

DDC vote is vote for grassroots 'self-rule': Dr Jitendra

Guru Nanak: A brilliant spiritual light for humanity

Rs 1.5 lakh stolen from GMC Jammu

From the desk of Editor-in-Chief ST turns 25, decodes bold journalism

For many, it is just the other day when this part of the country woke up to a new dawn of objective, but more importantly, bold journalism...it is because boldness became a new norm with every next day unfolding a new sensational expose, causing tremors among wrong doers. But it is not just the other day; it is an odyssey of many many years. STATE TIMES has turned 25 but still it looks the other day though it is quarter of a century.

In these eventful twenty five years, the bold voice of Jammu marked the end of the journalism of blackmail with some unscrupulous in the fraternity, thriving on unethical practices, painting a dark picture of the fourth pillar. Obviously, this shattered the confidence of the people, who were craving for credible news besides free and fearless analysis. This is when the STATE TIMES chipped in, this day in 1995, and went whole hog to expose the scammers and fraudsters. Our dedicated teams of reporters kept digging stories based on truth. The motivation remained... "Somebody somewhere is hiding something, go and find out". The teams of enthusiastic reporters remained always on tenterhooks to find out the truth. The readers still remember the unveiling of 'nursing scam' that virtually rocked Jammu in particular and the erstwhile state in general. Undeterred by the mafias, we exposed one after another scam---the menace of corruption and the other ills inflicting the society. Your paper survived the onslaught of both adversaries in the field and those getting exposed for their acts of omission and commission. With a sense of responsibility we say that none of our staffers has ever sold his or her conscience for a single penny. We wish anybody to disprove our claim. It has been our humble challenge all along.

The unflinching support of our esteemed readers enabled STATE TIMES to become the first coloured newspaper of Jammu and Kashmir. It acquired yet another distinction of having its Hindi edition from Jammu and the English version from New Delhi. This was due to trust and faith of the people in the bold views we carried with a sense of duty. The commitment to nationalism made STATE TIMES second to none. If the valiant forces and enemies of the nation are fighting aggression of enemy on borders and the hinterland with a barrel of the gun, we are taking on them with our mighty pen. STATE TIMES is synonymous with patriotism. At times, however, this has a cost too, like the one we paid while supporting the heroic and sagacious role of Major Leetul Gogoi in saving many lives and situation in the Kashmir Valley. The young officer of the Rashtriya Rifles hit the headlines after he allegedly tied a man to a jeep purportedly as a shield against stone pelters during polling in the Srinagar Lok Sabha by-election on April 9, 2017. Apart from facing the wrath of terrorists and their supporters, we were threatened and 'subjected to consequences' by a senior police officer for our support to the Major. We suffered the 'consequences' but did not change our course. We stood at the forefront in support of our brave forces and organised seminars and rallies of eminent intellectuals of the country. We were the first to contribute towards the Kargil Relief Fund with humble but substantial contribution. We honoured brave-heart policemen for their valour and heroism in anti-terror operations in Jammu and on the national highway.

On the professional front, the thought provoking columns by 'Dost Khan' and 'Blunt Butcher' remain the first choice of the readers. So are the dedicated subjects on current affairs, special reports, and issues confronting the society at large. The features, the exclusives and the investigative stories remain hallmark of the STATE TIMES. The exit polls during the 2014 assembly elections carried out by our analysts proved cent percent authentic. This is because they felt the pulse of voters. The public platforms being carried from time to time provide opportunity to readers and opinion makers to express themselves fearlessly.

STATE TIMES keeps sharing the joys and agonies of its learned readers. We have dedicated page-two for carrying obituaries free of cost. We have done our little bit and are committed to do much more.

While expressing gratitude to our esteemed and valued readers for their continued support, STATE TIMES pledges to keep up its tradition of bold journalism with focus on unveiling scams and frauds-social, political and economic-fearlessly. We have done it and we will continue to do it; come what may. This is our silver jubilee resolve.

Raj Daluja

All districts of J&K declared orange zones

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government has classified all districts of Jammu and Kashmir excluding the Lakhanpur Containment Zone and Jawahar Tunnel area as orange zones following the assessment of the COVID-19 situation in the Union Territory.

This classification has been done after the State Executive Committee

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Elections no solution to Kashmir problem, hold dialogue with Pak: Mehbooba

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: PDP president Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday said elections are no solution to the Kashmir problem and called for a dialogue between India and Pakistan to address the issue.

She also accused the BJP-led government at the Centre of murdering the democracy in the name of District Development Council (DDC) polls as alliance candidates were being confined

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 23.8°C Min: 9.8°C

Humidity
Max : 87 Min : 64

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 11.4°C Min: -1.4°C

Humidity
Max : 90 Min: 66

Sunset : 17:27 Hours
Sunrise : 07:14 Hours

All educational institutions to remain closed across J&K till year end

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Issuing fresh COVID-related guidelines, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Sunday said all educational institutions would remain closed till December 31 while no fresh permission or passes are required for activities which were already permitted in the union territory.

It also put all the 20 districts, 10 each in Kashmir and Jammu regions, in the orange category but said the Lakhanpur -- the gateway to J-K bordering Punjab on National highway 44 -- with

a buffer of 500-metre radius and the Jawahar Tunnel, which connects Kashmir with the Jammu region, on either side have been classified as red zones.

All schools, colleges, higher educational institutions (including anganwadi centres) etc will continue to remain closed till 31st December, except training institutions run by the central and state government, read an order issued by Chief Secretary and Chairperson, State Executive Committee, B V R Subrahmanyam.

