

03 NC, Cong had vested interest in KPs' exodus: Dr Jitendra

05 9-yr old girl crushed by speeding bus; family, locals block NH

10 J&K Carrom team leaves for Nationals

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Blast near Army camp in Kupwara

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: A blast occurred near an Army camp in Kupwara district on Sunday, but no loss of life was reported, officials said. "A mysterious blast took place near the camp of 21 Rashtriya Rifles at Zachaldara in Handwara area of the north Kashmir district," one of the officials said. However, no loss of life or injury to anyone was reported.

JKSSB conducts first-ever exam of Police SIs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) on Sunday successfully conducted first ever OMR based objective type written examination for the post of Sub Inspector (Police), Home Department. The Board had setup 322 examination centres across 16 districts of Jammu and Kashmir with maximum number of venues (65) in Jammu and lowest number of venues (6) in Kishtwar districts. Pertinently, the Home Department referred 1200 posts of Sub-Inspector (Police) for recruitment

through direct recruitment. Subsequently, the JKSSB advertised aforesaid posts vide advertisement notification number 06 of 2021, under item No. 668, against which out of registered 1,13,861 candidates scheduled to appear for the posts, 97,793 (85.95%) candidates actually participated in the examination.

The OMR examination test was conducted with the active cooperation and support of respective district administrations and Jammu and Kashmir Police besides other related departments. The Private Schools and

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Regular Int'l flights resume in India after 2 years

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Regular international flights resumed on Sunday after a coronavirus pandemic-induced hiatus of approximately two years, with Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia calling it a "very important day". India had banned scheduled international flights on March 23, 2020. During the last two years, limited international passenger flights were operating between India and select countries under bilateral air bubble arrangements. Battered by the pandemic, the airline industry is slowly coming back to normalcy and the resumption of normal overseas flights is expected to provide a fillip to the sector.

On March 8, the Civil Aviation Ministry announced that regular overseas flights would resume from March 27 amid a decline in

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 37.3°C Min: 16.9°C

Humidity
Max: 49 Min: 24

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 25.0°C Min: 7.2°C

Humidity
Max: 53 Min: 26

Sunset : 18:48 Hours
Sunrise : 06:25 Hours

43-day annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra to begin on June 30

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The annual pilgrimage to the shrine of Amarnath located at a height of 3,880 metres in south Kashmir Himalayas has been scheduled to commence on June 30, an official said on Sunday.

The decision to schedule the 43-day pilgrimage was taken at a meeting of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board chaired by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha. "Today chaired Board meeting of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board. The 43-day holy pilgrimage will commence on 30th June with all covid protocols in place & culminate, as per the tradition, on the day of Raksha Bandhan. We had in-depth discussion on various issues also on upcoming Yatra, Sinha wrote on twitter.

The Amarnath yatra was cancelled midway in 2019 ahead of abrogation of Article 370 in August that year, while only a symbolic yatra



LG Manoj Sinha chairing meeting of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board.

was observed the past two years due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic.

According to an official spokesperson, the Board decided the 43-day holy pilgrimage will commence on 30th June with all covid protocols in place and will culminate, as per the tradition, on the day of Raksha Bandhan, 11th August 2022.

Further, the online registration for Shri Amarnathji Yatra will start from 11th April.

During the Board meeting,

the Lt Governor, who is also its Chairman, Members of the Board- Swami Aydheshanand Giri Ji Maharaj; D. C. Raina, Kailash Mehra Sadhu; K. N. Rai; K.N.Shrivastava; Pitambar Lal Gupta; Dr. Shailesh Raina; Prof Vishwamurti Shastri and the senior officers of UT administration also had in-depth discussions on various issues on upcoming Yatra.

The Lt Governor called on the officials to be proactive and ensure elaborate

arrangements for conducting smooth Yatra as large number of devotees are expected to arrive to pay their obeisance at the Holy Cave this year. He also said the government is introducing RFID system for pilgrims to track their movement en-route to ensure their well-being.

He laid special emphasis on providing best-in-class health facilities to all the visiting devotees and service providers, strengthening telecommunication

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Politics or Health Care ! Principal's interference in GMC's Cardiology Deptt affects patient care

■ VIVEK SHARMA

JAMMU: Credit with the highest number of surgeries and catering to the largest number of patients in OPD, the Cardio Department of Government Medical College (GMC) is facing 'unwarranted and unnecessary' interference by the Principal thus jeopardising its functioning as also patient care.

According to sources, Dr Sushil Sharma, HoD Cardiology, GMC & SSH, who has the highest number of patients in OPDs and Cath Labs as compared to the other units, has become eyesore for most of the fraternity members,



as he does not undertake private practice. The doctors and the trained para-medical staff members in his department are being deliberately shifted to other wings without consulting him just to hamper the working of his department.

Barring HoD Cardio Deptt, all HoDs issue duty rosters independently

Earlier, the then Minister for Health, Bali Bhagat, in a bid to favour few doctors, had bifurcated the categories of patients between the doctors. This is never done in any department of any hospital. It's the choice of the patient to choose a doctor of his or her choice for treatment, sources said.

Since Dr Sushil Sharma, who has studied from PGI Chandigarh, enjoys confidence of patients because of his track record in the conduct of successful heart surgeries, it irks many of his colleagues. Thus, the political inference in the department

has always been the part of the system. However, now the Principal's Office is always interfering by deputing the doctors and Post-Graduate students besides managing their rosters. To make the rosters of the staff of the department is duty of the HoDs like the other departments but in the Department of Cardiology, the

directions are passed every day from the Principal's Office.

