

**BLUE MOON**  
Banquets • Conventions

THE BANQUET WITH A DIFFERENCE

National Highway, Near Thandi Khui, Jammu  
Contact: 9086035550, 9086035551

**J.K. PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
KUNJWANI, JAMMU  
*The School with a Difference*

**SOWING SKILLS**

**SHAPING INDIA**

03

**Rs 1,000 cr earmarked for Venture Fund to Space StartUps: Dr Jitendra**

03

**J&K Judicial Academy's Refresher Course on 'Land Revenue Laws, Land Acquisition Laws' concludes**

10

**India beat Pakistan by 6 wickets in Women's T20 World Cup**

Website : [www.statetimes.in](http://www.statetimes.in), Email: [statetimes1@gmail.com](mailto:statetimes1@gmail.com)

**FIFTH NAVRATRA**

**Maa Skandmata**

Fifth incarnation of Goddess Durga is called 'Maa Skandmata', Mother of Lord Skand (also known as Kartikeya) who headed 'Devatas' in fight against 'Danavas'. On this Navratra heart comes in 'Vishudh Chakra'. Maa Skandmata has four arms with Bhagwan Skand in her lap, holding him with one hand and other in the blessing mode. Skandmata fulfills all the desires and guides door of heaven to worshipper. Mantra to be recited nine times on this Navratra is :-

"Om Aing Hareeng Kleeng Chaang Bhagwati Skand Matai Lakshmi Roopini Dhan Vridhim Kuru Kuru Swaha"

ॐ ऐं ह्रीं क्लीं चां भगवती स्कंदमातायै लक्ष्मी रूपिणी धन वृद्धिं कुरु कुरु स्वाहा

## Hindu society must unite for its security: Mohan Bhagwat

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KOTA: Asserting that India is a Hindu nation, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has said the Hindu society must unite for its security by eliminating differences in language, caste and regional disparities.

He also underlined that the functioning of the RSS is not mechanical but idea-based.

Addressing a 'Swayamsevak Ekatrikaran' event in Rajasthan's Baran on Saturday evening, Bhagwat said the Hindus consider everyone as their own and embrace everyone.

"We have lived here since ancient times even though the term Hindu came later. Hindus embrace everyone. They live in harmony through continuous dialogue," he said.

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief stressed the "Hindu society must unite for its security by eliminating lan-



guage, caste, and regional differences and disputes".

He also stressed that discipline in conduct, duty towards the state and dedication to goals are essential qualities.

"A society is not just formed by individuals and their families, but by considering the comprehensive concerns through which one can attain spiritual fulfilment," said

Bhagwat.

"The functioning of the RSS is not mechanical but idea based. It is an unparalleled organisation whose values trickle down from the group leaders to the volunteers, their families and to the society at large," he added.

Urging the volunteers to maintain widespread contact within communities, the RSS chief said that

efforts should be made to alleviate community deficiencies by empowering the society.

"The focus should be on social harmony, justice, health, education, and self-reliance. The volunteers should always remain active and foster harmony, environmental awareness, indigenous values, and civic consciousness within families, which are the basic components of a society," said Bhagwat.

The RSS chief said India's global reputation and standing is attributed to its strength and the safety of its expatriates is assured only when their nation becomes strong.

A total of 3,827 RSS volunteers attended the event. The event was also attended by senior RSS functionaries Ramesh Agarwal, Jagdish Singh Rana, Ramesh Chand Mehta and Vaidya Radheshyam Garg, among others.

## Confident that Modi-Muizzu talks will give new impetus to India-Maldives ties: Jaishankar

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar called on Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu, who is in India on a bilateral visit, and expressed confidence that Muizzu's talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lend a "new impetus" to "our friendly ties".

Though the Maldivian president attended PM Modi's swearing-in ceremony in June, it is his first bilateral visit to India.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), while announcing Muizzu's trip to India earlier this week, has said that it is expected to lend further momentum to cooperation and robust people-to-people ties between the two countries.

In a post on X on Sunday, Jaishankar said, "Pleased to call on President @MMuizzu today at the start of his



State Visit to India. Appreciate his commitment to enhance India-Maldives relationship. Confident that his talks with PM @narendramodi tomorrow will give a new impetus to our friendly ties."

Along with the post, the external affairs minister also shared some pictures of their meeting.

The ties between India and the Maldives came under severe strain since Muizzu, known for his

pro-China leanings, took charge of the top office in November.

During his visit, Muizzu will hold discussions with Modi on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest, the MEA said.

Muizzu is also scheduled to meet President Droupadi Murmu.

Besides Delhi, he will also visit Mumbai and Bengaluru where he will be attending business events.

