

# THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K Vol. 28 Issue 308 • Jammu • Tuesday • November 7, 2023 • Pages 12 • ₹ 3.00

Multispeciality Institut Consultant Plastic & Aesthetic Surg

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Dr Jitendra inaugurates Children Science Festival, **UU** emphasises harnessing of young aptitudes

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

Mayor Jammu educates students on ways, means of eradicating corruption

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

# **Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Club** lifts Volleyball Tournament trophy

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

# Amarnath Cave Shrine gets motorable road, first set of vehicles reach temple

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a first, vehi have reached the Amarnath cave as the Border Roads Organisation has expanded road connectivity up to the cave shrine in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said here on Monday.

The widening of the road Dumail to the Amarnath cave via Baltal base camp in Ganderbal district of central Kashmir has been completed, the officials said.

said the Border Thev Roads Organisation (BRO) personnel completed the formidable task and created history by expanding road connectivity up to the Amarnath cave shrine.

The first set of vehicles has also reached the shrine, the officials added.

The BRO was entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining the twin tracks leading to the cave shrine last



BRO vehicles standing outside Amarnath cave shrine.

The BRO's Project Beacon' is involved in the restoration improvement Amarnath Yatra tracks.

Earlier, the J-K govern-Public Works Department (PWD) was maintaining the Baltal route in the Ganderbal district and the Pahalgam Development Authority (PDA) maintained the Pahalgam route in the Anantnag district.

The UT administration in September last year handed over the tracks to the BRO for maintenance and upgra-

The BRO undertook the road widening project to ease the difficulties faced by the pilgrims who traditionally had to travel to the cave shrine on foot.

With the motorable road reaching the Amarnath cave shrine, the pilgrimage would become more accessible and comfortable for the devotees, the officials said.

However, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) criticised the move calling it the "biggest crime" committed to the faith of Hindus.

"This is not history, it's the biggest crime one can commit to Hinduism and its faith in nature. Hinduism is all about immersing in spiritual mother nature, that's why our pilgrimages are in the lap of the Himalayas," PDP spokesperson Mohit Bhan posted on X.

Bhan said turning religious pilgrimages into picnic spots for "mere political gains" is worth condemnation.

"We have seen the wrath of in Joshimath. Kedarnath and yet we are learning no lessons instead inviting a catastrophe in Kashmir," the PDP leader

The BJP's J-K unit hit back at the PDP saying laying of the concrete road up to the holy cave shrine is being Environmental Impact Assessment and no trees

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#### Four cops injured as police vehicle skids off road

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

KULGAM: Four policemen were injured on Monday after a vehicle they were travelling in met with an accident in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district, officials said.

The police vehicle skidded off the road in the Mohipora area of south Kashmir district, following which four policemen suffered minor injuries, they added. The injured policemen were taken to District Hospital Kulgam for treatment, the officials said.

## Mortar shell defused by BSF in Arnia sector

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Border Security Force on Monday detected and defused a mortar shell in an agriculture field along the International Border in Jammu's Arnia, officials said.

Acting on the information of locals, BSF troops rushed to the Arnia sector, recovered the mortar shell and



Maharashtra CM, Eknath Shinde meeting LG Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan on Monday. Sudhir Mungantiwar, Minister for Forest, Cultural Affairs and Fisheries, Government of Maharashtra was also present.

# Oppn bloc INDIA falling apart, says Rajnath

BHOPAL: The opposition bloc INDIA was falling apart as its constituents are fighting each other, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday

Addressing public meetings

in Gwalior (rural) and Bhojpur (Raisen) Assembly seats in Madhya Pradesh, he asked the people to ensure the state "does not become the ATM of the Congress".

All Congress governments were tainted with corruption

and some of its ministers have earlier gone to jail, while there is not a single charge of graft when it comes to the Bharatiya Janata Party governments, he claimed

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# SC collegium recommends names of 3 HC Chief Justices as Supreme Court judges

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

DELHI: Supreme Court collegium headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud on Monday recommended the names of three high court chief justices as Supreme Court judges.

