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STATETIMES

HAPPY NAVRATRAS TO ALL OUR READERS

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03 Dr Jitendra chairs IIPA National Executive meeting, advises collaboration in 'Karmayogi' programme

03 IIM Jammu hosts JK Public School students for Academic Campus visit

09 Murder mystery solved, accused arrested, body recovered from Chenab

Website : www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

SIXTH NAVRATRA

Maa Katyayni

Sixth Navratra is related to 'Maa Katyayni'. When excesses of Danav Mahishasur increased Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva incarnated a Devi who was first of all worshipped by Mahishi Katyayan, so this Devi is called Katyayani. Devi with golden colour has four hands and upper right hand is for blessings. She has sword and lotus in the left hands. On this day of Navratra heart of worshiper is in 'Agya Chakra'. By the blessings of this Devi one leads fearless, disease-free life and possesses all the comforts of life. Mantra to be recited nine times on this day is :-

"Om Aing Hreeng Kleeng Chaang Kleeng Bhagwati Katyayini Mum Tanu Arogyam Kuru Kuru Swaha"

ॐ ऐं ह्रीं क्लीं चां क्लीं भगवती कात्यायनी मम तनु अरोग्यं कुरु कुरु स्वाहा

Counting of votes for JK Assembly elections to begin at 8 AM today: CEO

'28 counting centres set up, three tier security cover established'

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) J&K, Pandurang K Pole on Monday said that the counting of votes for the General Elections to JK Assembly 2024 will commence at 8 AM on October 8, 2024 and 28 counting centres have been established for 90 assembly constituencies in 20 districts of the UT.

"There are 28 counting centres across the J&K and we are fully prepared for the counting," P K Pole said. He added that all the EVMs are securely placed in the strong rooms of all district headquarters.

The CEO further remarked that comprehensive security arrangements have been made for the counting and three-tier security cover has been established around counting centres.

Pole stated that adequate checkpoints have been set up within a 100-meter perimeter of each counting centre and CCTV cameras have been installed in all strong rooms where the EVMs are stored to closely monitor all activities. "Unauthorized individuals will be restricted from entering these areas and CCTV cameras have been installed at the main entrance and throughout the



entire premises of the counting centres to ensure comprehensive monitoring", the CEO added.

Pole stated that the counting will begin at 8 AM on October 8 and Postal ballots will be counted first, followed by the counting of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) after 30 minutes, adding that accurate information on each round of counting will be uploaded in a timely manner.

The CEO outlined that on the counting day, strong rooms will be opened in presence of candidates, their authorized representatives, Returning Officers (ROs)/Assistant Returning Officers (AROs), and ECI observers and the entire process will be videographed. He added that mobile phones will not be

allowed inside the counting centres.

Pole further said that two counting centres each have been set up for the Kupwara, Samba, Jammu, Udhampur and Reasi Districts, three counting centres have been set up for migrants while one counting centre each has been established for the remaining districts, where the counting will take place. He added that to monitor the counting process, various counting observers have also been appointed by Election Commission of India.

The CEO highlighted that during the process, only authorized individuals, officials, or staff will be permitted inside and around the counting centres and the public and political party representatives are requested not to crowd the counting centres and check the results at home. He added that the results will also be available on the Election Commission of India's website <http://results.eci.in/> and Voter Helpline App.

Pole further said that Media centres have been set up at the counting centres for the press to access the latest updates, adding that only authorized personnel would be allowed entry into the counting

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Water security prime objective of J&K Admin: LG



LG Manoj Sinha addressing gathering after releasing book 'Handbook on Water Supply' authored by G.S Jha and Muzamil Rafiqi.

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that water security for all has been one of the prime objectives of the Jammu and Kashmir administration.

"In the last four years, we have ensured augmentation of infrastructure facilities so that every citizen has access to basic services and livable environment," the Lt Governor said while addressing a gathering after releasing a book titled 'Handbook

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

LG releases 'Handbook on Water Supply', by G.S Jha & Muzamil Rafiqi

▶ Says our aim is to develop cities and villages as centre of prosperity which provides adequate resources to fulfill the aspiration of common man. We have been successful in achieving these goals to a large extent

▶ In past 4 years, we have ensured augmentation of infrastructure facilities so that every citizen has access to basic services and livable environment

▶ Work has been done to generate new hope by ending discrimination and injustice. Everyone is provided with equal opportunity to live a joyful and prosperous life:

▶ Book gives detailed account on planning, operation, maintenance of water supply schemes and suggests steps for effective water management

Alok Kumar inspects Assembly Complex in Srinagar

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary, Estates Department, Alok Kumar, on Tuesday conducted an extensive visit to the Assembly Complex in Srinagar.

