

03 Accession Day symbolises J&K's eternal bond with India: LG Kavinder

05 ASEAN 2025: Why Summit Matters for India

10 Nabi devastates with ball, endures with willow; Samad steadies as Yudhvir ignites contest

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Op Sindoor, eradication of naxalism added colour to festivals: Modi

Urges people to celebrate 150 years of Vande Mataram

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday extended greetings on the occasion of Chhath puja and said that festivals have become more vibrant this year due to success of Operation Sindoor and steps taken to eradicate the Maoist menace.

In his 127th edition of his monthly radio address Mann Ki Baat, the prime minister said that the Chhath Puja was a confluence of devotion, affection and tradition and reflected India's social unity.

"The Mahaparva of Chhath is a reflection of the deep unity between culture, nature, and society. Every section of society comes together at the Chhath ghats," Modi said.

"This sight is the most beautiful example of India's social unity. No matter where you are, within the country or in any corner of the world, if you get the opportunity, do participate in the Chhath festival," he said.

Recalling his letter to citizens on the occasion of the festival season, the prime minister said the achievements of the country have



made the festive season more vibrant.

"Operation Sindoor' has filled every Indian with pride. This time around, lamps of joy were lit even in those areas where the darkness of Maoist terror once prevailed," he said.

"People want the complete eradication of the Maoist terror that had jeopardised the future of their children," the prime minister said.

Modi also lauded the courage of Komaram Bheem, who had fought against the

atrocities of the Nizam of Hyderabad and killed an officer dispatched by him to seize the crops of farmers in the region.

"Friends, during that era, when even uttering a word against the Nizam was a crime. That young man openly challenged an officer of the Nizam named Siddiqui. The Nizam sent Siddiqui to confiscate the farmers' crops. But in this struggle against oppression, that young man killed Siddiqui," he said.

Modi said Bheem also successfully managed to evade arrest and escaped from the tyrannical police of the Nizam to reach Assam.

He said Komaram Bheem did not live a long life but left an indelible mark in the hearts of countless people, especially the tribal community.

The prime minister said on November 15 the nation will celebrate the Janajateeya Gaurav Diwas -- birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

"Just like Bhagwan Birsa Munda and Komaram Bheem, there have been many other great luminaries in our tribal communities. I urge you to definitely read about them," Modi said.

The Prime Minister said the national song 'Vande Mataram' depicted a vibrant and magnificent image of India, and urged citizens to make the 150th year of the song memorable by carrying forward its values for future generations.

He said many programmes related to 'Vande Mataram' will be organised throughout the country to

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

J&K witnessing transformation from separatism to self-reliance under PM Modi: Chugh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NAGROTA: Jammu & Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), under the leadership of its senior functionaries, listened to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 127th episode of Mann Ki Baat, broadcast on Sunday across more than 5,000 booths throughout the Union Territory.

BJP National General Secretary & Prabhari J&K Tarun Chugh, along with BJP J&K President & MP (Rajya Sabha) Sat Sharma (CA), General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, Incharge of Nagrota Assembly Bi-election & MLA Sham Lal Sharma, Bi-election Co-Incharge Bharat Bhushan (Vice-President & DDC Chairperson), District



BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh along with others leaders during public rally at Nagrota.

Prabhari Ayodhya Gupta, BJP Candidate for Nagrota Assembly Constituency Devyani Rana, along with other senior leaders, party cadre, and common people, listened to the Mann Ki Baat at Booth No. 77 in Upper Panjgrain under the Nagrota Assembly Constituency.

Tarun Chugh, while

addressing the gathering on the occasion, urged everyone to follow Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to promote indigenous products to boost the local economy. He asked people to evoke and honour our culture, nature, and national heritage. He said that Mann Ki Baat is a bridge connecting every citi-

zen to the nation's soul. "It inspires self-reliance, cultural pride, and collective responsibility," he said.

Tarun Chugh added that the Modi government has ensured the emergence of Jammu & Kashmir from the shadows of terrorism and separatism, and the region is now steadily progressing toward an era of peace and prosperity. He emphasized that the Modi government's inclusive governance is driven by courage, conviction, and a people-first approach. He further said that the youth of Jammu & Kashmir are optimistic and confident about their future, believing that development under the Modi government will reach every doorstep and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Three drug peddlers held with heroin

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Three suspected drug peddlers were arrested, and 12.63 grams of heroin was seized from their possession in the Kathua district, police said on Sunday.