The collegium, also com-Justices Sanjay Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai and Surva Kant, recommended the names of Delhi High Court Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, Rajasthan High Court Chief Justice Augustine George Masih and Gauhati High Court Chief Justice Sandeep Mehta as

NSD's 5-day Srinagar **Theatre Festival begins** 

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: The five-day

Srinagar Theatre Festival,

organised by the National

School of Drama (NSD),

The festival is being organ-

ised in collaboration with the

J&K Academy of Art,

Company is performing its

play for the first time in

Syed Abid Rasheed Shah,

Secretary, J&K Academy of

Art, Culture & Languages,

was the guest of honour at

"Laila Majunun", a play

written by Ismail Chunara

and directed by veteran Ram

Gopal Bajaj, was showcased

during the festival, including

"Khoob Ladi Mardaani

Subhadra Ki Zubani" writ-

ten by Asif Ali and directed

by Bharti Sharma; "Maai Ri

Main Ka Se Kahun", a musi-

cal play based on Vijaydan

Detha's story Dhuvidha and

directed by Ajay Kumar;

WEATHER

Sunset: 17:30 Hours

Sunrise: 06:48 Hours

Max: 76

Max: 19.2°C

Max : 88

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Min: 70

"Andha Yug", written

in the Inaugural ceremony. Various plays will be staged

the inaugural ceremony.

began here on Monday.

Culture and Languages. The NSD Repertory

Srinagar.

## top court judges. If cleared by the Centre,

the top court will have the full strength of 34 judges. The collegium in its resolution stated that the Supreme Court has a sanctioned

full working

Court has a huge backlog of "In view of the ever-mounting pendency of cases, the workload of judges has increased considerably. Bearing in mind the above, it has become necessary to ensure that the Court has

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# CS review implementation of JJM

# 16.5 lakh households to be provided functional tap connections by Dec end adherence to the deadlines

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS** JAMMU: Chief Secretary

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Monday took a detailed review of progress under the strength of 34 judges and is Jal Jeevan Mission in the currently functioning with UT of J&K. The meeting 31 Judges. The Supreme was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra along with Mission Director, JJM, Chief Engineers of Jal Shakti Jammu/Kashmir besides other senior officers of the department.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary undertook live virtual review of several ongoing Water Supply



meeting in Jammu on Monday.

Schemes at various farflung areas of J&K such as Tangdhar (Kupwara), Chithi Bandey (Bandipora), Agar Ballian (Reasi) and also took feedback from local community members/Pani Samitis regarding the pace

and quality of the ongoing works. Dr. Mehta, while impressing that water is a basic necessity that touches the life of every citizen, directed senior functionaries and field staff of Jal Jeevan Mission for strict

#### set for completion of the project with active onboarding of Pani-Samitis. During the subsequent

meeting, the Jal Shakti Department  $_{\mathrm{made}}$ detailed presentation regarding the status of progress under the Jal Jeevan Mission. It was informed that 99 percent of the works in Kashmir division and 95 percent of works in Jammu division out of the total 6623 works in the UT stand allotted; and that by December end, 91

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## Candles, diyas made by prisoners to light up homes in Jammu this Diwali STATE TIMES NEWS Kotwal, Superintendent at

# JAMMU: Candles and earth-

en lamps of various designs and colours made by jail inmates will light up the homes of hundreds of families this Diwali in Jammu.

As part of skill training and rehabilitation of inmates, the authorities in the district jail in Amphalla here are encouraging prisoners to make candles and diyas at a manufacturing unit set up within the premises

"The prisoners are making diyas and candles of various designs and colours for Diwali. We will put up stalls outside the jail and other places for their sale," Harish District Jail Amphalla, told reporters here. He said people should know

that prisoners are part of

their society and they, too, are trying to contribute to the community through such "This is a part of inmates'

rehabilitation and skill training initiative. They are skilled and can earn a living for their families once they are out of jail. They can set up small-scale units", he said.