## Doors open for like-minded parties, individuals: Karra

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Tariq Hamid Karra said the NC-Congress alliance will get a "comfortable majority" in the assembly elections, and added that the doors are open for like-minded parties and individuals to keep the BJP out of power.

Talking to reporters after a meeting with party candidates here that lasted over three and a half hours, Karra said the final results for the Congress-National Conference coalition would be much better than the numbers projected in the exit

polls.

The exit polls, which came out on Saturday, have put the NC-Congress alliance in the pole position with the regional party getting the lion's share of the seats. The BJP is expected to slightly improve on its tally of 25 seats which it had won in the 2014 assembly polls while the PDP, which had won 28 seats in the polls held 10 years ago, is predicted to win less than 10 seats this time.

"The Congress-NC coalition will get a comfortable majority to form the government and the final

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## CEO inspects arrangements at Ganderbal Counting Centre

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
GANDERBAL: Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Pandurang K Pole, on Sunday visited counting centre at Degree College Ganderbal to assess preparations for the upcoming counting process for twin Assembly Constituencies of the district.

The CEO was briefed by District Election Officer (DEO) Ganderbal, Shyambir, about the extensive preparations being made at the counting centre.

The CEO held detailed discussions with the officers regarding their specific roles and responsibilities. He



CEO Pandurang K Pole during visit to counting centre at Degree College Ganderbal on Sunday.

inspected various critical aspects of counting arrangements including manpower management, law and order, security, welfare logistics, transport and parking management.

He also visited and inspected the facilities put in place for the counting agents, who will play a pivotal role in ensuring accountability during the process. Their comfort and access to the neces-

sary resources have been prioritized, ensuring that they can carry out their duties without hindrance, he observed.

Pole emphasised on transparency, ensuring that both the media and the public stay informed of the election results as they unfold. He further directed the concerned officers to ensure that all necessary measures are implemented in strict accordance with the guidelines of the ECI, for seamless counting with due accuracy, transparency, and adherence to protocols. While elaborating on the preparations,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Israeli strike on mosque kills 19 as it bombards northern Gaza, southern Beirut

**■ AGENCY**  
DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA STRIP): An Israeli strike on a mosque in the Gaza Strip early Sunday killed at least 19 people, Palestinian officials said, as Israel intensified its bombardment of northern Gaza and southern Beirut in its widening war on Iran-allied militant groups across the region.

Israel is still battling Hamas in Gaza nearly a year after its Oct 7 attack, and has opened a new front against Hezbollah in Lebanon, which has been trading fire with Israel

along the border since the war in Gaza began. Israel has also vowed to strike Iran itself after it launched a ballistic missile attack on the country last week.

The widening conflict risks drawing in the United States, which has provided crucial military and diplomatic support to Israel, as well as US-allied Arab countries that host American forces. Iran-allied militant groups in Syria, Iraq and Yemen have also joined in with long-distance strikes on Israel.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### Three spectators at Air Force's Chennai Air Show die

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
CHENNAI: Three persons who went to watch the air show at Chennai's Marina Beach have died. Doctors said at least one of them had heart stroke.

Enthusiastic families had gathered at the Marina beach before 11 am to witness the air show on the occasion of the 92nd IAF Day celebration. Many were seen shading themselves from the blinding sun with umbrellas.

The air show had included a show by the Special Garud Force commandos in a simulated rescue operation and in freeing the hostage.

It also showcased 72 aircraft, including Rafale, indigenously manufactured state-of-the-art Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, Light Combat helicopter Prachand, and Heritage aircraft Dakota.

Around 15 lakh people had gathered at the beach to watch the highly-anticipated air show of 2024.

This is the third time the IAF conducted its air

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 32.0°C Min: 18.6°C

Humidity  
Max: 72 Min: 67

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 24.5°C Min: 13.4°C

Humidity  
Max: 76 Min: 45

Sunset : 18:09 Hours  
Sunrise : 06:28 Hours

## Act against officials for wrong train data in passenger information systems: Railway Board to zones

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Railway Board has asked all 17 zones to take action against officials who cause inconvenience to passengers by not feeding any data or by providing incorrect data in the passenger information system on the status of trains.

The board has also directed the zones to integrate various passenger information display boards installed at stations with the National Train Enquiry System (NTES) to bring consistency and ensure correct and reliable display of

train information.

The NTES website provides real-time train running status and coach composition among other information. Besides this, train indicator boards installed on platforms display train numbers, their names and running status. Passengers can also locate the coach position of the arriving trains through the coach guidance system on the platforms.

The Railway Board, in its letter to the zones dated September 27, stated that passenger information sys-

tems like coach guidance systems and train indicators boards at rail stations act as an important interface between passengers and the Railways.