Director Estates Kashmir/Jammu, Tariq Hussain Ganai along with other senior officials from both the Assembly and Estates Departments accompanied the Principal Secretary.

During the visit, Kumar thoroughly inspected various sections of the Assembly Complex and assessed the existing infrastructure and facilities for

the upcoming Legislative sessions. He underscored the significance of the Assembly Complex as a vital hub for legislative activities, highlighting the necessity for ongoing maintenance and modernization to cater to changing demands.

Additionally, the Principal Secretary engaged in discussions with the officers of the Assembly and Estates Departments to explore strategies aimed at enhancing both the functionality and aesthetic appeal of the Complex prior J&K Assembly Sessions.

AAP sabotaging democracy Total collapse of Law and Order in Punjab: Chugh

STATE TIMES NEWS
CHANDIGARH: BJP National General Secretary, Tarun Chugh, strongly condemned the total collapse of law and order in Punjab during the panchayat elections.

Chugh said, the series of incidents, ranging from intimidation by gangsters during the Panchayat elections to tragic deaths caused by harassment, reflected utter failure of the administration to protect its citizens and uphold democratic values.

The failure of the AAP government to ensure free and fair Panchayat elections is a direct attack on democracy. Referring to the incident in Faridkot's Behbal Khurd village, where nominations were prevented due to gangster interference, Chugh emphasized how anti social elements are taking control



while the government remains idle. It is shameful that instead of maintaining law and order, the AAP leadership is using goons to intimidate opposition candidates and derail the democratic process. The people of Punjab deserve better, and the state must act immediately to restore law and order.

Chugh criticized CM Bhagwant Mann for the incident where an unemployed, ETT-qualified candidate attempted sui-

cide during a peaceful protest in Amritsar. Thousands of youth who passed the eligibility test have been waiting far too long for job opportunities, despite repeated promises from the AAP government. This shocking incident highlights the distress faced by Punjab's educated youth and exposes the government's failure to provide employment or even hope to those in need, Chugh said.

Citing another tragic incident in Abohar, where a 55-year-old resident was driven to self immolation due to harassment by local AAP leaders and government officials, Chugh noted that this marks a dark chapter in the state's history. This death was caused by abuse of power by AAP leaders and the failure of the administration to act on persons repeated pleas for justice. His death is not just a

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Plea in SC seeks direction for restoration of statehood of J&K within 2 months

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: A plea was on Monday filed in the Supreme Court seeking directions to the Centre for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir within two months.

On December 11, 2023, the Supreme Court unanimously upheld the 2019 revocation of Article 370 of the Constitution that gave special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir even as it ordered assembly elections there by September 2024 and the restoration of statehood "at the earliest".

The fresh application has been filed by Zahoor Ahmad

Bhat, an academician, and Khurshaid Ahmad Malik, a socio-political activist, in Jammu and Kashmir seeking restoration of statehood.

"It is submitted that the delay in the restoration of statehood would cause serious reduction of democratically elected government in Jammu and Kashmir causing a grave violation of the idea of federalism which forms part of the basic structure of the Constitution of India," the application filed through advocate Soayib Qureshi said.

The application said that the legislative assembly elections as well as Lok

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Modi shares 'garba' song he wrote as tribute to Goddess Durga

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday shared on X a 'garba' song he wrote as a tribute to Goddess Durga.

"It is the auspicious time of Navratra and people are celebrating in different ways, united by their devotion to Maa Durga. In this spirit of reverence and joy, here is Aavati Kalay, a Garba I wrote as a tribute to

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

CS expresses concern over unfilled seats in certain professional courses

Asks for carrying out analysis, taking corrective measures

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Tuesday chaired a meeting of Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE) during which he emphasised on optimal utilization of available slots of admissions in various professional courses including Engineering and B.Ed being offered by the colleges in the UT.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Commissioner



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting at Srinagar.

Secretary, IT; Secretary Chairperson, BOPEE and other concerned officers.

Secretary, SDD; Secretary, ARI & Trainings;

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Rusted anti-tank mine, mortar shell defused

STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBA/JAMMU: A rusted anti-tank mine and an old mortar shell were defused after they were found by villagers at separate places in Samba district, officials said on Monday.

