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'INDI Alliance keeps hurting our faith': Modi

Highlights 'Modi's Guarantee', underscoring women-centric achievements

STATE TIMES NEWS
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Sounding the bugle for the Lok Sabha polls in opposition-dominated Kerala on Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi underlined his government's women empowerment measures, particularly the Women's Reservation Bill, stressing that these initiatives were a part of "Modi's Guarantee".

In a fiery speech at a massive women-only event organised by the BJP in this central Kerala city, Modi reiterated "Modiyude Guarantee" (Modi's Guarantee) in Malayalam as many as 17 times.

He also touched upon contentious issues, such as the controversies surrounding the Thrissur Pooram and the



alleged mismanagement of the Sabarimala pilgrim season by the LDF government. "INDI Alliance knows only one thing: to hurt our religious sentiments. They are turning our celebrations, our festivals into a mode of corruption. We are all witnessing the political games in the Thrissur Pooram," the PM

alleged.

The "sorry state of affairs at Sabarimala" shows the ineffective management by the Kerala government, he further charged.

The Prime Minister highlighted the achievements of his government in empowering women, citing various initiatives such as Ujjwala, tap

water connections, toilets, Mudra loans, and more.

Modi also said he guaranteed freedom for Muslim women from triple talaq and fulfilled it honestly.

Asserting that the progress of the poor; women, youth and farmers will ensure national growth, he also said there is a buzz around 'Modi's Guarantee'.

"A buzz has swept across the entire country, centered on Modi's Guarantee. Over the past decade, numerous schemes have been implemented to enhance the quality of women's lives," the prime minister said.

The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam has now become law, the PM said, stating that he has fulfilled his

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Electricity reaches 2 remote villages along LoC after 75 years of independence

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Two remote villages along the Line of Control on the Keran Sector in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday were electrified for the first time in 75 years of independence.

"In a historic moment, the residents of Kundiyan and Patroo villages in the Keran area of the Kupwara district experienced the joy of electricity for the first time in 75 years," an official spokesman said.

He said the two 250-KV sub stations, set up under the Samridh Seema Yojna, were inaugurated by Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, V K Bhiduri.

The residents expressed gratitude to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's administration

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CRS conducts inspection on Banihal-Khari section of Kashmir rail project

STATE TIMES NEWS
BANIHAL: The Commissioner of Railways Safety (CRS) on Wednesday conducted the second round of the statutory inspection of the recently completed 14.869 km track between Banihal and Khari section along the ambitious Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL), officials said.

The Khari railway station in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district falls between Banihal and Katra on the remaining 111-km stretch of the USBRL project, which on completion will connect Kashmir with the rest of the country by train in the coming months.

On December 6 last year, the Northern Railways successfully conducted the first trial run of an electric train from the Banihal railway station to the Khari railway station, bringing cheer on the faces of the local population residing in the remote picturesque area.

The officials said the second round of statutory inspection by CRS Dinesh Chand Deshwal for the opening of Banihal-Khari track was conducted, brightening the chances



for commission of this section to link Khari with Kashmir valley by train.

During the inspection, the officials said the chief administrative officer of the USBRL, the construction officers and other concerned officials accompanied

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Immovable property of terror accused attached in Ganderbal

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Immovable property of a terror accused was attached in Ganderbal district on Wednesday under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, police said.

The police in Ganderbal in a significant move has taken action by attaching land measuring 10 marlas situated at Revenue Estate Wakoora belonging to Lateef Ahmad Kambay, son of Gh Mohd Kambay, resident of Wakoora, in pursuance to orders passed by Court of Additional Session Judge

(Special Judge designated under NIA Act) Ganderbal vide CNR No. JKGB010005642024 dated December 29, 2023 in Case FIR No. 110/2022 Under Sections 353 IPC, 13, 18, 23, 38, 39 UA (P) Act, 7/25 IA Act, 207 M.V Act of Police Station Ganderbal, said a spokesman.

This decisive step is part of ongoing efforts to address activities falling under the purview of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, the spokesman said.

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VP Dhankhar to inaugurate biotech startup expo in Kathua today

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar will inaugurate a biotech start-up expo in Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday in a bid to develop the district along the international border with Pakistan as hub for budding entrepreneurs.

The expo titled 'Emerging Startup Trends in North India' at the Biotech Park in Kathua will see the participation of 25 startups comprising 11 from Jammu and Kashmir, six from Gurgaon and Noida, three each from Chandigarh and Kanpur and one each from Dehradun and Roorkee, Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh



said. Making a strong pitch for the youth to take up entrepreneurship instead of pursuing government jobs, Singh said the bio-diversity rich region of Jammu was home to numerous startups in the biotech sector focusing on

plants such as lavender and mint.

"We are developing Kathua Biotech Park as a hub for startups as it offers land at competitive rates to entrepreneurs from Punjab and Himachal Pradesh," Jitendra Kumar, Managing Director of Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) said.

Six women entrepreneurs are also scheduled to participate in the expo where the Vice President will also interact with startup innovators, entrepreneurs, academicians, scientists and local representatives. Singh said the government would focus on promoting startups in Tier 2

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Commercial units in Reasi directed to install CCTVs within 21 days

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Commercial units in Reasi district have been directed to install closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras in their business premises within 21 days for the security of the public.

District Magistrate, Reasi, Vishesh Paul Mahajan also asked the owners of hotels, guest houses, restaurants, dhabas, shopping malls and other commercial establishments at Katra and Ransoo to furnish details of their employees to their respective police station and tehsildars

within the same period.

Reasi district is home to the famous shrines of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi at Katra and Shri Shiv Khori Shrine at Ransoo Tehsil in Pooni and a large number of pilgrims from different parts of the country visit them every day.

