

## 03 CJ visits Kulgam, inspects under construction New District Court Complex

## 03 Why not part-time private practice be allowed to all Government employees like it is allowed to doctors?

## 08 Azad meets Akhilesh, offers condolences on demise of Mulayam Singh Yadav

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# Govt working on preserving, reviving J&K's culture, folk traditions: LG



LG Manoj Sinha speaking after inauguration of "Jashn-e-Kashmir"- New Kashmir New Hope, a three-week long cultural festival at Srinagar on Tuesday.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that the government is working out a roadmap for preserving and reviving the culture and folk traditions of Jammu and Kashmir.

"After a long pause, we are witnessing cultural revival in J&K", Sinha said while inaugurating "Jashn-e-Kashmir"- New Kashmir New Hope, a three-week long cultural festival celebrating tradition,

culture and heritage here, adding that several schemes for promoting folk arts, literature and visual arts have been prepared to give a new impetus to art and culture.

The Cultural Festival is being organized by All J&K Folk Artists Association, Shah Qalander Folk Theatre, in collaboration with J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, and the Office of Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir.

Congratulating everyone

associated with the cultural festival, the Lt Governor said, "Our unique diversity is our pride and our biggest strength. Such festivals will encourage artistes, artisans and craftsmen to promote the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat".

We have taken steps to reconnect youth to their roots and provide an environment and a forum to folk artistes, visual artistes and authors to showcase our shared goals and values,

observed the Lt Governor.

Schemes like 'Guru Shishya Parampara' to pass on the valued traditions of Jammu Kashmir to the coming generations; preservation of folklore, UT writers camp, national theatre festivals, inter-state cultural exchange programmes, international visits and cultural events in far flung areas will strengthen our traditional cultural richness, informed the Lt Governor.

Our artistes are reflection of social values, social progress and the administration is fully committed for their welfare, said the Lt Governor.

We are aware of the difficulties being faced by many such senior artistes, writers who are not active today due to ill health and the hardships of the families of those artistes who are not with us anymore. The Government will ensure such artistes, writers or their

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Ranking of Public Health facilities released on JK e-Sahaj

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir National Health Mission on Tuesday released ranking of public health facilities on Hospital Management Information System titled 'JK e-Sahaj', an electronic system for automation of hospital administration in different types of facilities including tertiary care, District Hospitals, Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres and some new type of PHCs.

In first phase of implementation 585 facilities have been covered under this initiative and will be further extended to other facilities in a phased manner. JK E-Sahaj has been integrated with Rapid Assessment System (RAS) and 104 Centralized Health Helpline for outbound calling.

In the category of Associated Hospitals of Government Medical Colleges, the first rank has been clinched by Psychiatric Disease Hospital,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



Solar eclipse witnessed in Jammu from Tawi bridge on Tuesday.

(Pic by:- Shilpa Thakur)

# Partial solar eclipse seen in parts of India

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**NEW DELHI:** Astronomy enthusiasts turned their gaze towards the sun as the moon started to cover the solar disc as a partial solar eclipse began on Tuesday.

The partial solar eclipse is being observed in several parts of the country with Srinagar witnessing the maximum obscuration of the solar disc at 55 per cent.

The first contact, where in the moon begins to cover the solar disc, happened at 4:29 pm in Delhi, where the moon was expected to cover 43 per cent of the solar disc.

Since the eclipse is taking place in the evening, the ending of the celestial phenomenon will not be visible as it would take place after sunset.

"A solar eclipse occurs on a

new moon day when the Moon comes in between the Earth and the Sun and when all the three objects are aligned. A partial solar eclipse will occur when the lunar disk covers the solar disk partially," an official said.

Government officials cautioned that eclipsed sun should not be viewed with

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## WhatsApp back after nearly 2-hr outage

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**NEW DELHI:** WhatsApp services were restored following a nearly two-hour-long global outage on Tuesday that left users from the UK to India complaining about not being able to send or receive text and video messages.

Meta, which owns the popular messaging app, said it has fixed the outage - dubbed as one of its longest - and the service was back.

