

05 LG urges citizens to contribute generously to Armed Forces Flag Day Fund

Multi-level parking facility inaugurated at Panjtirthi Improving quality of life of every citizen prime objective of J&K Admn: LG



LG Manoj Sinha addressing gathering after inaugurating multi-level parking facility at Panjtirthi, Jammu on Wednesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said improving the quality of life of people is the prime objective of his administration and reiterated his commitment of making the Union Territory a "fear-free, corruption-free society".

Inaugurating a multi-level parking facility at Panjtirthi

Calls for completing ongoing conservation projects within set timeframe

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday chaired the Governing Body meeting of Mubarak Mandi Jammu Heritage Society, here.

The meeting discussed several important matters pertaining to the restoration of Mubarak Mandi complex and speedy execution of works and projects.

The Lt Governor directed officials to take every possible measure to ensure ongoing conservation projects are completed within the set timeframe. Observing that our heritage is not only our identity but it also connects our past to future generations, the Lt Governor said, ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

09 Police attaches property of man for providing logistic support to terrorists

Two JKAS among three officers transferred

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Wednesday transferred two JKAS among three officers.

According to the order issued by Dr Piyush Singla, Secretary General Administration Department (GAD), Monica Thappa, Jr. Scale JKAS, Tehsildar, Jammu Development Authority, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Officer, ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

8 scribes working in Kashmir received threat from terrorists online: Govt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Eight journalists working in Kashmir have received threat from terrorists online and four of them have reportedly resigned from their jobs, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

Rai said a case has been registered at the Shergari police station in ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

10 JK Public School Kunjwani excels in National Sambo Karate Championship 2022

Modi urges leaders of all parties to make collective efforts to make winter session more productive

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday urged leaders of all parties to make collective efforts to make Parliament's winter session more productive.

Speaking to media ahead of the session's start, he said parliamentarians, including from the opposition, have told him that they suffer due to frequent disruptions and adjournments in Parliament as they are unable to speak and asked leaders from different parties to understand their "pain".

The last session was marred by regular disruptions in Parliament.

Noting that he had congenial discussion with various leaders during a recent all-party meet on India's presidency of G20, he expressed hope that its reflection will definitely be seen in Parliament too.

India hosting the G20 summit, which will be held next



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing media before beginning of winter session of Parliament in New Delhi on Wednesday.

year, is not merely a diplomatic event but also a chance to showcase the country's capabilities before the world in a holistic manner, the prime minister said.

"India is such a large country, is mother of democracy and has so much diversities and potential. Therefore, this is a big opportunity for the world to know India and for India to show its potential to the whole world," he added.

He expressed confidence that efforts will be made in the session to take important

decisions to take the country to new heights of development amid the current global situation. The prime minister urged all political parties to give first time MPs a chance to participate in debates for the remaining period of the 17th Lok Sabha before the next general election for their bright future and also for preparing the next generation in democracy. He said young MPs tell him that Parliament is a big university of democracy but ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Counting of votes for Gujarat, HP Assembly elections today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

AHMEDABAD/SHIMLA: The BJP is eyeing a record seventh straight term in Gujarat and also hoping to buck the anti-incumbency trend in Himachal Pradesh witnessed for nearly four decades as the stage is set for counting of votes on Thursday for the Assembly elections in the two states.

Simultaneously, votes polled in by-elections in six assembly constituencies in five states and the high-profile Mainpuri Lok Sabha seat in Uttar Pradesh, where the opposition Samajwadi Party is locked in a battle for prestige with the BJP, will be also

counted. The counting process will commence at 8 am with postal ballots to be taken up first.

Exit polls have predicted a big majority for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Gujarat and if these projections are any indication the saffron party is all set to retain power in the home state of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for the seventh consecutive term and equal Left Front's feat in West Bengal. The CPI(M)-led Front ruled the eastern state for 34 ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Full Court Reference held on superannuation of Chief Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey



Judges of High Court of J&K and Ladakh at a Full Court Reference to bid farewell to Chief Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Full Court Reference was held on Wednesday in the Jammu wing of High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, to bid farewell to Chief Justice, Ali Mohammad Magrey, upon his superannuation. Justice Tashi Rabstan, Justice

Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Puneet Gupta, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Mohan Lal, Justice Mohammad Akram Chowdhary, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria

Kazmi, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal and Justice Rajesh Sekhri were present on the occasion.

Advocate General, D C Raina and President J&K High Court Bar Association Jammu, M K Bhardwaj delivered the farewell address which was subsequently responded by the

Chief Justice.

Advocate General in his farewell address described Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey a gentleman par excellence and lauded the role of Justice Magrey for his dedication and commitment to his professional responsibilities. ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Night temperature falls further across Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Cold wave conditions in Kashmir intensified on Wednesday as the mercury continued its southward journey at most places, officials said.

At minus 5.6 degrees Celsius, Pahalgam was the coldest recorded place in the Union Territory, they said.

Srinagar, which had recorded the coldest night of the season at minus 3.4 degrees Celsius on Sunday, witnessed a low of minus 3 degrees Celsius on Tuesday, slightly down from minus 2.2 degrees Celsius on Monday, an official of the Met department here said.

