

BLUE MOON
Banquets • Conventions

THE BANQUET WITH A DIFFERENCE

National Highway, Near Thandi Khul, Jammu
Contact: 9086035550, 9086035551

Neebha
Multispecialty Institute

Dr. Shitiz Gupta
M.S., M.Ch.(Plastic Surgery)
Consultant Plastic & Aesthetic Surgeon

Dr. Shikha Dhawan
M.S.(Obs. & Gynae.), D.N.B.(Obs. & Gynae.)
Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist

24-A, Shastri Nagar
(at Dr.Bharat Bhushan Gupta's Clinic), Jammu.
☎ 9419114877

03

Kathua emerging as North India's StartUp nerve centre: Dr Jitendra

08

No claim on any post till completion of recruitment process: DB

10

Jr National (Boys) Handball team leaves for Nationals

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

Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee

Electrification of every household

2 crore 86 lakh houses get electricity connections under Saubhagya Yojana

J&K building modern, sustainable agri-allied industry through HADP: LG



LG Manoj Sinha speaking at the Convocation Ceremony of SKUAST Jammu on Thursday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha called upon apicultural universities and educational institutions

to take innovative approach to minimize the agricultural input costs and maximize output with efficient farming techniques and technological

support. Presiding over the eighth convocation ceremony of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and

Technology (SKUAST) here, Sinha said Jammu and Kashmir is building a modern and sustainable agriculture and allied industry through the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). A huge opportunity awaits India in agricultural innovation and technology and processed food and institutions like SKUAST will play a major role in creating cutting-edge technology and new methods to revolutionise the food processing sector, he said. "As Jammu and Kashmir leaps towards building a modern and sustainable agriculture and allied

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Winter vacations extended for Jammu Summer Zone schools ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Thursday extended the winter vacations for Jammu Summer Zone Schools by two days. "The winter vacations are hereby extended upto 6th of January, 2024, in respect of all Government/Private recognized Schools, falling in Summer Zone of Jammu Division, in view of inclement weather conditions.

Any default on part of the Head of the Schools/Teaching staff in observance of the above schedule shall attract action under Rules,' an order issued by Director School Education Jammu.

All 3 branches of Govt unanimously removed Article 370: Dhankhar



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar addressing the Biotech Startup Expo on "Emerging Startup Trends in North India" at Kathua on Thursday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KATHUA : All three branches of the government unanimously abrogated Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution, thereby fulfilling the dream of Jana Sangh

founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Thursday. The Vice President was addressing a function after inaugurating a biotech start-up expo in Kathua in Jammu

and Kashmir, aimed at developing the district along the International Border with Pakistan as a hub for budding entrepreneurs. "Congratulations to the executive led by the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

SIA attaches properties of 2 accused in narco-terror case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The State Investigation Agency on Thursday attached properties of two people in Pulwama and Baramulla districts in a narco-terror case, officials said here.

The State Investigation Agency executed the attachment orders issued by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) court, Srinagar, against Abdul Rashid Bhat, a resident of Larkipora in the Pulwama

district's Awantipora, as he is absconding, the officials said. They said land measuring nearly 5,500 square feet, Bhat's share in the joint property, was attached by the SIA. In a similar action, State Investigation Agency sleuths attached five kanals of land belonging to accused Abdul Rashid Mir at Anarnagarh in Sopore area of the Baramulla district, the officials said.

New criminal laws, cyber crime, terror in J&K to be discussed at DGPs meet; PM, Shah to attend

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Implementation of the three criminal laws enacted recently, activities of pro-Khalistani groups and terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir are among the key issues to be discussed at a three-day conference of DGPs and IGP's in Jaipur beginning January 5, officials said on Thursday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will interact with the country's top police officers

before addressing them at a formal session while Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be present throughout the conference that will span several sessions. Issues to be handled during the general elections, cyber crime, Maoists' problem, and inter-state police coordination are some of the other major topics expected to be discussed during the meeting, a Union Home Ministry official said. About 250 officers in the

rank of Director General of Police (DGP) and Inspector General of Police (IGP) will physically attend the conference at the Rajasthan International Centre in Jaipur while more than 200 others are likely to participate virtually. Many officers have been tasked with delivering presentations on specific subjects such as counterterrorism, online fraud, cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, activities of pro-

Khalistani groups and Left wing extremism among others, the MHA official said. There will be detailed deliberations on how to face all these emerging internal security challenges. Modi will attend conference on January 6-7, his office said. A statement by the Prime Minister's Office said another key agenda of the conference is deliberations on the road map for implementation

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

68 Rajya Sabha members to retire in 2024

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Sixty-eight Rajya Sabha members, including nine Union ministers, are completing their tenures this year, triggering a race of sorts among leaders across political parties to eye a six-year term in the Upper House of Parliament. Of the 68 vacancies, elections have already been called for three seats in Delhi where AAP leaders Sanjay Singh, Narain Dass Gupta and Sushil Kumar Gupta will complete their tenures on

January 27. Elections have also been called for the lone Rajya Sabha seat in Sikkim where SDF member Hishey Lachungpa will retire on February 23. As many as 57 leaders, including Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Environment Minister Bhopendra Yadav, Health Minister Mansukh Madaviya and former prime minister Manmohan Singh, will

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Wanted HM terrorist Javaid Matoo arrested from Nizamuddin area

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police's Special Cell on Thursday arrested a Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist, wanted in 11 terror attack cases in Jammu and Kashmir, from the national capital, an official said. It is a major breakthrough, Special Commissioner of Police (SCP) HGS Dhaliwal said at a press conference. Javaid Ahmad Matoo, 32, a highly indoctrinated terrorist carrying a reward of Rs 10 lakh, was arrested from Delhi's Nizamuddin area. He was driving a stolen car when he was apprehended, police said.