The anti-tank mine was noticed by a farmer working in his fields near the Regal border outpost this morning, the officials said.

They said the farmer immediately informed the concerned Border Security Force (BSF) unit and the mine was later safely defused by experts. The mortar

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

'5 members to be nominated by LG to J&K Assembly may play crucial role in Govt formation'

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Five persons to be nominated by the Lieutenant Governor as members of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly may play a crucial role in the formation of the next government in the union territory, sources said on Monday.

The Congress, National Conference and the PDP have opposed the nomination of the five members before government formation, and threatened to move the Supreme Court.

In August 2019, Article

370 -- which gave Jammu and Kashmir special status -- was revoked and the state was divided into two union territories.

According to section 15 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, "Notwithstanding anything in sub-section (3) of section 14, the Lieutenant Governor of the successor Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir may nominate two members to the Legislative Assembly to give representation to women, if in his opinion, women are not adequately

represented in the Legislative Assembly".

The Act was amended in 2023.

The amendment says: "After section 15 of the principal Act, the following sections shall be inserted, namely: 15A. Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (3) of section 14, the Lieutenant Governor of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir may nominate not more than two members, one of whom shall be a woman, from the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Suspected explosive material found in Rajouri

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI/JAMMU: The security forces found suspected explosive material in Rajouri district on Monday, officials said. The material was recovered during a routine area domination patrol along a link road in Saranoo village, they said. The suspicious material appears to be explosive, and initial assessments suggest it may be

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Naxals will be eliminated by 2026: Amit Shah

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Terming Naxals the biggest human rights violators, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said security forces have been carrying out "offensive operations" instead of defensive against the insurgents and have achieved big successes in recent times.

Addressing chief ministers and top officials of the Naxal-affected states, Shah also said that all Left Wing Extremism (LWE)-affected states are committed to completely eliminating Naxalism by March 2026.

Due to the improved security situation, high voter turnout -- up to 70 per cent -- was witnessed in the Maoist-hit region in the last Lok Sabha polls. There was zero polling in the region ear-



lier, he said.

Shah said more than 13,000 people from the northeast, Kashmir and LWE-affected areas have renounced violence and joined the mainstream. He asked youths involved in the Maoist movement to give up arms and join the mainstream, saying all states have prepared beneficial rehabilitation schemes for them.

The crucial meeting, which discussed anti-Naxal operations and development initiatives carried out in the affected areas, came days after the security forces killed 31 ultras in the forests of Chhattisgarh in one of the most successful operations in

recent times.

"Security forces are now carrying out offensive operations instead of defensive operations earlier," Shah said.

An "offensive strategy" has been adopted by activating the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to choke the financing of Naxalites, which has resulted in a shortage of financial resources for them, he said.

Multiple long-duration operations were conducted, ensuring that the Naxalites are surrounded, leaving them with no opportunity to escape, he added.

To completely eradicate Naxalism, Shah said, it is essential to give a final push to eliminate this menace once and for all and urged the chief ministers of all affected

states to review the progress of development and anti-Naxal operations at least once a month.

Shah also requested the Directors General of Police to conduct such reviews at least once every 15 days.

Describing Naxals as the biggest hurdle to development, he said they are the biggest human rights violators who have been depriving over eight crore people, especially the tribals, of development and basic welfare opportunities.

He said that Naxalism prevents education, healthcare, connectivity, banking and postal services from reaching villages.

The home minister emphasised that in order to ensure that development reaches

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Jaishankar visiting Pakistan 'good step', says Farooq

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Monday said External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visiting Pakistan for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting is a "good step" and hoped that the ties between the two countries will improve.

"Jaishankar ji is going to Pakistan for an SCO meeting. It's a very good step. I hope both countries think along the lines of friendship," Abdullah told PTI here.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said he would like to remind Jaishankar that former

prime minister Atal Behari Vajpayee had once said, "Friends can be changed, borders cannot be changed".

"Either we live in a friendly environment and ensure peace and prosperity in both the countries or live in animosity and create a tragedy for both countries. I hope both the countries try to understand each other and work for the betterment of people," he said.

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 32.1°C Min: 19.8°C

Humidity
Max: 80 Min: 62

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 26.7°C Min: 10.4°C

Humidity
Max: 75 Min: 49

Sunset: 18:07 Hours
Sunrise: 06:28 Hours