

# Traditional Dussehra rituals held at Amar Mahal Palace

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: On the auspicious occasion and festival of Vijayadashami, the traditional Dussehra rituals of Shastra Puja (weapon worship) and Singhasan Puja (royal throne) were performed at the historic Amar Mahal Palace in Jammu city by members of the erstwhile Dogra Royal Family of Jammu & Kashmir.

The traditional ceremonies and puja were performed by Maharaj Kumar Ajatshatru Singh, a former MLC and Minister along with Rajkumar Martand Singh, Trustee of the Amar Mahal Palace. The Amar Mahal Palace was seen elegantly decorated with lights and flowers to mark and celebrate the festival of Vijayadashami and Dussehra.

These age-old rituals are steeped in cultural significance and are conducted with utmost reverence and precision. They symbolize the eternal struggle between good and evil, embodying the victory of righteousness and the celebration of strength and valor. Each year, as these rituals unfold, they serve as a poignant reminder of the virtues that Dussehra represents, reminding partici-



Ajatshatru Singh, former MLC along with Martand Singh, Trustee of Amar Mahal Palace performing Pooja.

pants and onlookers alike of the importance of moral integrity and ethical conduct in daily life.

The Royal Family's commitment to carrying out these rituals not only honors the customs of the past but also reinforces their dedication to preserving Jammu's rich cultural heritage and dogra traditions. By continuing to engage in these traditional practices, they ensure that the values and teachings associated with Dussehra are

kept alive and imparted to future generations. This dedication fosters a deep appreciation for the region's history and traditions, encouraging younger members of society to embrace and uphold these important cultural practices. As the community comes together to observe these rituals, they collectively participate in the timeless narrative of the triumph of good over evil, thus strengthening their bonds and shared identity.

# We need to bring change if quota demands are not met, Jarange tells supporters

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

BEED: Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange on Saturday said there will be need to change the government if their demands are not met.

Assembly polls are likely to take place in Maharashtra next month. The term of the current assembly ends on November 26.

Addressing a rally on the occasion of Vijayadashami, also known as Dussehra, at Narayangad in Beed, Jarange alleged a conspiracy is being hatched against the community and that it was being targeted.

"If we don't get justice for your children, for your community, for farmers, (then) we need to bring in change," Jarange said though he did not spell out his future course of action.

He warned the government to address the issues of all communities before the model code of conduct for the assembly polls comes into force. Jarange said the demand for reservation has been pending for last 14 months, adding not a single demand has been met so far.

"Our demand is that poor Marathas be given reservations. Every caste has taken benefits of Central and state facilities. Some

claimed by giving quota it will hurt the reservation of others," Jarange said.

Conspiracies are being hatched to finish him and he is cornered from all sides, Jarange alleged.

Jarange is very popular among the Marathas, especially in Marathwada, a region known for its backwardness and a high suicide rate of farmers. He has been seeking reservation for Marathas by asking the government to include the community in the OBC segment.

The state government, however, has given separate 10 per cent reservation by bringing in a law in February.

In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, he had given a call to his supporters not to vote for "those who acted against getting reservation to their community", a reference to the BJP and its allies. This resulted in caste polarisation in the region and the BJP-led NDA lost all its seats except Aurangabad.

"One must rebel against injustice. There is a need for an uprising. What sin have we committed that our community only got injustice," he asserted. He urged his supporters to be patient because the community and farmers are on their path to victory.

# Pankaja Munde promises to take cognisance if Dalits, OBCs are 'troubled'

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

CHHATRAPATI SAMBAHAJINAGAR: Ahead of Maharashtra assembly polls, BJP leader Pankaja Munde on Saturday reached out to Dalits and Other Backward Classes (OBC), vowing to take cognisance if they are "troubled".

Munde, who lost the Lok Sabha polls on her home turf Beed district, the epicentre of Maratha protests led by activist Manoj Jarange, was addressing her annual Dussehra rally at Sawargaon Ghat, the birthplace of Sant Bhagwanbaba, a saint of her Vanjari community.

State agriculture minister and her cousin Dhananjay Munde and Laxman Hake, who had protested opposing any potential dilution of the OBC reservation, were among those who spoke at the rally.

Munde expressed her concerns over the growing caste schism within society.

"If a vehicle hits someone, people ask the caste of the driver. People want to know the caste of a person who has committed brutality against a small child and killed her. We don't want such a society," she said.

The BJP national secretary warned that they would take cognisance if the poor, Dalits, OBCs and others are "troubled" in the state.

Munde said she inherited the legacy of her father and late BJP stalwart Gopinath Munde and thanked people for giving her respect despite her electoral setback.

"To reciprocate for the respect I received, I will tour the state. The poor are waiting for good days by keeping their faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. Now, we must play our cards," she said.