Shakti Kumar, who is serving lifetime imprisonment at the district jail, is part of

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## Enhance working capabilities to deliver Parliament panel better: DGP to Police officers



DGP R.R. Swain chairing meeting of all senior police officers of different wings across J&K in Jammu

# **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Director General of Police R R Swain on Monday urged the senior police officers to enhance

er better. Director General Monday chaired a meeting of all senior police officers of

### Swain visits injured Police Inspector, family in SKIMS ICU

SRINAGAR: The Director General of Police J&K, R R Swain on Monday in the evening visited SKIMS to know the welfare and enquire about the health condition of Police Inspector Masroor Wani who was attacked by a terrorist with pistol shots while he was playing cricket with other members of the local community. The DGP was accompanied by ADGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar,

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## adopts reports on criminal laws **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: The parliamentary committee examining three bills, which seek to replace as many "colonial" era laws, on Monday adopted its draft report offering a slew of amendments but sticking to their Hindi names, with nearly 10 opposition members likely to sub-

mit dissent notes. Congress leader Chidambaram spoke at length in the meeting offering a host of suggestions, including that the committee should define community service and what all it envisages, and wanted

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# Mini bus falls into gorge in Rajouri, 3 dead

#### STATE TIMES NEWS RAJOURI/JAMMU: Three passengers were killed and 15 others injured on Monday when a mini bus skidded off the road and plunged into a 300-feet gorge in Rajouri district, officials said.

The accident took place around 11 am at Kainchi Morh when the driver of the mini bus on its way to Rajouri from Kotranka lost control while negotiating a blind curve, the officials said.

They said a rescue operation was launched immediately and 18 people were evacuated from the scene to the Government Medical



Wreckage of vehicle at accident spot.

hospital Rajouri, where three of them were declared dead. Medical Superintendent Mehmood H Bajar said 15 of the injured were admitted to

the hospital and efforts are

critically injured patients. The three passengers, who lost their lives in the accident, include Abdul Rashid (34), son of Chandia, resi-

dent of Hubbi

# Israeli forces cut off north Gaza as Palestinian death toll from monthlong war passes 10,000

# **STATE TIMES NEWS**

DEIR AL-BALAH (GAZA STRIP): Israeli forces severed northern Gaza from the rest of the besieged territory and pounded it with intense airstrikes overnight into Monday, as the Palestinian death toll from a month of fighting passed 10,000.

An even bloodier phase is expected as Israeli troops push into the dense confines of Gaza City. Palestinians held a mass funeral for

dozens killed a day earlier in strikes in the south, where Israel has told civilians to seek refuge though it has continued to strike targets all across the coastal enclave.

Troops are expected to enter Gaza City soon, Israeli media reported, and Palestinian militants who have had years to prepare are likely to fight street by street, launching ambushes from a vast network of tunnels.

Casualties will likely rise on both sides in the war, which has already



killed at least 10,022 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between fighters and civilians.

Some 1,400 Israelis have died, mostly civilians killed in the October

7 incursion by Hamas that started the conflict. Both tolls are unprecedented in the decades-old conflict.

The Israeli military said late on Sunday that it had cut off northern Gaza from the south, calling it a "significant stage" in the war.

On Monday, it said that aircraft struck 450 targets overnight and ground troops took over a Hamas compound. A one-way corridor for residents to flee south remains available, according to the military, for the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who remain in Gaza City and other parts of the north.

Some 1.5 million Palestinians, or around 70 per cent of Gaza's population, have fled their homes since the war began. Food, medicine, fuel and water are running low, and UN-run schools-turned-shelters are beyond capacity, with many sleeping on the streets outside.

Mobile phone and internet service went down overnight, the third territory-wide outage since the start of the war, but was gradually restored on Monday, according to the Palestinian telecom company Paltel and internet access advocacy **CONTD ON PAGE 9** 

# Former minister Lal Singh appears before ED; supporters stage protest a second time in three days.

# STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Jammu Kashmir minister Choudhary Lal Singh before appeared Enforcement Directorate on Monday for questioning in connection with a case against an educational trust run by his wife and former legislator Kanta Andotra, official sources said.

Scores of Singh's supporters led by his wife Andotra assembled outside the agency office and staged a protest against the ED summons to their leader, claiming that he is spotless and is being deliberately harassed at the behest of the BJP. Singh, the chairman of the

Swabhiman Sangathan Party, reached the agency office in Narwal at 10 am for questioning for

sources said. ED sleuths had questioned him earlier on Saturday.

Last Enforcement Directorate had conducted searches in Jammu and its adjoining areas as part of a money laundering probe against the educational trust of Andotra and a former government official in connection with alleged irregularities in land purchase to set up the trust.

The federal agency had raided about eight premises in Jammu, Kathua and Punjab's Pathankot in the case against RB Educational Trust, its chairperson and Ravinder S. a former revenue official. The money laundering case stems from an October 2021 charge

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