




Neebha
Multispeciality 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



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“Achievements of KP community fill my heart with pride” Massive infra development post 2019 brought sports revolution in J&K: LG

‘Avail limitless opportunities in diverse sectors, fulfill goal of Viksit Bharat’



LG Manoj Sinha addressing gathering after laying foundation of Synthetic Football Turf at Jagti on Wednesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday highlighted the efforts of the administration to develop the massive infrastructure that has brought

sports revolution in J&K, post 2019. "We have completed 702 sports projects. Multipurpose indoor sports halls have been constructed in almost every district. Playfields have been

developed in every panchayat", he observed after laying the foundation stone of Synthetic Football Turf at Jagti Camp, Nagrota. The Lt Governor congratulated the young sportsper-

sons and football enthusiasts on the occasion. The Synthetic Football Turf to be developed at a cost of Rs 5.75 crore, will include G+1 pavilion with a covered area having seating capacity of about 600 spectators, change rooms and other amenities.

"The achievements of Kashmiri Pandit community fill my heart with pride. I dedicate this vital sports project at Jagti to the Youth of this Community and to their immense contribution to nation-building," the Lt Governor said. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government is

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Sikh man shot dead by terrorists in Srinagar, another injured



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: In the first targeted killing of the year, terrorists on Wednesday shot dead a worker from Punjab while another sustained injuries in Habba Kadal area of the city, officials said here. Amritpal Singh, a resident of Amritsar, was shot by the terrorists from point blank

range and Shalla Kadal locality in Habba Kadal around 7 pm, the officials said. They said Singh died on the spot while another non-local worker identified as Rohit, aged 25, sustained injuries in the incident. Rohit also hails from Amritsar. He was hit by the

LG strongly condemns heinous terror attack on two civilians No efforts will be spared to bring perpetrators to justice: Sinha

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has strongly condemned the heinous terror attack on two civilians in Srinagar today. He extended his heartfelt condolences to the family of the civilian martyred in the attack and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured. In a tweet, the Lt Governor said: "I am deeply shocked and saddened by the heinous terror attack in Srinagar on Amritpal & Rohit from Amritsar. I condemn in strongest terms this brutal act, which has snuffed out an innocent life. In this hour of grief, I convey my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. Praying for the speedy recovery of the injured Rohit. A team of doctors is doing their best to take care of him. No efforts will be spared to bring the perpetrators to justice. Directed the Civil & Police administration to ensure all assistance to the families."

bullets in the abdomen and is undergoing treatment at SMHS hospital here. In a post on X, Kashmir Zone Police said, "Terrorists

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Talks within INDIA bloc only on 3 LS seats held by BJP in J&K, Ladakh: Omar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: There will be talks within the Congress-led INDIA bloc only on three parliamentary seats which were won by the BJP in the last elections from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah said on Wednesday. "There has been no talk on seat-sharing (within the INDIA alliance) so far. Congress is ready for the talks and they want us to talk to them. In the coming days, there will be a discussion, especially about the three seats (Jammu,

Udhampur and Ladakh) which are with the BJP," Omar told reporters here. Besides the Congress and the National Conference (NC) which had won all the three parliamentary seats from Kashmir Srinagar, Baramulla and Anantnag in the 2019 elections, Mehbooba Mufti-led Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) is also a part of the INDIA bloc from Jammu and Kashmir. Omar said NC has also fought elections from Jammu, Udhampur and Ladakh constituencies in the past.

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ED arrests Bharat Papers Director in money-laundering case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has re-arrested Anil Kumar Aggarwal, Director of M/s Bharat Papers Limited on Tuesday under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 in a bank loan fraud amounting to approx. Rs 200 Crore. Anil Kumar Aggarwal was produced before the Special PMLA Court, Jammu on Wednesday. The Court has granted custody to ED till February 13, 2024. The ED initiated investigation on the basis of FIR regis-

tered by CBI against M/s. Bharat Papers Limited and its Directors, Rajinder Kumar Aggarwal, Parveen Kumar Aggarwal, Anil Kumar and Baljinder Kumar Aggarwal. The FIR alleged that M/s Bharat Papers Limited and its directors have perpetrated bank loan fraud amounting to approximately Rs. 200 Crore with consortium of banks with State Bank of India as lead bank, J & K Bank, PNB and Karur Vysya Bank being the other banks. ED investigation revealed that Anil Kumar Aggarwal, in

his capacity as one of the main Director of M/s Bharat Papers Limited, since its incorporation in 2006, has committed the offence of money laundering by siphoning off a part of the loan through bogus entities and related entities, illegal sale of machinery by raising fake invoices, selling scrap(machinery) out of books to unrelated entities and adjusting sundry debtors in the books of holding company. Earlier, the ED had conducted search operations on January 31,2024 and February 05, 2024 at multi-

ple locations spread over Jammu and Kashmir; Punjab and Uttar Pradesh including office/residential premises related to the present/past directors of M/s Bharat Papers Limited, M/s International Traders and M/s Choudhary Industrial Projects Pvt. Ltd which resulted in seizure of Indian Currency of more than Rs. 34 lakhs, around 600 grams Gold and various incriminating documents in the form of property documents, hard disk, digital device and digital evidence. Further investigation is under progress.