She also appealed to labourers from her area involved in the sugar industry not to leave for work before casting their votes. Sugarcane cutting season starts in October in Maharashtra.

Elections to the 288-member state assembly will likely be held in November. BJP is a partner in the ruling Mahayuti coalition, also comprising Ajit Pawar-led NCP and Shiv Sena headed by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

"I never discriminated between the villages that voted for me and those that

didn't during fund allocation. A mistake happened this time (in Lok Sabha polls), but we want to overcome that failure," said the former state minister.

Referring to the Lok Sabha polls in Beed, where she lost to Congress' Bajrang Sonawane by about 6,500 votes, Munde said, "I'm not desperate for a post. Five persons lost their lives (by suicide) before I became an MLC. Even though I don't hold any post, I will not abandon those who have supported me."

NCP leader Dhananjay Munde said Gopinath Munde and Pankaja Munde struggled for the people, not for themselves. "Today, people from all communities are here. The crowd here today shows that we are all united," he said. Without taking the name of Jarange, who incidentally held a Dussehra rally at Narayangad in Beed district, he appealed to people to stay united. "If we unite, no one can organise another such event in this area and undermine Pankaja Munde's annual Dussehra rally. This is the time for struggle and we need to stand with each other," he added.

# Injustice to Karnataka in tax devolution, will fight it out: D K Shivakumar

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

BENGALURU: Alleging that the Centre has done injustice by allocating less funds to Karnataka in the tax devolution, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday said that the Congress government in the state would fight it out.

Shivakumar, also the state Congress chief, attacked BJP MPs and union ministers from the state for remaining silent on the issue and termed it "shameful."

"Injustice has happened to Karnataka. They have given more to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. We were given less than even Andhra Pradesh, which doesn't contribute much in tax. We will fight and protest this in the days ahead," Shivakumar said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said, "We will formulate a programme to fight for - our tax, our right."

"Why have BJP MPs and Central ministers not raise their voices? Despite having five Central ministers from the state, including Finance



Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, they remain silent even though injustice is happening to the state. This is shameful," he said.

When pointed to the BJP's reported defence that the population of the states being used as a criterion for devolution of taxes and comparison to the figures related to the Manmohan Singh-led UPA tenure, Shivakumar said, "Let's discuss all those in the Assembly...let them join the protest with us for now."

The union government on Thursday released tax devolution of Rs 1,78,173 crore to the state governments, including one advance instalment of Rs 89,086.50 crore in addition to the regular instalment due for October 2024.

Karnataka got Rs 6,498 crore in the state-wise distribution of net proceeds of union taxes and duties for October 2024.

Responding to a question on the opposition's criticism of the term "evil forces" as used in the state government's advertisements, Shivakumar said, "Based on what we have seen and the information we have, we have tried to express our feelings to the people. I can only say this much now. Let's discuss the rest in the Assembly."

The government's Dasara advertisement in newspapers on Friday read, "May goddess Chamundeshwari bestow upon us the strength to bring peace and prosperity to the people of Karnataka and courage to slay the evil forces that try to destabilize the state with deviousness and deceit."

The advertisement was seen as a dig at the opposition BJP and JD(S), which are targeting Chief Minister Siddaramaiah over the MUDA scam and demanding his resignation.

# Balalore repeated as data-logger video shows train changed track before collision in TN: Experts

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: A day after a passenger train ramed into a stationary freight train near Chennai, experts and union leaders said according to the data-logger video, the Mysuru-Darbhanga Express train was given a green signal to pass through the main line, however, it entered a loop line already occupied by the freight train.

Train number 12578, Mysuru-Darbhanga Bagmati Express, collided with the stationary goods train at the Kavaraipettai railway station in the Chennai rail division in Tamil Nadu at around 8:30 pm on Friday, leading to injuries to nine passengers.

The data logger is a device placed in the station area to capture train movements and signal aspects, among other things.

This data logger's yard-simulation video has been circulated among senior railway officials' WhatsApp groups since Saturday morning, prompting them to draw

a parallel between the accident and the Balalore train collision of June 2, 2023.

When contacted, the chief public relations officer (CPRO) of the Southern Railway said he is not aware of any such video and that multiple investigations have already been initiated into the collision.

In a press statement released late on Friday, the Railway Board also admitted that the passenger train was given a green signal for the main line but it experienced a jerk and entered the loop line, resulting in the collision with the freight train. A high-level enquiry has been ordered into the incident.

The board said on Saturday that the commissioner of railway safety will conduct a detailed investigation as he visited the accident site in the morning.

In Balalore, the Howrah-bound Coromandel Express was given a green signal for the main line. However, due to the wrong interlocking of

tracks, it entered a loop line and collided with a stationary goods train.

