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19 BJP restored Himachal's image as UU corruption-free State: Dr Jitendra

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

Heading off winter heart attacks, need for focus & attention: Dr Sushil

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Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

Buds & Budgies find new home at JKPS Kunjwani campus

Time to leave behind old challenges, avail benefit Bridging gap between peoples' expectations, from new possibilities: Modi to J&K youth Praises LG Manoj Sinha, his team for working hard to end corruption

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday described Jammu and Kashmir as the pride of every Indian, and said that it is time to leave behind the old challenges and take full benefit of new possibilities.

Addressing the Jammu and Kashmir Rozgar Mela through video conferencing, he also said that there is a need to work with a new approach and new thinking for fast-paced development.

"We are committed to taking benefits of development equally to all sections and citizens," Modi said.

"Jammu and Kashmir is the pride of every Indian. Together we have to take Jammu and Kashmir to new heights," he said. "This decade of the 21st century is the most important decade in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. Now is the time to leave the old challenges



PM Narendra Modi addressing Jammu & Kashmir Rozgar Mela via video message in New Delhi on Sunday.

tage of the new possibilities.' Modi congratulated 3,000 young people who received appointment letters to work in the government in 20 different places in Jammu and Kashmir. These youngsters will get opportunities to serve in various departments like the PWD, health depart-

ations in Jammu and

Kashmir on 'leave and

licence' basis for a period of

three years -- January 16,

2023 to January 16, 2026,

Officials said the helicop-

ters will be integrated in the

'disaster management plan

(DMP)' and 'emergency

officials said.

ment, food and civil supplies department, animal husbandry, Jal Shakti, and education-culture, he added.

The Prime Minister further said that preparations are in full swing to hand out more than 700 appointment letters in other departments in the

LG hands-over appointment letters; expresses gratitude to PM Exams that were cancelled will be held soon

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying under his guidance J&K's youth is scripting new history in different sectors and contributing to the national progress.

"Grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for addressing Jammu Kashmir Rozgar Mela and blessing 3000 youths who have received appointment letters", Sinha said after the Prime Minister addressed the Jammu & Kashmir Rozgar Mela via video message organized at KICC, Srinagar.

Terming Good Governance as commitment to serve people and work for prosperity and welfare of the poorest of the poor, the Lt Governor said, I am confident the new appointees will play the vital role of reinforcing our values in public service and serve the people with honesty, absolute integrity and truthfulness.

During the ceremony, the Lt Governor handed over appointment letters to the talented youth of J&K. A total of 3000 appointment letters shall be distributed **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

Referring to a record increase in the number of tourists visiting Jammu and Kashmir, the prime minister said the tourism sector in the state received a boost due to

ments and increased connectivity.

"It is our endeavour that the benefits of government schemes reach every section of society without any

Govt delivery mechanism: LG

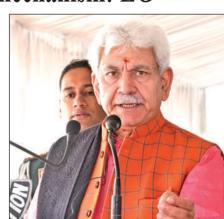
BUDGAM: Saying that flourishing corruption in service delivery for decades had widened the gap between peoples' expectations and implementation, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday asserted that it is our utmost duty, our ultimate responsibility to bridge the gaps between public expectations and government delivery

"We are determined to bring transparency, accountability and inclusiveness in the governance system to meet the people's aspirations, the Lt Governor said while addressing an event in connection with the ongoing Back to Village programme at Sheikhpura area of Budgam district.

He said: "With deliverables reaching the doorsteps of the people, every officer, common citizen and public representatives who are the driving forces of good governance must turn this Back to Village initiative into an opportunity for economic development and social change of rural J&K".

Back to Village is the government's endeavour to realize the vision of Gram Swaraj, and facilitate communication, cooperation and coordination between government and the people, said the Lt Governor.

More than 25,000 officers are making field visits across the UT to receive feedback from



LG Manoj Sinha addressing during Back to Village event at Budgam's Sheikhpora on Sunday.

mented by the government. The Visiting Officers will ensure 100 per cent saturation of welfare schemes and achieve the targets of self-employment and skill development, he

Progress and prosperity of common man, doorstep delivery of government services and establishing peace are the priorities of the government, observed the Lt Governor.

