

**05** Earlier govts neglected Doda, created strife; we ensured development, harmony: Dr Jitendra

**05** Traditional parties are trying to underestimate intelligence of common people: Bukhari

**08** Stresses upon conducive environment for CSWN Examinees

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## Target of 370 seats tribute to abrogation of Article 370: Goyal

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: In the first admission of a link between the BJP target for ensuing general elections and abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said his party winning 370 seats will be a fitting tribute to the historic decision of the Modi government that has helped integrate J&K with the rest of the country.

In an interview with PTI, Commerce Minister Goyal asserted that the target of 370 seats for the BJP and 400 seats for the NDA comes



from the conviction of good governance in the last 10 years by the Modi government and not over-confidence

and arrogance. He said the general election might throw a surprise and the final tally of BJP and

NDA might be higher.

Goyal did not comment on whether BJP will be part of the NDA, but welcomed all well-meaning good parties to be part of the journey to make India a developed nation by 2047.

Replying to a question on the realistic number that the BJP is targeting, he said, "Well I'm not an astrologer, but I can certainly say our target is 400 seats for the NDA and 370 seats for the BJP, a fitting tribute to one of the most important decisions this government

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Three anti-personnel mines defused near LoC

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MENDHAR/JAMMU:

Three anti-personnel mines were detected and defused near the Line of Control in Poonch district on Saturday, officials said. The powerful mines were noticed by Army troops while patrolling at different locations in forward areas of the Mankote sector in the Mendhar subdivision, the officials said. They said experts were immediately summoned and the mines defused.

Meanwhile, two rusted grenades and over half a dozen pistol rounds were recovered in Rajouri district, officials said.

The ammunition was

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## DGP for stringent measures against elements attempting to harm peace

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Director General of Police R.R. Swain on Saturday called from identifying and segregating the fringe elements attempting to harm peace and tranquility in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We have to take strong measures against them for the greater good of the public, thus ensuring that education, business, and other positive activities of the general life are not affected", the DGP said while addressing the trainees at Commando Training Centre(CTC) Lethpora.

"We have to be tough with



DGP J&K, R.R. Swain in action at firing range at Commando Training Centre Lethpora.

the criminals while protecting and helping the innocent. Those who try to disturb the people are the stumbling blocks which need to be removed. We have to take tough actions against such

inimical forces so that secure environment is ensured for trade, investment and development", he added.

The DGP said that while upgrading and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Election Commissioner Arun Goel resigns as Lok Sabha polls approach

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Election Commissioner Arun Goel resigned on Saturday, days before the expected announcement of the schedule for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

His tenure was till December 5, 2027, and he would have become Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) after incumbent Rajiv Kumar retired in February next year.

According to a law ministry



notification, Goel's resignation has been accepted by President Droupadi Murmu with effect from Saturday. It was not immediately known why he stepped down.

Goel, a retired bureaucrat, was a 1985-batch IAS officer of the Punjab cadre. He had joined the Election Commission in November 2022.

Following the retirement of Anup Chandra Pandey

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## IAF airlifts over 700 stranded passengers between J&K, Ladakh

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Air Force (IAF) airlifted over 700 stranded passengers between the twin union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh on Saturday, an official said.

While 514 passengers were airlifted from Jammu to Leh in two sorties of IL-76, 223 persons were flown from Srinagar to Leh in another sortie, the official said.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Centre inks MoU to support individuals with speech, hearing disabilities

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Centre has signed an MoU with SignAble Communications to enhance communication and accessibility for individuals with speech and hearing disabilities.

According to a statement issued by the Department of People with Disabilities, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) marks a pivotal step

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Modi holds roadshow in Varanasi, visits Kashi Vishwanath Temple

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

VARANASI: Arriving here days after being made BJP nominee for Varanasi Lok Sabha seat for the third time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was accorded a rousing reception at the Varanasi airport on Saturday.

BJP workers and locals lined up on the roads outside the airport from where Modi began a 28-km long roadshow during which he also stopped at the Kashi Vishwanath Temple to offer prayers.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, senior party leaders and office bearers



Prime Minister Narendra Modi offering prayer at Kashi Vishwanath Temple.

were present at the Lal Bahadur Shastri Airport in Babatpur to welcome the prime minister.

BJP regional chief Dilip Patel said that Varanasi dis-

trict and metropolitan unit made elaborate arrangements for Modi's visit.

The locals, including women and children,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## 3 held with heroin, cash at Domail

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Three alleged drug peddlers were arrested along with 10 grams of heroin and more than Rs 1 lakh in cash in Reasi district on Saturday, an officer said.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Reasi, Mohita Sharma said the arrest and recovery followed the interception of a car during checking at Domail.