"Based on the information available in the public domain, it appears that this collision almost repeats the Balalore train collision of June 2, 2023. The railways should take a serious approach to remove the anomalies in the signalling system," R Kumaresan, president, All India Loco Running Staff Association (ALLRSA), Southern Railway, said.

According to safety experts, in an automatic-signalling system, the signal aspect follows the interlocking of tracks. It means if the signal is green for the main line, the interlocking will automatically be set in such a way that the train comes on the main line.

"The lack of coordination between signal aspect and interlocking happens due to some fault in the signalling system. Prime facie, it appears to be some kind of a

technical glitch," a safety expert said, requesting anonymity.

Sanjay Pandhi, the working president of the Indian Railway Loco Runningmen's Organisation (IRLRO), expressed surprise as according to him, all previous trains passed through the said station "without any abnormalities in the signalling and interlocking system".

"In Balalore, the collision happened soon after the signal-repair work was over. Contrary to that, there was no such thing reported at the Kavaraipettai railway station and train operations were normal.

"So it appears that some malfunction, which could be corrosion of mechanical equipment etc., might have happened, leading to a coordination break of signal and interlocking," Pandhi said.

K P Arya, who retired as the chief signal and telecom engineer/information technology in the Northern Railway, said, "The data log-

ger's yard-simulation video shows that the train concerned is going on both the main line as well as the loop line, which is not possible."

"So there is a possibility that the train might have derailed at the interlocking point and while the engine and some coaches headed towards the loop line and collided with the freight train, the remaining coaches scattered all around, infringing the main line as well," he added.

Arya said it is a widely-known (but never officially acknowledged) engineering defect of tracks and interlocking-point mechanisms, which can cause such a derailment.

"I have gone on highlighting this aspect during my various tenures to the Railway Board as well as to the commissioner of railway safety," he said.

The experts said a clear picture would only emerge after a thorough investigation, which is already on.

# Notification issued for CBI probe into Assam online trading scam

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

GUWAHATI: The Centre has asked the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe 41 cases linked to a multi-crore online trading scam in Assam.

A notification in this connection was issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions on Friday and shared by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) on X on Saturday.

It states, "the powers and jurisdiction of the members of the Delhi Special Police Establishment has been extended throughout the state of Assam for the inves-

tigation of offences under relevant sections of IPC/BNS and other Acts as mentioned in the FIRs and any other law related to the 41 police cases, which are registered at various police stations in Assam concerning unregulated deposits involving fraudulent transactions and trading of large sums of money".

The CMO also noted that the state government, under Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, has assured full cooperation to the CBI for a swift probe into these cases.

The scam came to light in

the last week of August when people who had invested substantial amounts in a company owned by one Deepankar Barman, who is currently absconding, complained that he had failed to pay them the promised returns, and his office has been closed since August 21.

In September, the Assam Cabinet decided to transfer the cases to the CBI. Chief Secretary Ravi Kota also discussed the matter with CBI Director Praveen Sood, who assured that the process of taking over the cases would begin soon.

Firms, mostly promoted by

people in their 20s, allegedly raised hundreds of crores of rupees from the public, promising significant returns from stock market investments. However, these firms began defaulting on payments to investors in recent weeks.

So far, over 65 people have been arrested in connection with the scam, and 14 Special Investigation Teams (SITs) have been established to investigate cases registered under the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Act, 2019, as well as the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

# Mortal remains of Agniveer killed in firing exercise received with military honours in Guj village

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

RAJKOT: Several people paid their last respects to Agniveer Vishvarajsinh Gohil whose mortal remains were received with military honours on Saturday in his native Anchvad village in Gujarat's Rajkot district.

Gohil and another Agniveer died during a field firing exercise in Maharashtra's Nashik district, an official said on Friday.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya paid tributes to the 20-year-old

gunner. Mandaviya attended the wreath-laying ceremony held in Anchvad village along with MLAs Jayesh Radadiya and Bhanuben Babariya.

Several people paid their last respects to Gohil in Anchvad where a casket carrying his body wrapped in the tricolour arrived.

"Agniveer Sainik Vishvarajsinh Gohil of Anchwad village of Jamkandorna taluka of Rajkot district has been martyred at Devlali (Nasik). I pay tribute to the brave martyr who sacrificed his life in

the service of the country. May God rest his soul and give strength to the relatives to bear this loss," the chief minister stated on X (formerly Twitter).

Porbandar MP Mandaviya also hailed the martyrdom of Gohil.

Gunner Gohil Vishvarajsinh and Gunner Saikat (21) from the Artillery Centre Hyderabad died during a field firing exercise at the Deolali Field Firing Ranges in Nashik when a field gun shell exploded during a firing exercise,

an official said on Friday. The Army has initiated a court of inquiry to determine the cause of the accident.