The HoD Cardiology is reported to have apprised the office of the Lieutenant Governor about unwarranted interference, pleading that same creates problems in managing the heavy rush of cardio patients and their treatment plans.

Here it is relevant to mention that last week, seven high-end procedures were performed in a single day at GMC's Cardiology Department.

Dr Sushil Sharma along with Dr. Paramdeep Singh Sandhu, Dr. Nasir Ali Choudhary and whole team of cardiac Cath Lab SSH Jammu, comprising of lab technicians and paramedical staff have achieved landmark milestone

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Six fresh COVID cases in J&K, no new case in Ladakh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday recorded six new COVID-19 cases that pushed its tally to 4,53,658, while no fresh death due to the viral disease was reported, officials said.

The death toll stands at 4,750.

Of the fresh cases, two were reported from the Jammu division and four from the Kashmir division of the union territory, the officials said.

Jammu and Srinagar districts recorded the highest number of fresh cases at two each. Sixteen of the total 22 districts of the union

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Petrol price hiked by 50 paise, diesel by 55 paise

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Petrol price on Sunday was hiked by 50 paise a litre and diesel by 55 paise, taking the total increase in rates since resumption of daily price revision less than a week back to Rs 3.70-3.75 per litre.

Petrol in Delhi will now cost Rs 99.11 per litre as against Rs 98.61 previously while diesel rates have gone up from Rs 89.87 per litre to Rs 90.42, according to a price notification of state fuel retailers.

Rates have been increased across the country and vary from state to state

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Tearful adieu to two brothers martyred in Budgam

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: "Mei kya ous khatah (what was my fault)," wailed the inconsolable mother of an SPO and his brother martyred by terrorists as their bodies were brought home in Budgam district on Sunday.

A large number of people assembled at their home in Chadbugh locality and bid a tearful adieu to the brothers.

"What was my fault? What was my fault?" the grieving mother asked as women tried to console her.

"They should have shot me in the heart... Where will I find my sons now?" she said.



Large number of people offered tearful tributes to martyred SPO and his brother in Budgam.

Terrorists on Saturday martyred Special Police Officer (SPO) Ishfaq Ahmad

near his home. In the firing incident, Ahmad's

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Jammu breaks 76-year record as day temp hits 37.3 deg C

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The maximum temperature in Jammu on Sunday settled at 37.3 degrees Celsius, breaking a 76-year-old record for the month of March.

The previous highest day temperature of 37.2 degrees Celsius was recorded on March 31, 1945, Director Meteorological Department Sonum Lotus said.

He said since the last four days, the weather has remained mainly fair and clear in Jammu and Kashmir due to absence of any low pressure system or localised weather system. "Dry and hot weather is likely to prevail for the next few days as well," Lotus said. According to the meteorological department, the maximum temperature in

Jammu, the winter capital of the Union Territory, is 8.4 degrees above normal during this part of the season.

However, the night temperature was near normal at 16.9 degrees Celsius, a spokesperson of the department said.

Summer capital Srinagar is also witnessing hotter days than usual with day temperature settling at 25 degrees Celsius, 7.4 notches above normal, he said, adding that the night temperature in Srinagar was 7.2 degrees Celsius which was also 1.1 degrees above normal.

Katra, the base camp for pilgrims visiting the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, recorded a high of 32.3 degrees Celsius and a low of 16.7 degrees Celsius, the spokesperson said.

Plea in SC seeks SIT to identify perpetrators involved in 'genocide' of Hindus, Sikhs in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking constitution of a Special Investigation Team to identify the perpetrators involved in the alleged genocide of Hindus and Sikhs in Jammu and Kashmir during 1989-2003.

The petition, filed by NGO 'We the Citizens', has also sought directions to conduct a census of Hindus and Sikhs, who have been victims or survivors of "genocide" in Jammu and Kashmir and are now residing in different parts of India and also their rehabilitation.

"The petitioner has undertaken research by

going through books, articles, and memoirs of migrants from Kashmir. The prominent books which the petitioner has examined include 'My Frozen Turbulence in Kashmir' authored by Jagmohan and 'Our Moon Has Blood Clots' by Rahul Pandita. These two books give first hand account of ghastly genocide and exodus of Kashmiri Hindus and Sikhs in the year 1990," the plea submitted.

"The failure of the then government and police administration and finally complete breakdown of constitutional machinery have been explained in those books. The then government and state machin-

ery did not act at all to protect the life and limb of Hindus and Sikhs and allowed anti-nationals and terrorists, anti-social elements to take control of whole of Kashmir. As a result the Hindu and Sikhs citizens lost faith in the government and were forced to migrate to other parts of India," the plea filed through advocate Barun Kumar Sinha, said.

The PIL has also sought directions to declare that all sale of properties post exodus in the year January 1990 whether religious, residential, agricultural, commercial, institutional, educational or any other immovable property be declared as null and void.

then leadership to persuade BJP to form the government with National Conference ... we were ready to form a coalition government with the saffron party, Rana said addressing a public meeting in Doda district.

Rana had taken over the post of provincial president of National Conference in 2011 after relinquishing his office as political advisor to Omar.

He said PDP fought the assembly polls on the plank of keeping BJP out of power but later formed the coalition government with the

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Govt considering dropping COVID pre-call announcements from phones after 2 years of pandemic

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The COVID-19 awareness pre-call audio announcements set by telecom operators at the start of the pandemic may soon become history.

After almost two years of raising awareness about the disease, the government is now actively considering the removal of the COVID-19 pre-call messages after receiving representations that audio clips have served their intended purpose and are delaying critical calls during emergencies.

Official sources said the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has written to the Union Health Ministry requesting it to drop these pre-call announcements and caller

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