Matoo is named in "11 known terror attack cases", including five grenade attacks and killing of at least five police personnel in sperate incidents, in Jammu and Kashmir, Dhaliwal said and added that he is a member of the terrorist outfits Hizbul Mujahideen and Al Badr.

Azad seeks provision of subsidized rations, uninterrupted power supply in winters

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad on Thursday appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to direct the district level authorities to address the day to day issues of people during the ongoing winter since they have been facing lots of difficulties in absence of proper arrangements.

Azad met various delegations in Jammu, who shared their disappointment and anger over unscheduled power cuts in rural areas especially the Chenab Valley,

Search operations to track down terrorists underway in Kulgam

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The anti-terror operation in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir entered the second day on Thursday as security forces continued search operations to track down terrorists who had briefly engaged in a fire-fight last night. There has been no fresh firefight but search operations are still in progress, a police official said. He said an encounter broke out between security forces and terrorists at Hadigam village on Wednesday night after the law enforcing agencies launched a cordon and search operation in the area. Further details are awaited.



Peer Panchal and Kashmir, curtailment of subsidized ration besides inadequate measures taken by the government to address the high-employment rate in the Union Territory. "I was bit disturbed today

after meeting various delegations, who feel dejected and disappointed for poor governance. They face hardships in this winter due to prolonged power cuts," he said. Azad said that curtailing subsidized ration to people when the unemployment is highest ever in the UT is unfortunate and instead government should have increased the quantity to offer some relief to the people. The former chief minister said that once his party gets back to power, he will ensure people receive basic facilities at their doorstep.

Magnitude 3.9 earthquake hits Kishtwar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A magnitude 3.9 earthquake hit Kishtwar district in the early hours of Thursday, officials said. There were no reports of any loss of life or damage to property, they added. The earthquake, with its epicentre near Kishtwar, occurred at 12.38 am, the National Centre for Seismology said. The quake hit at latitude 33.34 degrees north and longitude 76.67 degrees, at a depth of five kilometres. An earthquake of magnitude 4.3 on the Richter Scale jolted Afghanistan

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

SEC discusses Panchayat Electoral Roll Revision in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: State Election Commissioner, BR Sharma chaired a meeting on Thursday with officers to deliberate on the revision of the Panchayat Electoral Roll in Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners from all 20 districts, Director Rural Development Department Kashmir/Jammu, Director Panchayati Raj Jammu, Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner, J&K, State Informatics Officer, NIC, District Informatics Officers, and other con-



SEC BR Sharma chairing a meeting in Jammu on Thursday.

cerned in person and through virtual mode. During the meeting, the SEC emphasized the importance of the draft publication of electoral rolls and the fil-

ing of objections. He outlined plans for special camps in January and February to facilitate the revision process, drawing

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Major reshuffle in Administration; 31 IAS, 25 JKAS officers transferred

Alok Prpl Secy Higher Edu; Vikramjit Admn Secy Mining Deptt; Yasha Comm Secy Tourism; Rehana Admn Secy Information Deptt; Dr Syed Abid Admn Secy H&ME; Dr Piyush Admn Secy School Edu; Mohd Aijaz Admn Secy Planning; Dr Bilal DC Srinagar; Shishir Adtl DC Jammu; Om Prakash DC Rajouri; Anoo Malhotra DG Rural Sanitation; Bhawani VC JDA

Estates Department, till further orders. Suresh Kumar Gupta, IFS:1991, Director, Social Forestry, J&K, holding additional charge of MD, State Forest Corporation, has been transferred and posted as Principal Secretary, Culture Department; Shailendra Kumar, IAS:1995, Principal Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department, holding

additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, has been transferred and posted as Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Mandeep Kaur, IAS:2004, Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, holding additional charge of

Administrative Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department, has been transferred and posted as Commissioner/Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; and Vikramjit Singh, IPS:2004, Commissioner/Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, shall hold the charge of Administrative Secretary,

Mining Department in addition to his own duties, till further orders. Yasha Mudgal, IAS:2007, Commissioner/ Secretary to the Government, Cooperatives Department, holding additional charge of Administrative Secretary, ARI & Trainings Department and Mission Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Plan, has been transferred and posted as Commissioner/Secretary, Tourism Department. She shall continue to hold the charge of Mission Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), in

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Gulmarg Gondola earns Rs. 108 Cr revenue in 2023

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The Gulmarg Gondola is soaring high in skies, both in terms of the revenue generated and the number of tourists ferried. During the year passed by, more than a million tourists (10, 13, 458) enjoyed the rides of the Gondolas enabling the J&K Cable Car Corporation to earn a revenue of more than Rs. 108 crore during the last calendar year. This is encouragingly higher than the figures of previous year(2022) which stood at Rs. 91 crore as revenue and 8.50 lakh tourist rides. What is more, tourists describe the experience as surreal and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 10.6°C Min: 4.7°C

Humidity
Max: 100 Min: 81

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 10.6°C Min: -3.8°C

Humidity
Max: 99 Min: 75

Sunset : 17:22 Hours
Sunrise : 07:21 Hours