Traffic restored on Jammu-Srinagar NH after suspension for repair work

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The vehicular traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway was restored on Wednesday after being suspended for a day to undertake repair work at several places in Ramban district, officials said. Repairs were necessitated after snowfall and heavy rains last Thursday made the arterial road severely damaged at several places between Nashri and Banihal, the officials said. "Traffic has been restored this morning. However, single-way traffic is playing at Dalwas area in Ramban dis-


trict," a traffic official said, adding that there is slow movement of traffic at Dalwas and T2 tunnel on the highway at the moment. "Commuters are advised to follow lane discipline. Overtaking will lead to congestion for all," he said. Over 300 vehicles, which were stranded at several places enroute, have been cleared. On Tuesday, several earth movers were pressed into the service by the agencies concerned at the affected portions, including Kishitwari Pather, Sher Bibi,

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Pakistanis to vote today; 25 killed in Balochistan blasts

■ AGENCY
ISLAMABAD: Pakistanis will vote on Thursday to elect a new government to rule the cash-strapped country amid a spree of violence including deadly blasts on the eve of elections, killing 25 in Baluchistan, in which the front-runner former prime minister Nawaz Sharif is believed to have the backing of the powerful military. With former prime minister Imran Khan in jail, Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) is tipped to emerge as the single largest party in the elections. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) candidates are contesting the polls independently after the Supreme Court upheld the decision of the election commission

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 19.5°C Min: 5.0°C

Humidity
Max: 91 Min: 40

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 10.0°C Min: -2.0°C

Humidity
Max: 86 Min: 43

Sunset : 18:07 Hours
Sunrise : 07:21 Hours

History Scripted: UCC bill passed in Uttarakhand Assembly

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
DEHRADUN: The Uttarakhand Assembly on Wednesday passed the Uniform Civil Code bill, which may serve as template for other BJP-run states to enact similar legislation. The UCC bill was passed by voice vote after a two-day debate. The opposition's proposal for referring the draft legislation to a select committee of the House on the ground that they did not get enough time to study its provisions was rejected. The bill will now be sent to

President Droupadi Murmu for her assent after which it will become a law. BJP-ruled states like Gujarat and Assam appear keen to model their UCCs on the bill passed by the Uttarakhand Assembly. Uttarakhand will now become the first state after Independence to get a common law on marriage, divorce, land, property and inheritance for all citizens, irrespective of their religion. During the discussion, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said it is not an

ordinary legislation. "With its passage, a small state like Uttarakhand will script history," he said. He said the UCC will create equal laws for men and women across all faiths and will help create a non-partisan and non-discriminatory society. It will especially protect the rights of women and put an end to their exploitation, Dhami said. The hill state's small tribal community is exempted from the proposed law, which also mandates registration

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No respite from cold wave in Kashmir, several places sub-zero

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: People in Kashmir got no respite from the intense cold wave conditions on Wednesday, as the minimum temperatures stayed several degrees below freezing point at most places in the valley. Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir, which serves as the base camp for the annual Amarnath yatra, recorded a low of minus 10.8 degrees Celsius and was the coldest recorded place in the valley last night, said an official from the weather

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PM scripted historic chapter for J&K by granting ST status to Paharis: Chugh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR : BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh, who is also party incharge of Jammu and Kashmir, on Wednesday described the grant of Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to Paharis as a watershed moment for the Union Territory. In a statement, Chugh hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his pioneering initiative as the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill,



BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh being honoured at Srinagar.

2024 was passed in the Lok Sabha. The historic Bill aims at empowering Pahari Ethnic Group, Padari Tribes,

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Castes of SCs, STs may not be homogenous in terms of social, economic status: SC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court, examining whether states can sub-classify scheduled castes and scheduled tribes for grant of quota inside quota, on Wednesday said all SCs and STs may not be homogenous in terms of their sociological, economic, education and social status. "They (SCs and STs) may be a class for a certain purpose. But, they may not be a class for all the purposes," a

seven-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud observed while hearing as many as 23 petitions on the issue. The top court is hearing references to revisit a five-judge constitution bench judgement of 2004 in the case of 'EV Chinniah vs. State of Andhra Pradesh' in which it was held that SCs and

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“Confident of third term”

NEW DELHI: Confident of securing a massive majority in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday outlined his vision for his next five-year term saying the Modi 3.0 government will put all its might to strengthen the foundation of 'Viksit Bharat' or a developed nation.



Coming down heavily on previous Congress-led governments of mismanagement of the economy, Modi told Rajya Sabha his government in the past 10 years has worked for development of all sections of the society. He said India

reservation," the prime minister said, picking up from where he left off in his reply in Lok Sabha on Monday.

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Citing a letter written by Jawaharlal Nehru to chief ministers, Modi said it clearly states that the first prime minister was against reservation of any kind, especially in jobs, as it adversely affected the functioning of the government. "The Congress which never gave complete reservation to OBCs, which never gave reservation to the poor of the general category, which did not consider Baba Saheb worthy of Bharat Ratna, kept giving Bharat Ratna only to its family. They are now preaching to us," he said.

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