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# STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

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Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

**03** Dr Jitendra launches nationwide 'Digital Life Certificate' campaign for Pensioners

**10** Doda Volleyball meet at Bhaderwah from Nov 19

**10** 35 States/UTs to take part in 68th National School Games Judo U-17 Boys

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## Amid uproar, J&K LA passes resolution seeking restoration of special status

**Omar says Assembly has done its job: 'Jai Shri Ram' chants echo in House**



BJP legislators protesting in Legislative Assembly after passage of resolution seeking restoration of special status.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Wednesday passed a resolution asking the Centre to hold dialogue with elected representatives for restoration of special status of the erstwhile state, prompting protests by BJP members who tore copies of the document and raised slogans against the speaker.

According to an official spokesperson, the resolution was moved by Deputy Chief

Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary and seconded by Minister for Health, Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Masood. The resolution was put to voice vote by Speaker,

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### Won't allow Assembly to function until resolution on Art 370 withdrawn: BJP

SRINAGAR: Opposition BJP on Wednesday said it will not allow the proceedings of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly to go on until a resolution asking the Centre to hold talks with the elected representatives from the region for the restoration of the erstwhile state's special status was withdrawn.

"This is an illegal resolution and until they roll it back, we will continue our protest and not allow the proceedings of the House. They will have to roll it back and then we will debate it," Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Sunil Sharma told reporters here. He said the resolution was not part

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## Trump wins Presidential polls, makes forceful comeback

**AGENCY**  
WASHINGTON: Former President Donald Trump on Wednesday won the US presidency for a second term in one of the greatest political comebacks in American history, cruising past his Democratic rival Kamala Harris in a bitterly fought election.

The 78-year-old Republican leader cleared the 270 electoral votes needed to clinch the presidency by securing a victory in the key battleground state of Wisconsin.

According to races called by the Associated Press up to 4 pm (IST), 277 electoral votes had gone to Republican candidate Trump and 224 to Democratic Party's Harris.

Trump addressed his supporters at West Palm Beach in Florida, declaring victory and promising a "golden age of America".

"This will be the golden age of America. America has



### Modi congratulates 'friend' Trump

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday congratulated "friend" Donald Trump on his "historic" presidential polls victory, and said he looks forward to renewing their collaboration to further strengthen the India-US Comprehensive Global and Strategic Partnership.

Former US President Trump was cruising towards winning the White House race in one of the greatest political comebacks in American history.

"Heartiest congratulations my friend @realDonaldTrump on your historic election victory. As you build on the successes of your previous term, I look forward to renewing our collaboration to further strengthen

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given us an unprecedented and powerful mandate," Trump declared with his family by his side amid cheers of his jubilant supporters.

"This is a magnificent victory for the American people. This was a movement like nobody's ever seen before, and frankly, this was, I believe, the greatest political movement of all time. There's never been anything like this in this country, and maybe beyond," Trump said.

"And now it's going to reach a new level of importance because we're going to help our country heal. We'll help our country...we have a country that needs help, and it needs help very badly," he said.

"We are going to fix our borders. We are going to fix everything about our country. And we made history for a reason tonight, and the reason is going to be just that

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## LG, AP Chief pay tributes to Devender Rana



LG Manoj Sinha paying tributes to BJP leader Devender Singh Rana in Jammu.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and J-K Apni Party chief Altaf Bukhari on Wednesday separately visited the house of BJP leader Devender Singh Rana (59), who passed away at a private hospital in Haryana's Fraidabad

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## NC insulting Parliament, SC and Constitution to please Pakistan: Chugh

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Wednesday fired the National Conference (NC) government for grossly insulting national institutions like the Constitution and the Supreme Court of India by bringing in a resolution on Article 370 in the Assembly.

"It also amounted to disrespecting the Parliament which had put its stamp on the abolition of Article 370", Chugh said in a statement and ridiculed the political sense of the NC government for trying to reverse what the



Parliament has approved and what the Supreme Court has upheld.

Lashing out at the NC government, Chugh said it was a

gravely anti-national act of the NC government which is aimed at pushing the agenda laid down by the Pakistan ISI.

## SC permits LMV driving licence holders to drive transport vehicles weighing up to 7,500 kg

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: In a significant ruling benefiting commercial drivers, the Supreme Court on Wednesday held that individuals holding a Light Motor Vehicle (LMV) driving licence are eligible to drive transport vehicles with a weight not exceeding 7,500 kg.

The judgment from a five-judge Constitution bench, led by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, offers clarity on licensing regulations and is expected to prevent insurance companies from rejecting claims based on the type of licence of drivers involved in accidents.

The unanimous 126-page verdict, penned by Justice Hrishikesh Roy on behalf of five judges, upheld its 2017 judgment in the Mukund Dewangan case which had held that the LMV licence holders can drive transport vehicles weighing upto 7,500 kg.

It, however, also addressed nuances under the Motor Vehicle (MV) Act and the rules.

"A driver holding a licence for LMV class, under section 10(2)(d) for vehicles with a gross vehicle weight under 7,500 kg, is permitted to operate a Transport

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## Shailendra Kumar appointed member of CITaG Selection Committee at IIM Jammu

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Government on Wednesday nominated IAS officer as a member of Selection Committee for the Centre for Innovation and Transformation in Governance (CITaG) at IIM Jammu.

