

Maximum : 15°
Minnum : -1°
Humidity : 68%

SUNSET
Today 05:20 PM
SUNRISE
Tomorrow 07:21 AM



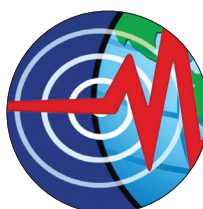
P6 LIFE & TIMES

Instagram adds India-first 'Live Rooms' feature to let users go live with up to 3 guests

PANORAMA P5

Ethics of "Comments and Replies" Section

Why I comment on scientific papers on the earthquake geology of Kashmir region



P8 NEWS

Transporters threaten to halt North India ops to support farmers' protest



Wisdom Quote!

"You do not write your life with words...You write it with actions. What you think is not important. It is only important what you do."

—Patrick Ness

News Digest

BSF Man Shoots Self Dead In Kupwara

SRINAGAR: A Border Security Force (BSF) personnel on Wednesday shot himself dead in the frontier district of Kupwara. Head Constable Bhairinder Singh of BSF 118 Battalion allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself dead with his service rifle in Tangdar area of the north Kashmir district on Wednesday morning, news agency GNS reported. Singh, the report said ended his life while being on duty. Quoting unnamed officials, the report said that the reason of Singh taking this extreme step was not immediately known. Meanwhile, police have registered a case in this regard and started further investigations.

Missing Minor Boy Found Dead

SRINAGAR: A 3-year-old boy on Wednesday was found dead in Chewdara village of Beerwah in central Kashmir's Budgam district, a day after he went missing. An official said that the minor boy had gone missing from his home in Chewdara village on Tuesday evening. He said that the boy had gone missing when he was playing around his house and since then the family had been looking for his whereabouts. Today morning he was found dead in his native village, reported news agency KNO. Meanwhile, a senior police official said that they are ascertaining the details and further investigation has been taken up to find the actual cause of the minor boy's death.

Teen Falls Off Moving Cab, Dies

Srinagar: A teenager on Wednesday died after falling off a moving cab in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. 18-year-old Riyaz Akhoun fell down from the rooftop of a running cab in Nowbugh area of the district on Wednesday evening, news agency KDC reported. The injured teen was removed to a nearby hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him dead on arrival. Meanwhile, Police have registered a case under FIR number 72/2020 under sections 279/373/304A, and started further investigations in this regard.

Roshni Scam Illuminated Gupkar Bungalows: Jitendra Singh

JAMMU: Firing a fresh salvo at rival parties in Jammu and Kashmir, BJP leader and Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Wednesday said that the Roshni scam had illuminated the "Gupkar bungalows" but extinguished hope for the poor. He said the Roshni scheme was launched in 2001 by the then government with an envisaged objective of raising an amount of Rs 25,000 crore for setting up power projects which were to provide electricity to every household, including those of economically weaker sections of society. "However, in the final bargain, what was witnessed was that all the

PANCHAYAT BY-ELECTIONS

65% Turnout In 2nd Phase Of Panch By-Polls

52% Polling For Sarpanch Vacancies

SRINAGAR: The second phase of by-elections to vacant seats of Panch and Sarpanch in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday witnessed 65.54 percent and 52.24 percent voter turnout respectively, State Election Commissioner (SEC) K K Sharma said on Wednesday. The polling was held on Tuesday along with the second phase of the District Development Council polls but the figures were released on Wednesday. Sharma said 65.54 per cent polling was recorded in the bypolls to the vacant panch seats and 52.24 per cent for the sarpanch seats. The SEC said the second phase of the by-elections to vacant panch seats was held in 343 constituencies -- 317 in Kashmir division and 26 in Jammu division. Jammu division recorded 79.25 per cent turnout and Kashmir division recorded 63.92 per cent, he added. [➔ More On P2](#)

BJP Tonga Rally in Geelani Bastion

SRINAGAR: For the first time in the past 30-years, Sopore area of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Wednesday witnessed a Tonga rally organized by the BJP leaders who promised International Mandi for Sopore if people vote for their candidates in the ensuing District Development Council (DDC) elections. Abdul Majeed, a Sarpanch from Mabugh area of Sopore, where the rally was held, said that it is for the first time in the past 30 years that a Tonga rally was held in favour of BJP in the area. "This is a message of peace and in this rally dozens of Tonga wallas participated. [➔ More On P2](#)

