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STATE TIMES

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03 Sukhnandan suggests Govt to continue e-buses operation; not to succumb to private bus operators' pressure

03 In 5-yrs, road accidents killed 4251 people in J&K, Chenab Valley emerging as hotspot

10 Secretary Sports Council inaugurates 35th J&K Junior Volleyball Championship

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10 people killed after SUV falls into gorge in Ramban

Prez, PM, LG Sinha, Dr Jitendra, Azad express grief

STATE TIMES NEWS
BANIHAL: Ten people were killed after an SUV skidded off the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and fell into a gorge in Ramban district on Friday, officials said. The vehicle, a Tavera, was on its way to Jammu from Srinagar and it fell into a 300 feet gorge at the Battery Cheshma area of the district around 1.15 am, they said. The bodies of nine passengers and the driver of the sports utility vehicle (SUV) have been recovered, the officials said. They said the car's driver, Balwan Singh (47), of Amb Ghrotha in Jammu and Vipin Mukhiya Bhairangar of West Champaran in Bihar are among the deceased. The operation to retrieve the bodies was carried out by police and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel amid heavy rains in the area, the officials said.



SDRF, QRT teams carrying out rescue operation.

In a post on X, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief on the accident and extended his condolences to the bereaved families. President Droupadi Murmu mourned the loss of lives in the road accident and conveyed her condolences to the bereaved families. "The news of people getting killed after a vehicle fell into

a gorge in the Ramban area on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway is very sad. I offer my condolences to the bereaved families," Murmu said in a post in Hindi on X. In his condolence message, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said, "I am deeply shocked to learn of the unfortunate road accident in Ramban today, in which precious lives have been lost. I send my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. I have issued instructions to the District Administration and Divisional Commissioner to render all assistance, as provided in rule, to the kin of victims." Union Minister and Udhampur MP Jitendra Singh in a post on X said, "My sincere condolences to the bereaved families."

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LG appreciates JATF for empowering youth through education



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha interacting with the members of JATF in Srinagar on Friday.

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday interacted with the members of JATF, a Mumbai-based nonprofit organization, dedicated to empower youth through education. The Lt Governor appreciated the group for helping students to achieve their dreams through its various coaching and mentoring projects across the country.

"JATF is guided by the noble ideals of Lord Mahavir and it is committed to give back to the society. JATF's project for competitive exam is creating a human resource that will take advantage of new opportunities for development and contribute to growth of the nation," the Lt Governor said. He called upon all stakeholders to make collaborative efforts to promote holistic education which is essential

for development of society. "Education is powerful instrument of social transformation and nation's progress. For peaceful, harmonious and progressive society, more organizations like JATF must come forward to create an educated, responsible and skilled generation that can contribute to nation-building and inclusive development of all sections of society," he said. Since its inception, JATF

is continuously striving to shape the future of the youth, guiding and assisting them to prepare for the Civil & Judicial Services, IIT and Banking sector. My best wishes to the foundation for its future endeavours, he said. Members of JATF from across the country including its Chairman Vinod Dugar; President JATF Narendra Mehta and other office bearers were present.

LS polls: More than 79,000 violations reported so far: EC

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Election Commission (EC) on Friday said its C-Vigil mobile application has become an effective tool in the hands of people for flagging poll code violations and since the announcement of the Lok Sabha election, more than 79,000 complaints have been received. More than 99 per cent of the complaints have been resolved and close to 89 per cent of those were resolved within 100 minutes, the poll panel said. More than 58,500 complaints (73 per cent of the total number of complaints)

received were against illegal hoardings and banners, the EC said, adding that over 1,400 complaints received pertained to money, gifts and liquor distribution. Close to 3 per cent of the complaints (2,454) were related to defacement of property. Of the 535 complaints received for display of firearms and intimidation, 529 have been resolved, the poll panel said. A total of 1,000 complaints were for campaigning beyond the prohibited period, including those related to the use of speakers beyond

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Want to fill gaps created by shortcomings of teachers with technology: Modi

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said he wants to bring the best education for children in the country and fill any gaps created by shortcomings of teachers with technology. In an interaction with philanthropist and Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, Modi said that visual content is being developed to cater to children's interests. "I want to bring the best education to our children. The shortcomings of teachers, I want to fill with technology. If a child's interest



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates during a meeting at his residence in New Delhi.

lies in visuals, in storytelling, we are developing content in that direction. I have conducted some surveys, I have seen, children are really

enjoying it," he said. In the candid, free-wheeling chat, Modi spoke at length on how India has democratised technology for the benefit of

its citizens, embracing the power of digital for improving lives, and exuded confidence that the country will take remarkable strides in the fourth industrial revolution, that has digital at its core. Modi also cautioned that a powerful technology like AI in unskilled, untrained hands holds significant risk of misuse, as he advocated the need for clear 'dos and don'ts' and use of watermarks on AI-generated content to curb misinformation and deep-fake-related harms in the society.

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Infiltration chances increase during events like polls, security forces alert: BSF IG

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Chances of infiltration attempts from across the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir increase as the snow melts and when there is an important event like elections, but security forces are alert and capable enough to foil any such bid, a senior BSF official said here on Friday. "The BSF is deputed with the Army on the LoC. The election is an important time and we are ready to thwart any infiltration attempts

from across. We are conducting area domination exercises," BSF Inspector General (Kashmir Frontier) Ashok Yadav told reporters here. He said while chances of infiltration attempts along the LoC are always there, "they increase when there is an important event like an election." "So, the BSF and the Army are alert and ready to foil such attempts," he added. Yadav said the chances of infiltration attempts also increase as the routes of

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Avalanche hits Sonamarg in J&K, no casualty

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: An avalanche struck Sonamarg tourist resort in Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, officials said. No loss of life was reported in the incident, they said. According to officials, the avalanche struck the Hung area of Sonamarg, along the Srinagar-Leh Highway, in the central Kashmir district in the afternoon.