The night temperature was lower at the ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, which recorded a low of minus 4 degrees Celsius, a slight drop from minus 3.5 degrees Celsius recorded on Tuesday. Pahalgam, in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, which serves as ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

SC status can't be given to Dalits who converted to Islam, Christianity: Centre to SC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Centre has told the Supreme Court The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 does not suffer from any "unconstitutionality" and the exclusion of Christianity and Islam was due to the reason that the "oppressive system" of untouchability was not prevalent in either of these two religions.

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, as amended from time to time, says no person professing a religion other than

Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism shall be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled



Caste (SC).

The government told the Supreme Court it has not accepted the report of the Justice Ranganath Misra Commission, which had recommended inclusion of Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims in the Scheduled Castes list as it was "flawed".

The government has highlighted these issues in a reply filed in the apex court to a plea which alleged The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 is discriminatory and violative of

Articles 14 (equality before law) and 15 (prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste etc) of the Constitution as it ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Encounter breaks out in Shopian

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: An encounter broke out between militants and security forces in Shopian district on Wednesday, police said.

Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in the Watho area of Shopian following information about the presence of militants there, a police official said.

He said during the operation, the hiding militants opened fire at the security forces, ensuing a gunbattle between the two sides.

There were no reports of any casualty so far, he added.

Mask-men rob businessman's family on gunpoint; made hostage for over five hours

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A major dacoity has taken place in Gandhi Nagar locality of Jammu wherein, according to complainant family, about a dozen masked gunmen barged into their house in Gandhi Nagar and made them hostage for about five hours, before decamping with lakhs of rupees.

Initially, crores of rupees were demanded from them but later they fled away with Rs 7 lakh from the house, the complainant family informed the police.

The incident panicked the city as the incident took place in the posh area of the

city and was reported on social media. Apart from this, there is J&K Police Lines nearby, but in spite of all this, such a big robbery has taken place showing a major security lapse.

CCTVs are being scanned after this incident. All efforts are being made by the police to find out any clue.

According to the complaint, Rakesh Aggarwal, a businessman, where he was taking a walk inside his house at around 7:00AM, about a dozen gunmen entered into his house and took him inside the house at gun point. At that time Rakesh ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Omar appoints Mudassar Shahmiri as Political Advisor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: National Conference Vice-President and former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday appointed Mudassar Shahmiri as his political advisor.

"JKNC Vice-President Omar Abdullah appointed Mudassar Shahmiri as his political advisor. The vice-president thanked the outgoing political advisor Tanvir Sadiq for his services and wished him luck for his new assigned roles," the National Conference said in a tweet.

Sadiq was appointed the party's chief spokesperson earlier this year.

3 KPs among 14 minority members killed in J&K so far in 2022: Govt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: As many as 14 people belonging to minority communities, including three Kashmiri Pandits, have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir this year so far, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Wednesday.

Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said 180 terrorists, 31 security personnel and 31 civilians were also killed in J-K in 123 terrorist incidents this year so far.

"14 persons belonging to minorities including three Kashmiri Pandits have been killed in Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir since January, 2022 till November 30, 2022," he said replying to

a written question.

Rai said there were certain media reports of Kashmiri Pandit Sangharsh Samiti highlighting their security concerns and various measures have been taken by the government to protect the lives of minorities which include group security in the form of static guards, day and night area domination, round the clock 'nakas' at strategic points among others.

Under Prime Minister's Development Package, 2015, 3,000 government jobs for Kashmiri migrants have been created of which, 2,639 have been appointed in the last five years, he said.

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 23.0°C Min: 6.9°C

Humidity
Max: 81 Min: 63

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 10.7°C Min: -3.0°C

Humidity
Max: 99 Min: 77

Sunset : 17:26 Hours
Sunrise : 07:20 Hours



ANCHOR

EXCLUSIVE

He elaborated that the so-called wave in favour of any party or the performance of the incumbent governments does not matter in this picturesque hilly state as the voters least bother whether the party in power has performed well or utterly bad during its five years tenure in the government. Their mission and agenda remains to change the incumbent government



to pave the way to the other party to step in. After five years, the tradition is for the change and therefore this pattern is going to see the Congress to form the government, he added.

Azad said that this time around the Congress remained free from infighting in Himachal Pradesh,

which is quite a departure from the usual scenario in the other states during the election times. Times stand testimony that in many cases, the rebel Congress candidates have ensured defeat of the official candidates of their own party. On the contrary, he quipped, during the just concluded elections, the menace of infighting inflicted the BJP, which is otherwise known for its discipline and well-knit cadre base. But the elections witnessed nearly dozens of rebels of the BJP in the fray, giving tough time to the official candidates. BJP's national leadership also could help in containing rebel syndrome.

Azad said that interesting-

ly and strangely, the Congress displayed complete unity and there was no rebel in the fray, thus bringing hope for the official candidates. The reason why there was no rebel candidate in the Congress Party can be attributed to the fact that every leader and worker of the party assumed that it is their turn to form the government as per the tradition of decades and this realization made them to remain steady forward and united.

Azad said the term 'tradition' had a negative psychological impact on the BJP leadership and candidates in Himachal Pradesh. They also reconciled with the fact that this time there is ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9