"This spirit of Back to Village should be nurtured and further strengthened in our culture to make Jammu Kashmir a living exam-

J&K Police set to hire helicopters for next 3 years, tender floated

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Police has invited bids from registered aviation companies for renting helicopters to ensure faster mobility of its force, officials said on Sunday.

Flight operations are required for carrying police officers and central armed paramilitary force (CAPF) officials in all sectors of J-K. as well as for other emergent purpose, they said.

The police floated the tender on Saturday and sought bids from registered aviation companies having a fleet of minimum three airworthy light helicopters for its oper-

Drone-dropped weapons recovered along IB in Jammu; 2 arrested **STATE TIMES NEWS** SFs launch search

JAMMU: Police have recov-

ered a consignment of weapons dropped from a drone along the International Border (IB) in RS Pura Sector and arrested two people here, an official said on Sunday. consignment com-

response plan (ERP)' being prepared by the police. prised four pistols, eight "All the helicopters at magazines and 47 rounds, he Srinagar and Jammu heli-

pad will be integrated into This is the fourth dronethe ERP," officials said. dropped consignment seized The operations will be carby the Jammu Police this ried out daily with least

inconvenience to the police "On the intervening night of October 27 and 28, suspicious movement of a drone ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



Weapons recovered along IB at R S Pura

was observed in the general area of Baspur Bangla area in R S Pura. Since it is close to the border fence, all police stations and a dedicated officer-led team were put on the

Additional Director General of Police Mukesh Singh said.

Based on technical surveillance and analysis, two

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

ation in areas along the International Border in Samba district after some villagers informed them about a suspected drone movement, officials said on Sunday. The search operation by the Central Reserve Police Force and Special Operations Group along with the police was launched in Pullian, Nursery and Checkdayala belt on Saturday night, they said. A fresh search was held on

ops in Samba

JAMMU: Police and security

forces launched a search oper-

against predatory Chinese lending apps STATE TIMES NEWS illegal digital lending apps NEW DELHI: The Union

MHA asks States, UTs to take urgent action

Home Ministry has sought urgent strict action by law enforcement agencies against predatory lending apps as harassment, blackmail and harsh recovery practices by such Chinesecontrolled entities have led to multiple incidents of sui-

In a communication to all states and Union territories. the home ministry said the issue has caused a serious impact on national security, economy and citizen safety.

It said a large number of complaints have been reported across India related to that provide short-term loans or micro-credits at exorbitant interest rates with processing or hidden charges, especially to vulnerable and low-income group people.

The lenders use the borrowers' confidential personal data like contacts, location, photos and videos for blackmail and harassment. "Harsh recovery practices

followed by these illegal lending apps have claimed many lives across India.

"This issue has caused a serious impact on national security, economy and citizen

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Minibus catches fire in Rajouri, passengers safely evacuated STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Passengers of a minibus had a narrow escape after it caught fire in Rajouri district on Sunday, officials

The minibus, which was on its way from Jammu to Raiouri, suddenly caught fire on the Jammu-Poonch highway near the Kappa Galla area, they said. The officials said the driver of

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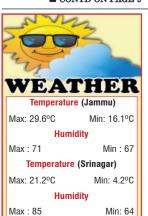
Total lunar eclipse on November 8

STATE TIMES NEWS

KOLKATA: A fortnight after the partial solar eclipse, Kolkata as well as other parts of India and the globe will witness a total lunar eclipse on November 8, an eminent astrophysicist said.

Besides India and neigh-Afghanistan and parts of Russia, residents of other parts of Asia, North

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Sunset: 17:44 Hours

Sunrise: 06:47 Hours

At least 60 dead as century-old suspension bridge collapses 4 days after it was reopened witness said. The bridge may

STATE TIMES NEWS MORBI: At least 60 people,

subject to fair weather

many of them women and children, died after a century-old suspension bridge on the Machchhu river in Gujarat's Morbi city collapsed on Sunday evening, officials said.

The bridge, which reopened four days ago after extensive repairs and renovation, was crammed with people when it collapsed around 6.30 pm, officials said.

