

03 Lawyers hold daylong protest demanding open entry in courts

09 Duel over land dispute; Man opens fire on elder brother

10 Halemaidan team wins volleyball tournament

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SECOND NAVRATRA

Maa Brahmcharini
Second incarnation of Maa Durga is called Brahmcharini, it comprises of two words, 'Brahm' which means meditation while 'Charini' stands for implementation of character of meditation. She is also called 'Uma'. She has got Kamandal (Vessel) in her left hand while 'Mala' (string of beads) in the right. Worshipper of this Devi gets power to resist and fight under all odds. Mantra for Goddess Brahmcharini to be recited nine times is :-
"Om Hreng Aing Bhagwati Brahmcharini Mum Sarvam Sarv Shatruv Vash Manay Thaa Thaa Swaha."
ॐ ह्रँ ऐं भगवती
ब्रह्मचारिणीं मम सर्वम् सर्वं
शत्रून् वश मानय ठा ठा स्वाहा

Modi cautions against complacency in COVID-19 fight

Directs full preparedness for vaccine distribution

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Calling for full preparedness to ensure speedy access to COVID-19 vaccines for every citizen, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday suggested developing a vaccine delivery system on the lines of conduct of polls and disaster management while involving all levels of government and citizen groups.
Chairing a meeting to review the COVID-19 pandemic situation and the preparedness of vaccine delivery, distribution, and administration, the prime minister also noted a steady decline in the daily cases and the growth rate. At the same time, he also cautioned against any complacency at the decline and called for keeping up the efforts to contain the pandemic.
He insisted on continued social distancing and COVID-appropriate behaviour such as wearing the mask, regularly washing hands and sanitation, especially in the wake of upcoming festival season.



The meeting was attended by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, Principal Secretary to PM, Member (Health) NITI Aayog, Principal Scientific Advisor, senior scientists, officers of PMO, and officials from various other departments.
In a statement, the PMO directed that we should not limit our efforts to our immediate neighbourhood but also reach out to the entire world in providing vaccines, medicines and IT platforms for vaccine delivery system.
National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC) in consultation with state governments and all relevant stakeholders have prepared and presented a detailed blueprint of vaccine storage, distribution, and administration.
The Expert Group, in consultation with states, is working actively on prioritisation and distribution of the vaccine.
Modi further directed that keeping in view the geographical span and diversity of the country, the access to the vaccine should be ensured speedily.
He stressed that every step in the logistics, delivery, and administration should be put in place rigorously.
"It must include advanced planning of cold storage chains, distribution network, monitoring

PR Act 1989 amended, JKUT to have elected DDCs

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Government on Saturday amended J&K Panchayati Raj Rules, 1996, to provide for establishment of elected District Development Councils (DDCs) in J&K. The move to have elected third tier of Panchayati Raj institution marks the implementation of the entire 73rd Amendment Act in J&K.
District Development Councils will comprise members directly elected



A view of the Holy Shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi on the commencement of Navratras on Saturday.

Man arrested after being on run for 12 years in Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Crime Branch of Jammu and Kashmir police on Saturday arrested a man who was on the run for the last 12 years in a case related to preparation of the multiple migrant relief cases for getting undue benefits, a spokesman of the investigation agency said.
Kanya Lal Mattas, originally hailing from central Kashmir's Budgam district, had gone underground about 12 years ago during trial of the FIR which was

Special prayers mark 1st Navratri at Mata Vaishno Devi

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A special prayer Shat Chandi Maha Yagya' marked the commencement of Navratri festival at the famous shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi atop Trikuta hills in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday. The prayer organised by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) commenced on the auspicious occasion amidst chanting of Vedic Mantras and performance of

other religious ceremonies, officials said.
The 'Maha Yagya', which is being performed at the holy cave shrine for peace, prosperity and health of humanity, will conclude with Purna Ahuti' on Mahanavami, they said. Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB, Ramesh Kumar and other officers of the Board and a large number of pilgrims were present on the occasion, officials said, adding the Maha Yagya would be telecast from 12.30 pm to 1.30 pm daily during the festival.
The shrine board has made elaborate arrangements for facilitating a large number of pilgrims who are expected to pay their obeisance at the sanctum sanctorum during the festival. The arrangements include ensuring round-the-clock water and power supply along the tracks leading to the shrine, sanitation and sanitisation, availability of special fasting food, among others, amid the coronavirus pandemic, they added.