The search of the vehicle led to the recovery of the narcotic substance along with Rs 1,33,900 in cash, leading to the arrest of its driver Anit Kumar and Raghubir Singh and Bobby Thakur all residents of Katra, she

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Assembly election in J&K should be held soon after LS polls: Azad

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chief Ghulam Nabi Azad on Saturday said Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir should be held soon after the Lok Sabha election as the people of the Union Territory cannot wait anymore.

He also said Jammu and Kashmir's statehood would be restored.

"We have been waiting for the Assembly polls for years. We hope that the polls take place immediately after the parliamentary election. I think the people of Jammu



DPAP Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad addressing public meeting in Chittergul area of Anantnag district.

and Kashmir cannot wait anymore now," Azad told reporters after a public meeting in the Chittergul area of this south Kashmir district.

The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, however, described the upcoming visit of Election Commission

(EC) officials to the region as "routine".

"It is the job of the EC to visit states. This is not something new that they are visiting here. The EC starts preparing for elections months before in a

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## J&K Bank organises two-day home-loan mela in Srinagar, Jammu

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: J&K Bank today kick-started a two-day Home Loan Mela - an outreach programme to facilitate a range of financial facilities primarily housing loans to the people - at Sangarnal Complex, Srinagar in Kashmir and Gandhi Nagar in Jammu.

MD & CEO Baldev Prakash inaugurated the loan mela at Jammu in the presence of Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, General Managers Ashutosh Sareen, Sunit Kumar, Narjay Gupta and Shareesh Kumar besides Deputy General Managers, Cluster Heads, marketing teams and other senior officers.

Talking to the media persons on the occasion, MD & CEO said, "J&K Bank has been undergoing a transfor-



MD & CEO J&K Bank Baldev Prakash inaugurating the Loan Mela at Jammu.

mation for some time. And the purpose of this mega mela is to highlight the fact that the Bank has improved its products and services especially the loan facilities that have been made more affordable, conveniently accessible with a very short turn-around time (TAT) for the customers."

"In addition to providing a

choice from our wide range of loan products and services to access easy and adequate finance, the loan mela also offers the customers opportunity to avail the best and latest modelled home, car or bike from the leading vendors available in the markets", he added.

While commending the commitment of staff for serv-

ing the customers even on holidays, he said that the loan mela provided a platform to make people feel for themselves the transformation in the functioning of the Bank.

"Besides, it is a win-win proposition for all the participants especially customers and the vendors, who have put their best products on display for the people here", he said, adding, "We have given wide publicity to the organisation of this two-day loan mela and I would request people to come here in large numbers and avail comprehensive financial solutions for their varied requirements."

Meanwhile, the Srinagar leg of the event was inaugurated by the General Manager & Divisional Head (Kashmir) Tabassum Nazir

in the presence of Deputy General Manager (Consumer and Commercial Banking) Arshid Hussain Dar, Zonal Heads, Cluster Heads, Branch Managers, marketing teams and other officials of the Bank.

Speaking on the occasion, Tabassum Nazir said, "while creating awareness about our products, this mela has been created as a market place where not only financial products are easily available for the convenience of the public but the vendors providing homes, cars, two-wheelers or admission for higher education have also been roped in for the benefit of people."

She urged the people to make most of the mela while stating that such events will be conducted in district

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Mutual fraternity necessary to maintain equality in country: CJI

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAIPUR: Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on Saturday said mutual fraternity is necessary to maintain equality in the country.

Addressing a state-level 'Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman' campaign in Bikaner, the CJI asked how will the country progress if people fight with each other.

"We should have respect for each other in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution," he said.

Justice Chandrachud said that "human dignity was of supreme importance in the minds of the makers of our

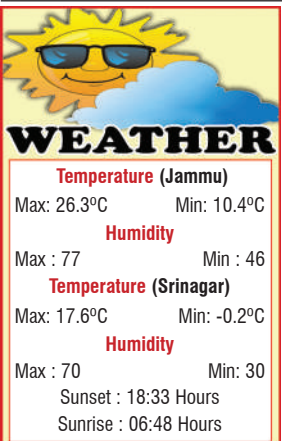
Constitution".

"Dr Baba Saheb Ambedkar, as Chairman of the Drafting Committee, ensured that the Constitution promoted the values of justice, liberty and equality as well as the spirit of fraternity and dignity of the individual," he added.

The Chief Justice of India (CJI) said that many efforts are being made to improve the condition of district courts.

"We want to sensitize the district courts because this is the first step towards justice. We are making many efforts to improve the condition

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 26.3°C Min: 10.4°C

Humidity  
Max: 77 Min: 46

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 17.6°C Min: -0.2°C

Humidity  
Max: 70 Min: 30

Sunset: 18:33 Hours  
Sunrise: 06:48 Hours