The peddlers identified as Shiv Kumar Anand, Gourav Singh and Hitesh Kumar were arrested from Lakhampur bypass late Saturday, the police said.

A case, under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, was registered against the arrested peddlers and further investigation is on, the police said.

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 30.0°C Min: 16.4°C

Humidity
Max: 81 Min: 63

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 23.2°C Min: 3.5°C

Humidity
Max: 82 Min: 57

Sunset : 17:46 Hours
Sunrise : 06:43 Hours

Sonu Nigam's melodious evening enchants Srinagar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The tranquil shores of Dal Lake came alive with music and applause on Sunday evening as celebrated playback singer Sonu Nigam performed at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), captivating hundreds of music lovers in an unforgettable concert.

Hosted by NDTV Good Times, the open-air event marked a heartening return of large-scale cultural gatherings to the Valley. The concert, dedicated to legendary singer Mohammed Rafi, showcased both Nigam's timeless hits and the rising talent of local performers Qazi Touqeer, winner of Fame Gurukul 2005, and Rouhan Malik, who opened the show with spirited performances.

Nigam's soulful renditions created a euphoric atmosphere, with the audience swaying and singing along under the open sky. "It's a dream come true to see my favourite singer



performing live in Srinagar," said Mohammad Amir, a 27-year-old local resident.

The event unfolded peacefully, in stark contrast to the days when cultural activities in Kashmir were often clouded by strikes or boycott calls. The successful turnout reflects a changing social landscape and growing appetite for cultural expression in the region.

Earlier, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha

hailed the concert as a milestone for Jammu & Kashmir's tourism and arts sector. He said the event would "give a major fillip to the UT's tourism industry and provide a valuable platform for local artistes to showcase their talent before a wider audience."

The evening not only celebrated music but also symbolized a renewed sense of normalcy and optimism in the Valley - a melody of peace resonating from the heart of Kashmir.

EC to hold presser on pan-India SIR of voters' list today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission will hold a press conference to announce pan-India Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voters' list on Monday evening, officials said.

While complete details were still awaited, the poll authority is likely to announce the first phase of SIR in which 10 to 15 states will be covered, including those going to Assembly polls in 2026.

Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala, Assam and Puducherry are scheduled to go to polls next year.

Preparations for Darbar Move to Jammu in full swing after 4-year hiatus

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The scramble to move the seat of power to Jammu has begun after a four-year hiatus enforced by the Lt Governor's administration.

The 'Darbar Move' from the summer capital of Srinagar will be completed on November 3 with the opening of government offices in Jammu.

The practice, halted in 2021, was revived this year by the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah-led National Conference government.

The decision prompted a major facelift drive across the winter capital of Jammu



as civic bodies rushed to spruce up and beautify offices.

On October 16, the Jammu and Kashmir government

ordered that the offices in Srinagar must be closed by October 31, hours after Abdullah announced restoration of the tradition introduced by Dogra rulers in 1872.

The decision has been welcomed by the people, especially Jammu traders, who treated it as a Diwali gift.

In 2021, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha-led administration scrapped the tradition, citing a complete transition to e-office, which, it claimed, could help save Rs 200

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Better court infra will improve public trust in judicial system: Justice Surya Kant

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHENNAI: Every rupee spent on improving court halls, digitisation, training, and connectivity yields a manifold return -- not in monetary profits, but in public confidence, said Supreme Court judge, Justice Surya Kant, on Sunday.

Justice Kant, next in line to become the Chief Justice of India, inaugurated the renovated Madras High Court annexe building in Chennai.

A heritage building, built 126 years ago, is now being repurposed as an annexe to the Madras High Court. The



building once housed Madras Law College.

According to Justice Kant, this kind of investment must be seen as an investment in public trust.

"The justice system is one of the few public institutions where the slightest dysfunction directly affects human liberty and livelihood," added Justice Kant.

The integration of the heritage building with the High Court is also an architectural metaphor, he observed.

"The past and the future coalesce under one roof. The red sandstone walls, once echoing with academic discourse, will now reverberate with judicial reasoning. The same energy that inspired students will guide judges, advocates, and litigants

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Lost Money in a Financial Fraud?

Investments lost in fraudulent schemes?

A company offered me high returns and is now untraceable!

I lost money to a fraudster online!

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