No exit poll from 7 am of Apr 19 to 6:30 pm of June 1: EC

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Election Commission has issued a notification banning the conduct, publication or publicising of exit polls between 7.00 am of April 19 and 6.30 pm of June 1 when votes will be cast for the Lok Sabha and four state assembly polls. The notification issued on Thursday also made it clear that under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, displaying any election matter

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 31.8°C Min: 19.6°C

Humidity
Max: 61 Min: 39

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 14.5°C Min: 8.2°C

Humidity
Max: 94 Min: 78

Sunset: 18:48 Hours
Sunrise: 06:22 Hours

Basohli deliberately neglected by its Congress representatives: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS
BASOHLI: Union Minister and BJP Candidate for Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency Dr Jitendra Singh said here on Friday that Basohli had been deliberately neglected by its Congress representatives of the past, including its MLAs and MPs. Addressing a series of road side meetings and public rallies enroute from Kathua and culminating in Basohli, Dr Jitendra Singh said, Congress MLAs and MPs elected by the people of Basohli had occupied Ministerial berths for years together but instead of ear-



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing a massive public meeting at Basohli on Friday.

ing for their people, they followed the Kashmir-centric appeasement policy of their masters and thus themselves became a party to regional discrimination against the very constituency which had elected them. Instead of being benefited by the MLAs or MPs who

became Ministers in Congress governments, the people of Basohli had to pay the price for further worsening of their plight due to such opportunistic representatives, he added. Dr Jitendra Singh said, it is in the last 10 years under the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that Basohli painting and Basohli Pashmina received GI Tag and earned worldwide reputation. Why could this not happen in over six decades of Congress rule, he asked. Both Pashmina and Painting give Basohli a unique

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J&K Bank lights up 1000 households with solar solutions

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Extending eco-friendly lighting solutions to scheduled tribe (ST) community of district Ganderbal under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) plan, J&K Bank on Friday distributed solar lanterns among one thousand households in collaboration with MOOL Sustainability Research and Training Centre (MSRTC) - a local NGO that works on different developmental projects for building integrative and regenerative communities through capacity building and creative solutions.

The Bank's General Manager Syed Rais Maqbool handed over one solar lantern to each of the family belonging to the ST Community and other marginal sections at a local school in Lar, Ganderbal in presence of senior bank officials and representatives from MSRTC. After receiving the lanterns, the beneficiaries extended their heartfelt gratitude to the Bank for providing them an eco-friendly and convenient means of lighting their homes. "These lanterns mean a lot to us and our chil-

dren as we can now carry on our lives happily in case of power failure. For this we thank both the organisations and pray for their success", some of the beneficiaries said. Speaking on the occasion, Syed Rais Maqbool said, "As a responsible financial institution, we encourage CSR interventions that play a crucial role in supporting the under-privileged sections of our society. And we see provision of these solar lanterns to the ST community not merely as act of

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Chugh slams Abdullah, Mufit for politicising Home Minister's remarks on AFSPA

'No one can stop Lotus to bloom in every house of J&K'

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: BJP National General Secretary and Incharge for Jammu and Kashmir, Tarun Chugh Thursday welcomed the announcement of Union Home Minister Amit Shah that the Centre was prepared to revoke the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in a phased manner, saying that the Opposition leaders like Abdullahs and Mufits should stop trying to politicise it to build a fake narrative. Chugh said the National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah and PDP's Mahbooba Mufti should acknowledge the Modi Government's contribution in bringing peace to J&K. The Abdullah and Mufti families have been promoting separatism in

Jammu and Kashmir for their petty political interests and with the new policies of the Modi government both of them are rattled and frustrated. He said the Modi Government had taken a series of steps, including abrogation of Article 370 to take J&K onto the new path of development and progress. "Since Union Home Minister Amit Shah has spoken about the AFSPA and withdrawal of troops



opponents and to remain in power. This party has made enough destruction to J&K and its institutions with the help of such laws. "Now when the BJP took a stand to revisit the law it led the NC

and its entire leadership into absolute frustration," Chugh added. "The NC during their times pampered terrorism, separatism, and corruption. They made thousands of youth scapegoats for their cheap politics," he added. Chugh said that the regional parties of Jammu and Kashmir have been rejected by masses, and in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections these leaders will lose their addresses. "Kashmiris have embraced BJP after August 5, 2019. They are supporting people initiatives of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The March 7 rally at Bakshi Stadium Srinagar is eye opener for regional political parties. No one can stop Lotus to bloom in every house of J&K," Chugh added.

Congress likely to release LS poll manifesto on April 5

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Congress is likely to release its manifesto for the Lok Sabha elections on April 5 in the presence of top leaders, including party chief Mallikarjun Kharge and former party presidents Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, sources said on Friday. They also said that Kharge and the Gandhis are likely to address public rallies in Jaipur and Hyderabad on April 6 where they will also highlight the key elements of the Congress manifesto. According to the sources, the party leadership would launch the poll manifesto on April 5 at the All India Congress Committee headquarters. The Congress' manifesto will lay emphasis on 'Paanch

Nyay' or five pillars of justice, including 'Yuva Nyay', 'Naari Nyay', 'Kisaan Nyay', 'Shramik Nyay' and 'Hissedari Nyay' as well as the guarantees made by it to the people as part of its poll promises for 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The Congress will launch its 'Ghar Ghar Guarantee' campaign on April 3 under which party leaders will reach out to more than eight crore households across the country. The campaign will focus more on social media and television and less on print and outdoor campaigning, the sources said. The party has already launched its new slogan #HaathBadlegaHalaat -- referring to the

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