Pak violates ceasefire along IB in Kathua; 5 live mortar shells destroyed in Poonch



STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Pakistan Rangers violated ceasefire overnight by resorting to unprovoked firing on forward posts and villages along the International Border (IB) in Kathua district of Jammu

and Kashmir, officials said on Saturday.
The firing in the Pansar-Manyari area started around 9.15 PM Friday and continued through the night, forcing the residents to take

ACB attaches properties worth crores of former CPO, JE in disproportionate assets cases

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Intensifying its investigations in two cases of disproportionate assets, the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Saturday attached properties worth crores belonging to Noor Mohammad Wani, the then Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Budgam and Tariq Ahmad Ganie, the then JE Housing Board, Bemina, Srinagar.
As per an official spokesperson, a case vide FIR No. 18/2019 was registered at Police Station ACB Srinagar against Noor

Mohammad Wani, the then Chief Planning Officer Budgam for accumulation of assets disproportionate to known source of income. During investigation, it was found that the suspect in his service has raised assets disproportionate to his known source of income. He was later arrested by ACB and searches were conducted at his residence during which various incriminating documents were seized. The land and building valued Rs 41 lakh was attached by ACB in the case. The market value of the assets is in crore, he

added.
He further informed that another case vide FIR No. 18/2020 was registered in Police Station ACB Srinagar against one Tariq Ahmad Ganie, JE Housing Board, Bemina, Srinagar on allegations that huge suspicious transactions have been made in his various bank accounts by contractors/beneficiaries which have been obtained by him in form of gratification/consideration pertaining to the various works of the department. "During the course of verification, it was revealed that Tariq Ahmad

Ganie, JE Housing Board holds various accounts in different branches of J&K Bank. As per salary statement provided by the Housing Board, from 1st January 2018 to 30th September, 2020, the accused JE has received a net payable amount of salary of Rs 10,08,892, which stands deposited in his salary account(s). However, it was found that in the same period, an amount of approximately Rs 3 crore 30 lakh was deposited in six accounts of accused JE through

Two illegally constructed houses sealed in Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu Development Authority (JDA) on Saturday sealed two illegally constructed houses here, a spokesperson said.
Located at Chowadhi area, both the houses were constructed without any valid building permission from the competent authority, the spokesperson said.
The sealing operation was undertaken on the directions of Vice Chairperson

Foreign LeT terrorist killed in Anantnag OWG arrested in Pulwama, terror hideout busted in Kishtwar

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: A foreign Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist, who was an IED expert, was killed in an encounter with security forces in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, police said.
Security forces launched a cordon-and-search operation in Larnoo area of Anantnag district, in south Kashmir, this morning following inputs about the presence of terrorists there, a police official said.

The official said that after the presence of the terrorist was ascertained, he was given an opportunity to surrender, but he fired indiscriminately on the search party, leading to an encounter.
In the gun-battle, the foreign terrorist was killed and his body retrieved from the site of the encounter, the official said.
He said the slain terrorist has been identified as Nasir alias Shakeel Saab alias Shak Bhai an A -category

terrorist and an IED expert affiliated with proscribed LeT outfit.
Incriminating materials including arms and ammunition were recovered from the site of the encounter, the official said, adding these items have been taken into the case records for further investigation and to probe his complicity in other terror crimes.
In this connection a case under relevant sections of law has been registered in Police Station Larnoo

Pulwama boy tops NEET exam from J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: A teenager from militancy-infested south Kashmir's Pulwama district has topped the NEET examination from the Union Territory despite internet connectivity issues in most parts of the valley since over a year.
Basit Bilal Khan (18) secured 695 marks out of 720 in the NEET exam, the result of which was declared on Friday. Khan, hailing from Ratnipora village in Pulwama, said while