"In supersession of Government Order No. 1423-JK(GAD) of 2024 dated July 29, 2024, Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Government, Agriculture Production Department, has been nominated as Member of the Selection Committee for finalization of various positions for the Centre for Innovation and Transformation in Governance (CITaG), set up at IIM Jammu," reads an order issued by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department.

## Cabinet approves PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme to provide financial support to deserving students

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme to provide monetary support to meritorious students so that financial constraints do not prevent them from pursuing quality higher education, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

As per the scheme, anybody who gets admission in Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs) will be eligible to get collateral-free, guarantor-free loan from banks and financial institutions to cover the full amount of tuition fees and other expenses related to the course.

An outlay of Rs 3,600 crore has been approved for the scheme under which education loans will be facilitated to students securing admissions in top 860 QHEIs of the country based on the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). This will cover more than 22 lakh students every year.

"The Cabinet has approved PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme to provide financial support to meritorious students so that financial constraints do not prevent any youth of India from pursuing quality higher education," Vaishnaw said at a press conference here.

The scheme will be applicable to the top QHEIs as determined by the NIRF rankings - including all HEIs, government and private, that are ranked within the top 100 in NIRF in overall, category-specific and domain-specific rankings, state government HEIs ranked in 101-200 in the NIRF and all central government-run institutions.

"This list will be updated every year using the latest NIRF ranking, and to begin with 860 qualifying QHEIs, covering more than 22 lakh students to be able to potentially avail benefits of PM-

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## Encounter breaks out in Kupwara

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: An encounter broke out between security forces and militants in Kupwara district, officials said on Wednesday.

Based on specific intelligence inputs about the presence of militants, a cordon and search operation was launched by security forces during the night in Margi area of Lolab in the north Kashmir district, they said.

Officials said contact was established with the militants and a firefight began. Exchange of fire was going on and the operation is in progress, the officials added.

## CS favours making SSCL, JSCL self sustainable entities

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Wednesday chaired a meeting of Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) to discuss several matters including the functioning of Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) and Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL).

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Divisional Commissioners of Kashmir/Jammu; CEOs of SSCL/JSCL and the officers concerned



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting at Srinagar.

Departments.

During this meeting the Chief Secretary explicitly specified that both the Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) established for execution of works of Smart City Mission in the twin cities of Srinagar and

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## Resolution seeking restoration of J&K's special status amounts to breach of privilege: BJP

**Party workers holds protest in Jammu**

"The resolution talks about a unilateral removal (of the special status), which is a direct reference to the abrogation of the provisions of Articles 370 and 35A (of the Constitution). They have raised the issue in a twisted manner and are involved in breach of privilege, for which they have to face consequences," he told reporters at the party headquarters here.

Flanked by other senior party leaders, including former deputy chief minister Kavinder Gupta, Sharma said the revocation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019 was not a "unilateral decision" of the BJP-led Centre.

"The government moved a bill in the Lok Sabha

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## CBI probe initiated on Rahul Gandhi citizenship issue, Delhi HC told

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court was informed on Wednesday that a CBI probe had been initiated into Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's citizenship on a PIL being heard by the Allahabad High Court.

When the petitioner, a Karnataka BJP worker, said he had moved a PIL in the Allahabad High Court, a bench of Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela said it didn't want any conflicting orders to be passed.

There cannot be two parallel petitions on the same cause of action, said the bench, permitting S Vignesh Shishir to file an affidavit on the relevant developments following his PIL in the

Allahabad High Court.

The matter before the Delhi High Court was on a plea by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy who sought directions to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to decide his representation seeking cancellation of Gandhi's Indian citizenship.

Swamy, in his plea, also sought a direction to the MHA to furnish a status report on the representation filed by him against Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

While Swamy maintained that the matter before the Allahabad High Court had nothing to do with his case and the prayers were totally different, Shishir claimed Swamy's plea had led to mul-

tiplicity and parallel proceedings.

The court asked Shishir to file an application for impleadment in the petition before it and listed the matter on December 6.

During the hearing, Shishir submitted his petition was last heard by the Allahabad High Court on October 24 and the matter was under investigation by the CBI.

According to Shishir, the matter was before the Allahabad High Court at a "very advanced stage".

"I also appeared before the CBI in this case and tendered my very confidential evidence with regard to this matter. The matter is currently under investigation by the CBI," he submitted.

"Various investigating

agencies of the country are conducting the investigation. I have given my objections to the Delhi High Court registrar through an email," added Shishir.

The bench subsequently remarked that the documents were required to be filed through the court registry and not an email.

Swamy differentiated between the two petitions, submitting while Shishir's plea sought initiation of criminal prosecution, his petition only said Gandhi was not a citizen of India but a "citizen of Britain".

"Don't be parasitical and say the prayers are similar and hang on to us. It is clear he cannot be a citizen of two countries, we have

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**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 29.0°C Min: 16.7°C

Humidity  
Max: 75 Min: 69

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 23.6°C Min: 5.1°C

Humidity  
Max: 82 Min: 63

Sunset : 17:35 Hours  
Sunrise : 06:52 Hours