"The reliability of train information being conveyed by such systems to passengers is very important and any gap/error in the information displayed creates inconvenience for the passengers. Hence it is very important that the information for every stopping train displayed on such systems

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### Three drug peddlers held with heroin

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBA: Three alleged drug peddlers were arrested along with 7.8 grams of heroin in Samba district on Sunday, police said.

Rajman Singh alias Raman, Ranjeet Singh and Ram Kumar were travelling in a car when they were intercepted by police at Tappal near Ghagwal on Jammu-Pathankot highway, a police spokesperson said.

A case under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act has been registered against the arrested accused and further investigation is on, he said.

## Next Maha Kumbh's area will be double than 2013's: Adityanath

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
PRAYAGRAJ: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday said the area for the Maha Kumbh next year will be more than double as compared to the last one held in 2013.

Addressing reporters after holding a review meeting to oversee the preparations for the mega gathering, Adityanath said work for the Maha Kumbh is progressing on a war footing and a target has been set to complete all

construction by December 15.

The Maha Kumbh is scheduled to take place in Prayagraj from January 14 to February 26, 2025.

"Prayagraj has to be made



grand and beautiful with projects worth more than Rs 5,600 crore," Adityanath said releasing the logo for the Maha Kumbh.

"Over 7,000 shuttle and electric buses will be run for the convenience of the devotees during the Maha Kumbh. Drones will be deployed to ensure the security of the devotees during the event," he said.

Adityanath cited the increased water level

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Removal of women elected representative can't be treated lightly: SC

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Removal of an elected public representative should not be treated lightly, especially when it concerns women belonging to rural areas, the Supreme Court has said as it set aside an order for removal of a woman sarpanch in a Maharashtra village.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan termed the matter as a classic case where the residents of the village could not reconcile with the fact that a woman was elected to the office of the sarpanch.

The top court observed that it was a case where villagers were unable to come to terms with the reality that a female sarpanch would make decisions on their behalf and that they would have to abide by her directions.

"This scenario gets further exacerbated when we as a

country are attempting to realise the progressive goal of gender parity and women empowerment across all spheres, including public offices and most importantly adequate women representative in elected bodies, such instances at the grass-root level cast a heavy shadow on any headway that we may have achieved," the bench observed in its September 27 order.

Underscoring that it must be acknowledged that these women, who succeed in occupying such public offices, do so only after significant struggle, the bench said, "All that we would like to reiterate is that the matter of removal of an elected public representative should not be treated so lightly, especially when it concerns women belonging to rural areas".

The bench was dealing with a plea of Manish Ravindra



Panpatil, an elected sarpanch of gram panchayat, Vichkheda situated in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra. She was ordered to be removed from her post after a complaint by fellow villagers that she was allegedly residing with her mother-in-law in a house constructed on government land.

The allegation was denied by Panpatil, who claimed she does not reside in that particular dwelling, and that she lives separately with her hus-

band and children in a rented accommodation.

However, without appropriately verifying these facts and on the basis of "bald statements", the Collector concerned passed an order disqualifying her from continuing as sarpanch.

"This order was thereafter confirmed by the divisional commissioner. Subsequently, the high court vide the impugned order, dismissed the appellant's writ petition against the commissioner's

order on a technical ground, thus putting a seal of approval on her removal from office," the bench noted.

The bench noted that the villagers grasped at straws in their bid to evict Panpatil from her position and their cause was perhaps aided by the mechanical and summary orders passed by government authorities at various levels.

"These orders were passed in a lackadaisical manner, without making any effort towards conducting a fact-

finding exercise, so as to confirm whether the allegations levied by the private respondents were sufficiently made out. There is nothing on record to suggest that any objection of the appellant's family having encroached upon government land was ever raised when she filed her nomination papers," the bench said.

While noting that the vagaries of the present factual matrix is far from unique and is unfortunately somewhat of a norm, the bench said there is no doubt that the private respondents (villagers) may have operated in a discriminatory manner.

It said what is more worrying is the casual approach adopted by government authorities in summarily removing an elected representative.

"This is all the more concerning when the representa-

tive in question is a woman and elected in the reservation quota, thereby indicating a systemic pattern of prejudicial treatment, permeating through all levels of administrative functioning," it said.

The top court said having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case at hand, it sees no credible and convincing material on record to substantiate the allegations of encroachment of government land by Panpatil before or post her election as sarpanch.

"In this vein, the authorities concerned need to sensitise themselves and work towards creating a more congenial atmosphere where women, such as the appellant, can prove their worth by rendering their services as sarpanch of the gram panchayat," said the bench, adding that her removal from the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9