J&K reports six more COVID-19 deaths, 610 fresh cases

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Six corona virus-related fatalities were reported in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, taking the death toll to 1,372, while 610 fresh cases pushed the infection tally in the Union Territory to 87,364, officials said.
Out of the 610 new cases, 247 were reported from Jammu and 363 from the Kashmir Valley, they said. Srinagar district reported the highest number of 129

India's COVID-19 infection tally crosses 74 lakh

NEW DELHI: India's COVID-19 caseload went past 74 lakh, while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease crossed 65 lakh pushing the recovery rate to 87.78 per cent, according to data updated by the Union Health Ministry on Saturday.
The coronavirus death toll climbed to 1,12,998 with the virus claiming 837 lives in a day, while the infection tally mounted to 74,32,680 with

'Who should be J&K CM' evokes interest, apprehensions

REPORT
JAMMU: STATE TIMES' discourse on 'J&K must have a Hindu Chief Minister! But who?' evoked overwhelming response for nearly a month from the esteemed members of the civil society, comprising intellectuals, veterans, retired bureaucrats, political analysts and above all the youth, mostly students. The active participation of the opinion leaders reflected Jammu's growing consciousness over the need for attaining political empowerment in the true democratic spirit of the world's largest democracy. The crux of the debate revolved around one single point- Jammu yearning for breaking the hegemony of Kashmir, which has ruled the roost over the then three regions of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh since past seven decades and more. As a matter of right, the Valley, in fact the majority community, has been clinching on the top political executive slot. A single aberration in 2005 witnessed a change from the tradition but again the choice remained restricted to an incumbent belonging to a particular religion. Is this democracy? Those crying hoarse over democracy being trampled in India, have never questioned the right of a particular religion and region enjoying privileges at the cost of the other regions and religions. And, once a finger is raised against this hegemony, liberals jump to silence the sanity by

termining the observation as communal. This is Kashmir style of democracy, which has no parallel across the country.
The so-called leaders have always put this important facet of democracy under the carpet for obvious reasons and for their vested interest. They have been getting overt and covert support of New Delhi in this undemocratic practice and tradition. However, post August 5, 2019 developments have changed the mindset. The people, especially those from Jammu, are realising that if the special status of Jammu and Kashmir could be reversed, why not the unhealthy and undemocratic practice of political empowerment of a particular region and religion.
Self-respect, magnanimity and sense of sacrifice have been core of the Jammu ethos. This is why they have allowed themselves to get exploited in the larger national interest. Their silence has been taken as their weakness. For this, the factotums of Jammu are hugely responsible. They have brought disrepute to the Jammu pride by voluntarily playing the second-fiddle role to their Kashmiri masters. But enough is enough. The people of Jammu have made it clear that they are not going to take exploitation, deprivation and humiliation to their stride. They have spoken their heart. They have spelt out their choice. They want a change. They want Jammu to be an equal partner in the political power. This time around they want a Chief Minister from the Jammu region. Most of them want the incumbent to be a Hindu-not

because of BJP but on the basis of experience gained over a period of time-73 years precisely.
In their pursuit to gain political empowerment by being equal shareholders in the statecraft, Jammu choice has, by and large, been restricted to four politicians-Sham Lal Sharma of BJP, Devender Singh Rana of National Conference, Dr Jitendra Singh and Ashok Kaul, both belonging to the right wing BJP.
This is what the people of Jammu voiced in their posts for over a month. But what remains the ground reality is totally against what the opinion leaders have zeroed in. Though Sham Lal Sharma has emerged as the favorite yet his chances are restricted because of being a non-Swayamsevaki and an erstwhile Congressman.
The BJP has a history of breaking the leaders of other parties but not owning them up vehemently. Sham Lal Sharma remains an outsider despite being an insider for about two years now. This follows Devender Singh Rana, a vocal National Conference leader. He is being construed as a right politician in the wrong party because of the erratic and provocative statements of Abdullahs, who find China a Messiah after cradling Pakistan for over seventy years. Dr Jitendra Singh runs parallel in the race but his disconnect with the party workers at the grass roots level and non-accessibility emerges a major bottleneck in the ladder of power.

HAPPY Navratras

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