It, however, did not explain what caused the glitch.

According to

DownDetector, which tracks outage reports, the messaging app was not working for many users across multiple regions.

WhatsApp Web, the app's web version, used by many on their desktops and laptops, was also hit by the outage.

"We know people had trouble sending messages on WhatsApp today. We've fixed the issue and apologise for any inconvenience," a Meta company spokesperson said. Meta, previously known

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

# HC directs to withdraw powers under Agrarian Reforms Act from Addl DC Rajouri

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**JAMMU:** Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court while taking serious note, directed the Financial Commissioner Revenue/Commissioner, Agrarian Reforms of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir to withdraw powers of the Commissioner under the Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976 and as the Collector under the Land Revenue Act, 1996 from the official presently posted as Additional Deputy

Commissioner, Rajouri with immediate effect till further orders of the Court. This significant order was passed by Justice Rahul Bharti while hearing a petition seeking quashment of order dated 20/08/2022 passed by the respondent no. 2 in File No. RD0050000016349, RD0050000016350 in appeal case titled 'Mohd Sharief & Others Vs Mohd Bashir & Ors' and also seeking restoration of the mutation no. 94 dated 21/09/1980 under Section 4 of the J&K

Agrarian Reforms Act and Mutation No. 103 dated 22/02/1981 under Section 8 of the Agrarian Reforms Act.

Justice Rahul Bharti after hearing both the sides observed that Mutation no. 94 dated 21.09.1980 under section 4 followed by mutation no. 103 dated 21.02.1981 attested under the Agrarian Reforms Act, 1976 with respect to khasra no. 191/144 (3 kanal) of village Karyote, tehsil Thanamandi, district Rajouri was attested in

favour of Mohd Shafi, the father of the petitioners. The two mutations came to be challenged in January, 2021 by successors-in-interest of Late Mangtu before Additional Deputy Commissioner/Collector (with powers of Commissioner Agrarian Reforms) Rajouri, who by one page order has come to set aside the said two mutations.

Court further observed that Ex-facie the order is bad,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Rishi Sunak takes charge as first Indian-origin UK PM

### ■ AGENCY

**LONDON:** Rishi Sunak on Tuesday took charge as Britain's first Indian-origin Prime Minister with a promise to put the crisis-hit country's needs "above politics" and "fix the mistakes" made by his predecessor, a day after he was elected the leader of the Conservative Party in a historic leadership run.

The 42-year-old investment banker-turned politician is the youngest British prime minister in 210 years. He is also Britain's first Hindu Prime Minister.

In his first address at the doorstep of 10



■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## 'Ram temple to open for devotees in Jan 2024'


### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**AYODHYA (UP):** The Ram temple here will be open to devotees in January 2024 after the installation of idols of Ram Lalla, said a member of the trust set up to oversee the construction of the shrine. Shri Ram Jannabhooni Teerth Khestra on Tuesday said 50 per cent of the construction work of the temple has been completed and the overall progress is satisfactory.

The temple will be opened to devotees in January 2024 after the installation of idols of Ram Lalla in the sanctum sanctorum of the shrine on the festival of Makar Sankranti, said trust general secretary Champat Rai.

He said the ground floor of the temple will be ready by December next year and around January 14, 2024, idols of Lord Ram will be installed.

"An estimated Rs 1,800 crore will be spent on building the Ram temple," Rai said, adding that space will be made for idols of prominent Hindu seers.



**WEATHER**

**Temperature (Jammu)**

Max: 29.6°C Min: 13.4°C

**Humidity**

Max : 72 Min : 58

**Temperature (Srinagar)**

Max: 21.4°C Min: 4.8°C

**Humidity**

Max : 89 Min: 56

Sunset : 17:49 Hours

Sunrise : 06:43 Hours

# India's democracy far better than any other country's: Dr Jitendra

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**NEW DELHI:** Union minister Jitendra Singh on Tuesday took a dig at PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti for using the elevation of Rishi Sunak as Britain's prime minister to lament alleged divisiveness in India, saying that India's democracy is far better than that of any other country in the world.