"At least 60 persons have died in the tragedy," Gujarat minister Brijesh Merja told



were several women and children on the British era "hanging bridge" when it snapped, plunging them into

Some people were seen jumping on the bridge and have collapsed due to the "huge crowd" on it, he added. People fell over each other when the bridge collapsed, he

"I had come to the river bank along with friends after my office hours when we heard the sound of the bridge snapping. We rushed there and jumped into the water to save people," an eyewitness

"We rescued some children and women," he said.

A man who was injured in the incident, said the collapse was sudden and may

Sunday, a police officer said. Era of backdoor appointments has ended: CS

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Saying that creation of new vacancies in the government departments is in progress, Chief Secretary Dr Arun Mehta Kumar Mehta on Sunday observed the priority is to ensure transparent recruitment process and filling up of these appointments is being done with full transparency in a fast track manner.

"Our priority is to ensure that not a single person is favoured in terms of securing government jobs", the Chief Secretary said while speaking at a ceremonial function held on account of Rozgar



CS Dr Arun Mehta Kumar handing-over appointment lette to a candidate selected by JKSSB.

Mela at Convention Centre Jammu, adding that the era of backdoor appointments into government jobs has

He handed over appointment letters to the candidates selected by the J&K Services Selection Board.

CAA focused law, doesn't encourage illegal migration or influx of foreigners: Centre to SC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS NEW DELHI: The Centre

on Sunday urged the Supreme Court to dismiss pleas challenging the validity Citizenship

(Amendment) Act (CAA), stressing that the law does not encourage "illegal migration" in Assam or any future influx of foreigners in the country.

It also vehemently defended the exclusion of certain areas Assam and other Northeastern states from the application of the CAA, saying it has been done to "protect the ethnic/linguistic rights" of the natives and this was "not discriminatory".

It is a "focused law" that grants citizenship only to members of six specified communities who came on or before December 31, 2014 and does not affect the legal, democratic or secular rights of any Indian, the Ministry of Home Affairs said in a detailed 150-page affidavit.

Also, the existing regime for obtaining citizenship by foreigners of any country continues to be untouched by the present law and they remain the same, it said ahead of the hearing of petitions on the contentious CAA that had sparked protests in various parts of the country in late 2019 and early 2020over alleged discriminatory provisions.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit and justices S Ravindra Bhat and Bela M Trivedi is

232 petitions, mostly PILs, on October 31 on the issue of CAA.

scheduled to hear as many as

The affidavit said that the law is "narrowly tailored" and only those migrants "belonging to the six specified communities from the three countries who had entered into India on or before December 31, 2014 will be covered by the provisions of this Amendment Act."

"These migrants already living in India. The Amendment Act does not have any provision which provides for the grant of citizenship to such migrants who would have come after December 31, till date or on any future date. It is

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: BJP National General Secretary and Incharge J&K party unit Tarun Chugh on Sunday

PM Narendra Modi's 'Sab Ka Sath, Sab Ka Vikas & Sab Ka Vishwas' initiative. The BJP leader was speaking to reporters at party headquarters here in Srinagar where several party leaders and workers

had assembled to listen to PM Modi's Mann Ki Baat. BJPNational General secretary claimed that J&K has emerged "hub of tourism" due to PM Modi's people friendly initiatives. "Sab Ka Sath, Sab

Ka Vikas & Sab Ka



PM Modi's 'Sab Ka Sath, Sab Ka Vikas, Sab Ka

Vishwas made Jammu and Kashmir hub of tourism. This season Kashmir witnessed record tourist footfall that led to the economical boost in the region and provided bulk of opportunities to unemployed youth who had been exploited brutally by the past government for cheap political

Tarun gains' asserted.

While praising PM Modi's efforts for bringing normalcy back to Kashmir, the BJP leader said "The regional political parties had made Article 370 as a shield to hide their wrongdoings they committed in past seven decades, howevfrom the clutches of Article 370 & 35(A) on August 5, 2019 and provided an atmosphere to suppressed people to taste the essence of democracy at grassroots level", the BJP leader said. He said Prime Minister

Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat program on air was meant to apprise countrymen about the achievements BJP government did and the initiatives taken up for the upliftment of every section of the society. He added, "I'm very much

glad today to see that large number of people in Srinagar are listening Mann Ki Baat with curiosity who have pinned hope on the leadership of PM Modi.