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HAPPY NAVRATRAS TO ALL OUR READERS

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

STATETIMES

RNI No. : 66908/96
Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

Vol. 28 Issue 84 • Jammu • Monday • March 27, 2023 • Pages 12 • ₹ 2.50
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J.K. PUBLIC SCHOOL
KUNJWANI, JAMMU
The School with a Difference

SOWING SKILLS
SHAPING INDIA

03

DIPR releases 13th episode of ‘Inspire Gen Z’ with former Int’l Cricketer Suresh Raina

09

‘Tantrik’ arrested for attempting to rape teacher

10

MI beats DC by 7 wickets to lift opening WPL Trophy

SIXTH NAVRATRA

Maa Katyayni

Sixth Navratra is related to 'Maa Katyayni'. When excesses of Danav Mahishasur increased Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva incarnated a Devi who was first of all worshipped by Maharishi Katyayani. So this Devi is called Katyayani. Devi with golden colour has four hands and upper right hand is for blessings. She has sword and lotus in the left hands. On this day of Navratra heart of worshipper is in 'Aagya Chakra'. By the blessings of this Devi one leads fearless, disease-free life and possesses all the comforts of life. Mantra to be recited nine times on this day is :-

"Om Aing Hreeng Kleeng Chaang Kleeng Bhagwati Katyayini Mum Tanu Arogyam Kuru Kuru Swaha"

ॐ ऐं ह्रीं क्लीं चां क्लीं भगवती कात्यायनी मम तनु अरोग्यम् कुरु कुरु स्वाहा

JK PDD imposes Rs 15.03 cr penalty on erring consumers till Feb this year: Officials

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department (PDD) conducted 1,66,134 inspections and imposed a penalty of Rs 15.03 crore on erring consumers across the Union Territory till February this year, officials said on Sunday.

They said the department also recovered Rs 54.92 crore in the shape of arrears from both domestic and commercial consumers during this period.

"The department has conducted 1,66,134 inspections across the Union Territory,

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874 ASHAs appear in All India NIOS Certification Exam across J&K

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU/SRINAGAR: A total of 874 ASHAs (Accredited Social Health Activists) of NHM, across J&K appeared in NIOS Theory Examination for Certification by National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), which was conducted at all India Level on Sunday.

The theory Examination was conducted by NIOS in seven districts of J&K Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur, Anantnag, Budgam, Kulgam and Kupwara in the designated

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ROZA TIMING

SEHR TIME:
05:01 (MARCH 28)

IFTAAR TIME:
06:50 (MARCH 27)

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 25.6°C Min: 11.9°C

Humidity
Max: 66 Min: 48

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 17.4°C Min: 5.7°C

Humidity
Max: 86 Min: 41

Sunset : 18:47 Hours
Sunrise : 06:29 Hours

Railways to operate Vande Bharat Metro train between Jammu- Srinagar: Vaishnav



Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnav during the first run of track-mounted trolley on the world's highest arch bridge constructed on Chenab river.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnav on Sunday said a Vande Bharat Metro train will be operated between Jammu and Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir once the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project (USBRL) becomes fully operational.

Addressing mediapersons at the first run of a track-mounted trolley on the world's highest arch bridge constructed on the Chenab river, he said the USBRL project will be completed by December this year or January 2024.

Vaishnav travelled on the track-mounted trolley with railway officials and inspect-

ed the iconic bridge having the height of 359 metres from the Chenab riverbed.

Vaishnav said it has been decided to set up a Vande Bharat Express train maintenance facility at Badgam in the Kashmir Valley and in the first go Vande Bharat Metro will be run between Jammu and Srinagar cities once this important railway

link, which will connect the Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country through rail network gets completed.

The iconic bridge having a foundation equal to half the football field is a "subject of pride" and it was "difficult challenge of engineering", he said, adding that more than 28,000 metric tonnes of steel was used for the bridge structure that is built in a highly active seismic zone.

The Northern Railway officials said the arch bridge was constructed at a cost of Rs 1,486 crore. The deck height of the bridge is 359 metres, while its length is 1,315 metres. The arch bridge has 17 spans and the linear length of the main arch span is 460 metres and it is curvilinear, they said.

The codal life of the bridge is 120 years and the bridge can withstand the wind speed of 266 kmph, but the train can cross the bridge at the speed of 100 kmph.

India’s first cable-stayed rail bridge on Anji river in J&K near completion

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The first cable-stayed railway bridge of India is nearing completion and the deck of the bridge is expected to be ready by May this year on the Anji river in Jammu and Kashmir, Northern Railway officials said.

Once ready, trains will run at a speed of 100 kilometres per hour on the bridge being constructed around 80 kilometres away from Jammu, they said.

Anji bridge between Katra and Reasi stations falls in the Reasi district of the Union Territory of Jammu and



Kashmir.

The upcoming structure is part of the ambitious Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla-Rail Link (USBRL) project that railway minister Ashwini

Vaishnav had announced would be completed next year.

According to officials, the last deck portion of Anji bridge which is designed to withstand wind speeds of 213

kilometres per hour is expected to be completed in May this year as six more segments of the bridge are yet to be launched.