In an order issued on Tuesday, the district magistrate said installation of CCTVs would not only help in controlling crime but will also enhance safety of people and thwart terrorist activities.

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Kashmir reels under cold wave conditions

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: There was no relief from the intense dry and cold wave conditions in Kashmir on Wednesday as the minimum temperatures stayed several degrees below the freezing point, officials said.

Anantnag town was the coldest place in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday night as the mercury plunged more than seven degrees below the freezing point, they said.

A thin layer of ice had formed over the surface of the Dal Lake as Srinagar city recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.8 degrees Celsius for the second consecutive night, officials said.

The residents of the Lake, who live in the houseboats, had to a tough time breaking the ice layer while rowing their boats towards the banks. Water supply pipes have frozen in many

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CS takes overview of IT initiative 'J&K Gati Shakti' to be developed by BISAG



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting in Jammu on Wednesday.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Wednesday took the holistic review of the

Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG), a society under Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) for making Artificial Intelligence (AI) based solutions part of governance here.

The meeting besides the DG, BISAG-N was attended by Principal Secretary, PWD; Principal Secretary, School Education; Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, IT; Commissioner Secretary,

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Man arrested for setting two vehicles on fire

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: A man was on Wednesday arrested for allegedly setting afire two vehicles in Rajouri district, officials said.

Fulwari Bajwal area resident Satpal, in his complaint, alleged that an unknown person had set ear and motorcycle on fire by breaking the oil tank of the two wheeler at about 11.30 pm on Tuesday, they said.

A case was registered and Satesh Kumar (26) was detained for questioning and he confessed to the crime, police said. Further probe is underway, they said.

Cop among two arrested in terror-funding case in Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Special Investigation Agency (SIA) has arrested two more persons, including a policeman, for allegedly being part of a cross-border narcotic syndicate involved in terror funding here, officials said on Wednesday.

The arrest of Selection Grade Constable Saif-ud-Din of Jammu and former sarpanch Farooq Ahmad Jungal of Uri in north Kashmir's Baramulla district took the number of accused in the case to 17, they said.

They said the syndicate was unearthed by SIA following investigation in a hawala case involving former minister and chairman of Nature-Mankind Friendly Party Jatinder Singh alias "Babu Singh".

Singh was arrested in April 2022 after one of his worker's Mohammad Shareef Shah, a resident of south Kashmir's Kokernag, was held along with hawala money of Rs 6.90 lakh in Jammu.

The SIA had already filed a charge sheet against

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Encounter breaks out in Kulgam

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: An encounter broke out between security forces and terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district late on Wednesday, police said.

"Encounter has started at Hadigam area of Kulgam district," the Kashmir Zone Police said in a post on X around 10.30 pm. They said Kulgam Police, Army and CRPF are on the job. Further details are awaited.

Earlier, Security forces launched a search operation in the forest areas of Poonch district, officials said.

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Impressive Nagar-Kirtan taken out to mark Gurburab celebrations

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: An impressive Nagar-Kirtan was taken out on Wednesday to mark Gurburab celebrations falling on January 5 in connection with the birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh, by the members of Sikh community.

The Nagar Kirtan was organized by the District Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee (DGPC) Jammu in which a large number of Sikh Sangat drawn from different parts of Jammu region including men, women and children participated with great enthusiasm and religious fervor.

The Nagar Kirtan started from Gurdwara Sahib, Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Chand Nagar and after passing through various markets it culminated at Gurudwara Nanak Nagar.

The routes were decorated by the



Panj Piyare leading the Nagar Kirtan in Jammu on Wednesday. (More pics on pg-3)

devotees to receive the Nagar Kirtan by erecting welcome gates while the Sangat was seen sweeping the road.

The Nagar Kirtan was led by Panj Pyaras attired in traditional Khalsa

dress. They were preceded by devout Sikhs riding on horses. A fully decorated vehicle carrying the "Guru Granth Sahib", the holy religious scripture of Sikhs followed them. A large number of devout Sikhs took part in the Nagar Kirtan reciting Shabad Kirtan and Gurbani enrout.

The administration had made elaborate arrangements for the Nagar Kirtan and traffic on the road where from Nagar Kirtan passed, was diverted to other routes so that there is no inconvenience to the devotees participating in the Nagar Kirtan.

The devotees' enrout were paying their obeisance to the Guru Granth Sahib. The religious preachers also participated in Nagar Kirtan. After conclusion of the Nagar Kirtan, religious discourses were given by religious preachers.

Now frisking and biometric attendance for JEE-Main candidates to be repeated after toilet breaks

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Candidates appearing for engineering entrance exam JEE-Main will have to undergo frisking and biometric attendance after toilet breaks as well, according to National Testing Agency (NTA) officials.

Officials, observers, staff members and even helps serving refreshments will have to undergo the same process, they said.

"The move is aimed at ensuring there are no cases of use of unfair means or proxy attendance. We have strict mechanisms in place already but the idea is to make the exam completely foolproof to ensure there are

zero incidents," NTA Director Subodh Kumar Singh said.

At present, aspirants are screened at the entry and biometric attendance is also recorded there.

"The same process will be extended to other exams as well in the longer run," Singh added.

The Joint Entrance Exam (JEE) Main is the screening test for admissions to centrally-funded technical institutions such as NITs and IITs. The top 20 per cent of the merit list becomes eligible to sit for the JEE (Advanced), the entrance test for Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 14.4°C Min: 7.0°C

Humidity
Max: 94 Min: 79

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 9.5°C Min: -4.8°C

Humidity
Max: 94 Min: 62

Sunset : 17:28 Hours
Sunrise : 07:24 Hours