43%VOTES POLLED FOR SARPANCH SEATS: SEC

OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

JAMMU: The fifth round of polling for vacant the Panch and Sarpanch seats held across Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday recorded 59.90 and 52.43 percent turnout respectively, State Election Commissioner K.K Sharma said

Divulging the details, Sharma said, Jammu division recorded 77.52 per cent and Kashmir division recorded 58.35 per cent voter turnout during the 5th phase of Panch by-elections in 229 constituencies. Similarly, 52.43 per cent voting was

and Poonch with 84.09 per cent. Similarly, Budgam district topped with 69 per cent voter turnout in Kashmir division followed by Kupwara with 66.82 per cent and Bandipora with 64.91 per cent," Sharma said.

While giving information about the highest voter turnout in both the divisions, the SEC said that in Sarpanch by-polls, Kupwara recorded the highest voter turnout with 84.24 per cent in Kashmir division followed by Bandipora with 71.60 per cent and Budgam with 55.78 per cent.

"Besides, Jammu topped the polling percentage with 81.13 per

SHARMA REVIEWS PREPARATIONS

JAMMU: The State Election Commissioner (SEC), KK Sharma on reviewed the preparations for counting of District Development Council (DDC) elections to be held on December 22. Sharma reviewed the preparations in a meeting here on Friday which was attended by Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Sanjeev Verma >> On P2



registered on vacant Sarpanch constituencies in 125 constituencies in

the Union Territory, he said. The SEC further said that 75.84 per cent polling was registered in Jammu division whereas 42.85 per cent polling was recorded in ing stations for Panch elections.

lowed by Reasi with 88.51 per cent ing stations.

cent in Jammu division followed by Poonch with 80.37 per cent and Reasi with 79.78 per cent," he said. SEC also informed that polling

was held at 271 polling stations for Sarpanch by-polls and at 229 poll-While giving an overview "Doda district recorded the the polling process, Sharma said

highest voter turnout of 90.83 per that the polling was peaceful and cent for Panch by-elections fol- smooth across the region at all poll-

'Power Supply To Improve In Baramulla, Kupwara'

AUGMENTATION OF DELINA GRID TO BE COMPLETED BY JAN 31: KANSAL



KUPWARA: The power scenario in north Kashmir's twin districts Department said Friday. of Baramulla and Kupwara will improve significantly with the

Government, Power Development

Chairing a review meeting here, Kansal, as per an official augmentation of Delina Grid spokesperson said that the aug-Station from existing 160 MVA to mentation of the capacity of Grid 320 MVA from next month, Rohit station at Delina Baramulla will Kansal, Principal Secretary to be completed within → More On P2

NC Worker Shot At In Pulwama, **Hospitalized**

SRINAGAR: Unidentified gunmen on Friday shot at and injured a worker of National Conference (NC) in Wasura village of south Kashmir's Pulwama district.

Mushtaq Ahmad Dar was fired upon by unknown gunmen near his house in Wasura village on Friday evening, reports said. Dar, who recieved gunshot injury in his leg was removed to the District hospital Pulwama for treatment. However, the doctors there, referred him to Srinagar for advanced treatment.

According to the reports, Dar was an NC worker and had acted as a polling agent of Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) backed National Conference candidate Mukhtar Ahmad Bandh in → More On P2

hand, how to be kind to oneself and to others"

Kashmiri Students Shocked As Jamia Announces Online Exams





expressed resentment against the varsity authorities for conducting online examinations. The students from J&K said that the tentative dates have been issued for the examinations at the

SRINAGAR: The students from

Jammu and Kashmir, who are

pursuing different courses at

Ĵamia Millia Islamia (JMI), Friday

varsity and the students have been asked to appear in the examinations through online mode.

"We have been asked to ensure high-speed internet facility and the laptop has been made mandatory. We have also been asked to ensure uninterrupted electricity during the examinations. The students have been told that if there will be disconnection of internet services, they will be disqualified," the students said.

4G Ban Extended In J&K Till Dec 25

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday extended ban on the high-speed 3G and 4G internet services in all but two districts of J&K till December 25.

The internet speed is restricted to 2G only in Jammu and Kashmir except in the districts of Ganderbal and Udhampur.

Referring to recent snapping of internet services during polls, the government said that it was done

Athar Arshid Lone, who is pursuing a Masters in Political Science, hails from DangiWacha area of Baramulla district said that amid a ban on high-speed internet facility, "the people are not able to open the mail here and how is it possible for them (students) to appear in the examinations."

He said there are almost 200 students across Iammu and Kashmir, who are going to appear in the examinations at IMI.

"Our association has sent a written letter to the CEO and Vice-chancellor but they didn't pay any heed to it," he said, adding that the students who want the varsity should hold open book examinations like JNU and Delhi University. "We don't want any special favour from the varsity, but our only request → More On P2

'Why Am I Anxious': Inside 'Hope Sessions' Of Kashmiri Troika-I

HAMEEDA SYED

n a frosty fall day in Kashmir, a tired voice full of anguish and con-L cern started speaking hesitantly through the earphones.

"I have tried my level best to reason with my parents," it said as others play captive audience.

"My cousins tell me I am being disrespectful. But is it disrespectful to not allow myself to be defined by how everyone else wants to define me? Is my worth defined by my productivity in school or in a job? I feel so useless, so utterly useless. I don't know what

to do. I'm so tired. I have slipped into depression. I barely eat. I barely sleep. I don't know what I'm saying. I'm sorry.'

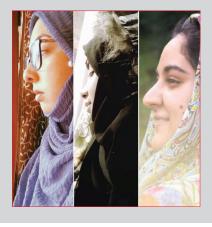
The listeners were silent. Some, even shocked. The tale of woe etched in this speaker's life was sordid and sad. How could they have endured this by themselves all along? How were they living day by day with this constant pain and worry?

It was unfathomable. But faintly understandable.

For this was the reality of living in the strife-stricken valley. On top of the dominated lives, the speaker and the listeners had to bear the brunt of silent societal oppression that suffocated their dreams and led them to a path of eventual surrender and imposed

mediocrity. Another day, another cold night. Another cross to bear. The line went quiet for a few sec-

onds before the speakers left the Zoom We as Kashmiris need to learn how to give a helping



meeting. It was obvious that they had been triggered, that it had been too much for them to speak out. Others unmuted themselves and spoke in a flurry of passionate support, unaware that their responses were to an empty

The moderator, Zarqa Binti Zia, realising the chaos that had unfolded in a mere few seconds, cleared her throat and gently drew a line.

"I don't think they are in this meeting," she said. "Perhaps they wish for some time before they join us again, which we will be happy to give them. Let's remember what