The Minister of State for Personnel, without naming anybody, questioned the mindset which is "possibly motivated by reluctance to accept the fact that Jammu and Kashmir is part of India".

"Anybody who is familiar

with the history of independent India and the history of Indian democracy would have no doubt that democracy in India is far better than any other country's in the world," Singh told reporters here.

For example, India has witnessed more than one presidents either from the minority or from the weaker sections, he said.

"I am proud to say that during the Vajpayee regime, we had APJ Abdul Kalam as the President of India. After Prime Minister Modi took over, we had Ram Nath Kovind and now we have (Droupadi) Murmu.

"Incidentally, all of them are either from the minority section or from the weaker section, and if you think Jammu and Kashmir is also part of India, I think everybody would accept that the President (of India) is also the President for Jammu and Kashmir," the minister said.

"But what worries me is that the mindset which articulates such kind of phrases and such kind of observations is possibly motivated by reluctance to accept the fact that Jammu and Kashmir is part of India," said Singh, who is a Lok Sabha

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Hurriyat 'dove' Maulana Abbas Ansari passes away

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**SRINAGAR:** Former chairman of the Hurriyat Conference and influential Shia leader Maulana Abbas Ansari, considered a dove among the separatist hawks, died here on Tuesday. He was 86.

"Maulana (Ansari) breathed his last at his Nawakadal residence in the old city on Tuesday morning," a relative of the deceased leader said.

He said Ansari was not keeping well for the past couple of months and was hospitalized for some time in September. Ansari was the last chairman of the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

# India never considered war first option but last resort: Modi

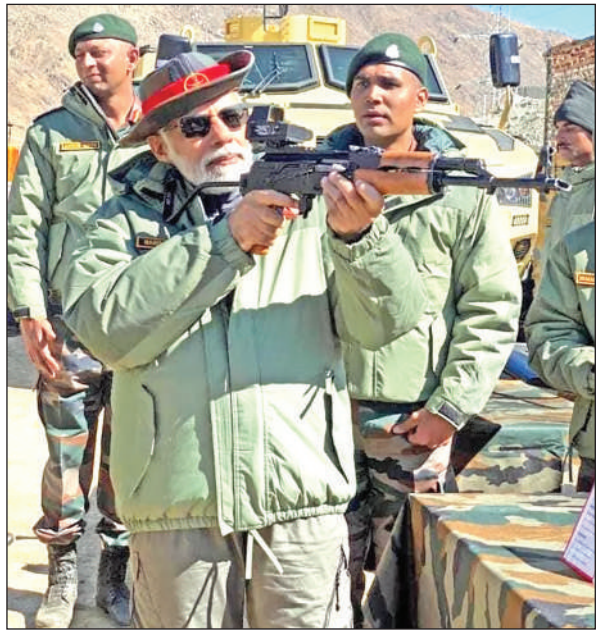
### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**KARGIL:** India has always viewed war as the last resort, but the armed forces have the strength and strategies to give a befitting reply to anyone who casts an evil eye on the nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday.

Addressing the armed forces here on Deepavali, the Prime Minister also recalled his visit to this frontier region in the aftermath of the Kargil conflict in 1999 when the Indian military had "crushed the hood of terror".

"There has not been a single war with Pakistan when Kargil has not flown the victory flag," he said adding that Deepavali symbolised the "celebration of the end of terror".

"I have witnessed the



PM Narendra Modi in Kargil during of Diwali celebration with Armed Forces on Monday.

Kargil war closely. It was my duty that had brought me to Kargil back then. There are many memories of that time when the sounds of victory were reverberating all around," Modi said, continuing with the tradition set by him to celebrate Deepavali at the country's frontiers.

"In Kargil, our armed forces had crushed the hood of terror and people still remember the Diwali that was celebrated back then," he said.


He said over the last eight years, the government has worked on implementing reforms in the armed forces by deploying new technologies, developing infrastructure in border areas and opening up positions for women in the forces.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

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