# RSS dedicated to serving country: PM Modi

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the RSS is dedicated to serving the country as he extended his wishes to its volunteers on the historic milestone in the organisation's continuous journey as it enters its hundredth year.

In a post on X, Modi shared the link of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat's annual Vijayadashami address made earlier in the day, calling it a must-listen.

Lauding the Hindutva outfit, Modi, a former RSS pracharak before he was drafted into the BJP, said its resolve for and dedication towards 'Maa Bharti' inspires every generation and will infuse new energy in realising the goal of a 'Viksit Bharat'.

The RSS, which was formed in 1925, is considered the ideological mentor of the BJP, and its volunteers have played a key role in its organisational growth over the decades. RSS functionaries invariably occupy the position of general secretary (organisation) in the BJP's national and state units, ensuring that the party organisation works with ideological cohesion and discipline.

# NABARD sanctions Rs 770 crore for two irrigation projects in Jharkhand

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

RANCHI: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) on Saturday said it has sanctioned Rs 770 crore financial assistance for the construction of two irrigation projects in Jharkhand.

These projects were approved under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for the fiscal year 2024-25.

"NABARD has sanctioned financial assistance of Rs 769.58 crore for construction of two irrigation projects in Palamu and Giridih districts under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund during FY 2024-25," S K Jagahirdar, Chief General Manager, NABARD Jharkhand Regional Office, said.

Once completed, the project in Palamu will provide irrigation to an additional 11,000 hectares of land through pipelines across eight blocks in the district.

The megalift irrigation project in Giridih will cover 165 of the 197 villages in Pirtand block, leading to the development of 10,158 hectares of cultivable command area.

Both projects are expected to significantly enhance agricultural activities in these districts, according to NABARD.

"With this sanction, NABARD's support to Jharkhand under RIDF during FY 2024-25 has reached Rs 1,017 crore. The support provided to Jharkhand since the inception of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund now stands at around Rs 24,300 crore," the bank said in a statement.

# MP: PM Modi to virtually inaugurate Rewa airport on October 21

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

BHOPAL: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually inaugurate the new airport at Madhya Pradesh's Rewa on October 21, an official said on Saturday.

As per a release issued by the state government, Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla reviewed the preparations for the inauguration on Friday.

Union and state ministers, including Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, will be present at the inauguration programme in Rewa on October 21, it stated.

During the review meeting, Shukla gave instructions to officials and took stock of the stage and other arrangements at the venue.

# RG Kar doctor's death: Protestors march to CBI office demanding speedy justice

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

KOLKATA: Hundreds of protestors, comprising doctors, lawyers and members of civil society on Saturday led a march to the CBI office in the CGO complex in Salt Lake demanding fair and speedy justice for the gruesome murder and rape of a woman doctor of the state-run R G Kar Medical College and Hospital.

Originating from the Karunamoyee area in Salt Lake, the protestors marched towards the CGO complex located a few kilometres away shouting slogans like "We want justice".

They also expressed 'awe' at the CBI as the charge sheet of the central investigating body practically affirming the findings of the Kolkata Police probe which nailed one Sanjoy Roy as the sole culprit, now under custody.

"We are surprised how the CBI can endorse the probe of the Kolkata Police in its charge sheet submitted a few days back. This to our mind lacks transparency and those others behind this cruelty should be exposed", one of the protestors said.

The police had put up barricades on the roads approaching the CBI office in the CGO complex.

However, five representatives of the protestors were allowed to go inside the CBI office to submit a memorandum of demands.

The CBI is probing the rape and murder of the doctor of R G Kar Medical College and Hospital.

# Actor Sidhique questioned again by SIT in rape case

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Malayalam film actor Sidhique was on Saturday questioned again by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) in a rape case registered against him. This is the second time he has been questioned by the SIT in the case lodged on a complaint by a young woman actor. Sidhique was questioned for close to two hours by the officials at the Cantonment police station here. He arrived for questioning around 10.40 AM and left close to 12.30 PM. The actor was questioned for nearly four hours by the SIT earlier this week on Monday. The rape case was registered against him after a young female actor alleged that Sidhique sexually assaulted her at a hotel in Thiruvananthapuram under the pretext of offering her a role in a film. The Supreme Court had granted Sidhique interim protection from arrest last week, after the Kerala High Court rejected his anticipatory bail plea. The High Court had cited the seriousness of the accusations and the need for custodial interrogation, while dismissing his bail plea. Sidhique has been booked under Sections 376 (rape) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code. He claims the complainant has been harassing him with false accusations since 2019.

This case is part of a broader investigation into allegations of sexual harassment against prominent Malayalam film personalities, following the Justice K Hema Committee report on sexual crimes against female actors.