The order was issued

Sunday evening after a detailed review of the current COVID situation in Jammu and Kashmir for regulating activities within the Union Territory for effective containment of the infection.

No fresh permission or passes are required for activities which were already permitted under earlier orders. All instructions relating to safety, health precautions and social distancing continue to apply, the order said. However, the order said the coaching centres, institutions would be permitted to

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

471 new COVID cases, 5 deaths in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday recorded 471 new coronavirus cases, pushing the tally to 10,9,854, while the death toll reached 1,685 with five more fatalities, officials said

Of the fresh cases, 260 were reported from the Jammu division and 211 from the Kashmir division, they said.

The officials said Jammu district recorded the highest of 122 cases, followed by 86 in Srinagar.

There are 5,087 active cases as of now in the UT, while 10,3,082 patients have recovered, they said.

Five COVID-19 deaths were reported in the UT in the past 24 hours -- three from Jammu and two from Kashmir regions.

According to the daily Media Bulletin, out

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

New farm laws have begun mitigating farmers' problems: PM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Amid protests by a section of farmers against the recently enacted farm laws, Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Sunday that these reforms have opened doors of new opportunities for farmers and bestowed on them new rights.

In his monthly 'Mann Ki Baat' broadcast, Modi said the farm laws have begun mitigating the troubles of farmers in a short period of time since their enactment in September as he cited the example of a Maharashtra farmer who used their provisions to get the money a trader had promised but not paid to him in time.

New dimensions related to agriculture and related fields have emerged as the recently enacted farm reforms have opened doors of new possibilities for farmers, he said.

JKBOSE's employee first to retire under 'new rules'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has beforetime retired its first employee under new rules--an employee from Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education.

According to an order, the Board of School Education Beforetime retired it's one of the employee who has already completed 27 years of service on October 14, 2020 in Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education Department.

The order issued by BOSE chairman Veena Pandita reads, 'In exercise of the powers conferred by Article 226 (2) of the Jammu

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

"The demands, which were made by farmers for years and regarding which every political party at some point of time had made promises, have been fulfilled... These reforms have not only freed



them of various shackles but also given them new rights and new opportunities. These rights have begun mitigating farmers' problems in a very short span of time," he said.

The prime minister's

remarks come at a time when thousands of farmers, mostly from Punjab, have dug in their heels at Delhi's border points and hundreds have gathered at the city's Burari ground to protest against the new farm laws.

The central government has reached out to them, underscoring its willingness to hold talks with them. It has also asserted that concerns expressed by some farm bodies about the new laws are misplaced, saying existing support measures like the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and state-run 'mandis' will remain in place.

In his address, Modi said "correct information, away from rumours and confusion of any kind" is a big strength for people in any field, as he spoke about a couple of farmers involved with innovative practices in the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Rs 25 lakh Crore Roshni Land Scam Ex-Cong Minister, his brothers, Beigh Contractor among illegal occupants of Govt land

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ex-Congress minister and his brothers, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP), relatives of ex-Congress minister and a Jammu based contractor figure in the list of Roshni Cases and illegal occupants on government land in Jammu.

Former Congress Minister Mula Ram , his brothers Rattan Lal, Madan Lal and Bodh Raj, all sons of Amarnath occupied 123 kanals land at Marh while Mula Ram, son of Amarnath, has also occupied another piece of land measuring 3

JAMMU ROSHNI CASES AND OTHER ILLEGAL OCCUPANTS ON GOVT. LAND						
Day 2						
S. No.	Name and Parentage of Beneficiary (s) with details of other Share holders (if any)	Location (Village)	Profession of Beneficiary	Quantum of Statedland		
				KI	MI	S
1.	Mula Ram, Rattan Lal, Madan Lal, Bodh Raj S/o Amarnath	Marh	Ex- MLA (Ex Minister), Judiciary	12	0	0
2.	Mula Ram S/o Amarnath	Marh	Ex- MLA (Ex Minister)	3	3	0
3.	Rafeeq Manhas (Govt. Employee)	Channi Rama	Dy. SP	1	0	0
4.	Imran Beigh	Channi Rama	Business Man (Beig Const. Company)	5	0	0
5.	Shafi S/o Jhumma	Jammu	Property Dealer	20	0	0
6.	Shoaib and Ors.	Marh Lalyal	Relative of Ex Minister Aijaz Khan	56	16	0

kanals at Marh.

Shoaib and family members, relatives of ex-minister Aijaz Khan have also occupied 56 kanals and 16 marla

land at Lalyal Marh.

Rafeeq Manhas, DySP is in possession of one kanal land at Channi Rama.

A property dealer Shafi,

son of Jhumma has occupied 20 kanals land in Jammu while Imran Beigh, a contractor (Beigh

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

“Even kings and emperors with heaps of wealth and vast dominion cannot compare with an ant filled with the love of God.”

-Guru Nanak Dev Ji

HAPPY GURUPURAB

May all of us follow the divine path of love, peace, communal harmony, truth and universal brotherhood shown by Guru Nanak Dev Ji

May Guru Nanak be your guidance and support through the course of your life. Wishing all citizens across the world, irrespective of their caste, creed and religion, a very

Happy Gurupurab !!

Let us wear masks and adopt social distancing

With humble regards from:



S.S. Sodhi

Chairman J&K Intellectual Civil Society, New Delhi
sodhi_jammu@yahoo.com | M: 9971016790