"We have already completed 41 out of 47 segments. We are hopeful that the remaining ones would be completed by April-end or in the first week of May," the official said.

He said the central span of the cable-stayed bridge is 290 metres and only a 52.5-metre portion remains to be completed. "The speed of trains will be 100 kmph on this bridge which is the

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Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta chairing a meeting in Jammu on Sunday.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary Arun Kumar Mehta on Sunday said losses suffered by the Union Territory on power purchases exceed more than Rs 3,500 crore annually with liabilities piling up each passing year.

He directed the officials that overall transmission and distribution losses should be brought down to less than 20 per cent.

"The losses suffered on power purchases exceed more

than Rs 3,500 crore annually with previous liabilities piling up each passing year. These resources belong to our people and should optimally be utilised in creation of jobs for youth or other welfare measures for the people of J-K," Mehta said addressing a high-level meeting here.

He impressed upon the officers of the Power Development Department (PDD) to run large scale campaign to make people aware about the judicious use of electric appliances.

Dr Mehta enjoined upon them to make the masses fully acquainted about the consumption of electricity by different electric appliances like ACs, Water Heaters, Room Heaters and others so that they become aware about costs and use these gadgets judiciously. He asked them to use the power of our youth in changing the attitude of people by making them champions of change in the society. He further added that the overall AT&C

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Centre notifies revised MGNREGA wage rates

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: The Centre has notified a hike in wage rates under the rural job guarantee programme for the 2023-24 financial year with Haryana having the highest daily wage at Rs 357 per day and Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh the lowest at Rs 221.

The Union Ministry of Rural Development issued a notification on the change in wage rates under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on March 24.

The notification was issued under Section 6 (1) of the

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), 2005, that says the Centre may, by notification, specify the wage rate for its beneficiaries.

The wage hikes, which range from Rs 7 to Rs 26, will come into effect from April 1.

Compared to last year's rates, Rajasthan registered the highest percentage increase in wages. The revised wage for Rajasthan is Rs 255 per day, up from Rs 231 in 2022-23.

Bihar and Jharkhand have registered a percentage

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Areas neglected earlier role model for country now: Dr Jitendra



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh holding 'Public Darbar' at Hiranagar, district Kathua on Sunday.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

HIRANAGAR: Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh on Sunday said areas like border districts which were neglected earlier have now become role model for the country.

He said bringing gover-

nance at the doorsteps of the people to the last man in the last queue is possible only under Narendra Modi whose endeavour, after being sworn in as the Prime Minister of India in 2014, has been to address the people's issues on the spot through 'public darbars' with district adminis-

tration.

The governance cannot be restricted to the district headquarters only and a departure from this practice was necessary so that people's issues could be addressed on the spot with district administration, Singh said at a 'public darbar' here.

He asserted that development has reached the last man in the queue under PM Narendra Modi, and said the areas which were neglected earlier like the border districts under the previous governments have now

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DPAP only party acceptable to all communities: Azad

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

KATHUA: The Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Chief, Ghulam Nabi Azad on Sunday reiterated that only the people of Jammu Kashmir have right over its resources and he will pass the laws in State Assembly to bar outsiders from purchasing land here and securing jobs if elected to power.

Azad, while addressing a public meeting in Barnoti Kathua said, the present regime despite making tall claims to offer abundant job opportunities to local youth have failed miserably and on the other hand is snatching the land from locals who feed



DPAP Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad addressing a public meeting in Barnoti, Kathua.

their families from it.

"The land is meant for people and when it is taken away from them what is the use of it. No government has right to snatch the livelihood of people rather it is bound to

offer more economic opportunities," he said.

Azad said while the present regime did some good things that benefitted the people, all that was washed away after it imposed anti people deci-

sions like land eviction order, property tax imposition and contracts to outsiders.

He said if his party comes to power, he will ensure jobs and land is protected for the local people.

He also criticized the decision of government for allotting land to 1965 PoK refugees but not granting the ownership rights.

Azad said that to improve the economic conditions of people, government shall also provide compensation to farmers who face damage to their crops due to excessive rains.

He said to empower the people of Jammu

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ISRO's LVM3 successfully injects 36 satellites into intended orbits

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRIHARIKOTA (AP): The Indian Space Research Organisation's heaviest LVM3 rocket on Sunday successfully placed 36 internet satellites of UK-based OneWeb group company into intended orbits.

The 43.5 metre tall rocket blasted off at a prefixed time of 9 am today, from the second launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre here, about 135 kms from Chennai, at the end of a 24.30 hour countdown.

This is the second dedicated mission of NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL), the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation.

ISRO had signed an agreement with Network Access Associates Ltd, United Kingdom, a OneWeb Group

Company, for the launch of 72 satellites into Low-Earth orbits (LEO).

The first batch of 36 satellites were launched on October 23, 2022 by ISRO, and the second batch today.

OneWeb is a global communication network powered from space, enabling connectivity for governments and businesses.

Soon after takeoff, the rocket sequentially deployed the satellites into multiple orbits. While the first set of 16 satellites were injected around 20 minutes after lift off, the remaining satellites were placed into intended orbits later.

ISRO said, "LVM3-M3/OneWeb India-2 mission is accomplished. All 36 OneWeb Gen-1

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