Dry Weather In Kashmir Till Dec 6: MeT

SRINAGAR: The famous ski-resort of Gulmarg was the only place in Kashmir which experienced a sub-zero night even as there was an improvement in the minimum temperature across the Valley, officials said on Tuesday. The weather is expected to remain dry till December 6 in Kashmir, they added. Gulmarg, in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, was the only place in the valley where the mercury stayed below the freezing point at a low of minus 1.0 degrees Celsius, the officials said. They said the mercury in Srinagar, which had recorded the minimum temperature of minus 1.3 degrees Celsius on Monday, settled at a low of 1.0 degree Celsius on Tuesday. Pahalgalam tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district recorded a low of 0.2 degree Celsius. The officials said the mercury settled at the minimum of 1.4 degrees Celsius in Qazigund, 1.0 degrees Celsius in Kupwara and 1.2 degrees Celsius in Kokernag. The MeT office has forecast mainly dry weather in Jammu and Kashmir till December 6, after which there is a possibility of a spell of rain and snow between December 7-8.

COVID-19 Vaccine Is Here But Do We All Need To Be Vaccinated?

Here's What We Know

SRINAGAR: The United Kingdom, today, became the first country in the world to approve the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer Inc-BioNTech SE. The vaccine will be available for mass use from next week onwards, as per reports. Although India will have to wait a little longer as it is yet to get approvals for vaccines. It will be either Oxford-AstraZeneca which is tested by the Serum Institute of India (SII) or the Russian vaccine Sputnik-V tested in India by Dr. Reddy's Lab. The vaccine has been the only hope for the past many months as the coronavirus turns a year old. Currently, there are many vaccine candidates in the race including Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Oxford-AstraZeneca, Russia, and China. But, does everyone need to get vaccinated once the COVID-19 vaccine is available for mass use? Pfizer scientist says no. [➔ More On P2](#)



set about planning to vaccinate millions of fit and healthy people with a vaccine that hasn't been extensively tested on human subjects," Yeadon wrote for Lockdown Sceptics. In fact, the Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on Tuesday said that the Indian government has never spoken about vaccinating the entire country. "If we're able to vaccinate a critical mass of people & break virus transmission, then we may not have to vaccinate the entire population," ICMR DG Dr. Balram Bhargava added. "Govt has never spoken about vaccinating the entire country," says Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan. "If we're able to vaccinate a critical mass of people & break virus transmission, then we may not have to vaccinate the entire population," ICMR DG Dr. Balram Bhargava added. He further added, "Vaccination would depend on the efficacy of the vaccine & our purpose is to break the chain [➔ More On P2](#)

J&K Reports 6 More Covid-19 Deaths, Toll 1708

OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

SRINAGAR: Coronavirus claimed six more lives in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, raising the death toll due to virus related fatalities across the Union Territory to 1708. While Kashmir Valley witnessed three more deaths due to Covid-19, three other people succumbed to the deadly infection in Jammu division, officials said Wednesday. Among the three victims in the Valley, officials said, included a 60-year-old woman from Ganderbal, who died at SKIMS Soura, a fortnight after she was admitted to the tertiary care hospital. Besides her, officials said, an 80-year-old man from Chanapora [➔ More On P2](#)

452 New Cases Include 6 Security Men, 3 Minors

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Wednesday 452 fresh cases of novel coronavirus, including six security men, a doctor and 3 minors, taking the total number of people infected by the virus across the Union Territory to 11130. While Kashmir Valley reported 194 new cases of Covid-19 on Wednesday, the remaining 452 were detected from the Jammu division, officials said. Among those infected included 15 travelers, six security men, a doctor and 3 minors. Giving district wise break-up the officials said that Srinagar reported 81, Baramulla [➔ More On P2](#) 25,

Soldier Arrested Over 'Molestation' Charges In Uri

SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday arrested an army man for allegedly molesting a 36-year-old woman in Uri town of north Kashmir's Baramulla district. Hawaldar Parvaiz Hussain of 173 Territorial Army's engineering unit, presently attached with 18 MLI Bandi in Uri was arrested by police after allegations of molestation were made against him by a woman from Parapeelan village, reports said Wednesday. The accused is said to be a resident of Doda district. According to police, a case FIR No168/20 under sections 457, 376, 511 of IPC have been registered against the accused soldier and further investigations have been started in this regard.

HC Orders Release Of Shopian Youth Detained Under PSA

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court on Wednesday quashed detention order under Public Safety Act against a youth from Shopian and ordered authorities to release him forthwith from the preventive detention. A resident of Alaypora Shopian, the detainee, Waseem Ahmad Sheikh, had through his father Bashir Ahmad Sheikh filed the petition last year against the detention order passed by the deputy commissioner Shopian 10 August 2019. "The only precious and valuable right guaranteed to a (detainee) is of making an effective representation against the order of detention. Such an effective representation can only be made by a [➔ More On P2](#)

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