Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

MOON

THE BANQUET WITH A DIFFERENCE

Dr Jitendra given rousing welcome, hails Udhampur **UU** among most developed constituencies in 10 years

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

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JK Public School Panjtirthi celebrates Women's Day



# Modi sarkar ki Guarantee

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# for highway, ropeway projects in J&K

NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari announced on Friday that an allocation of Rs 2,093.92 crore has been approved for widening two highways and a ropeway project in Jammu and Kashmir.

The minister said an outlay of Rs 1404.94 crore has been approved for the widening and strengthening of the Rafiabad -Kupwara - Chowkibal - Tangdhar - Chamkot section of National Highway-701 in Jammu and

He said this initiative, executed under Project Beacon in Baramulla and Kupwara districts

on engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) mode under Package I, aims to transform the 51 km route into two-lanes. The highway is critical for logistics in the region as it forms a part of the strategic route connecting Baramulla and Kupwara districts. It plays a pivotal role and is integral to the development of the tourism sector

in North Kashmir International Border, he said.

Gadkari said that an allocation of Rs 126.58 crore has been approved for the development, operation, and maintenance of a 1.5 km ropeway from SDA



Parking (Near Zabarwan Park) to Shankaracharya Temple in Srinagar district.

The initiative operates on the Hybrid Annuity Model, utilizing monocable detachable gondola (MDG) technology with a capacity to transport 700 persons per hour per direction. This project is designed to offer a panoramic

view of Srinagar city and Dal Lake, providing a safe and convenient transportation means. It ensures easy access for individuals with disabilities and senior citizens to visit the temple, reducing travel time from approxi-

mately 30 minutes to about 5 minutes. Additionally, it serves as an eco-friendly mode for transport, creates employment opportunities for the local populace, and brings economic benefits to the region by enhancing tourism, the minister added.

He said an allocation of Rs 562.40 crore has also been approved for the upgradation and strengthening project of the Nashri- Chenani section of National Highway-244. Spanning 39.1 km in districts Udhampur and

Ramban, this initiative operates on the EPC mode under National Highway. The road's enhancement is poised to improved connectivity to Patnitop, a tourist hotspot in Jammu, fostering economic development of the

# Centre approves Rs 2,093 Cr outlay 'Iss Chunaav Mein Bhi Safai Hone Wali Hai': Modi's dig at Oppn

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: There is going to be "safai" (clean-up) in the upcoming election, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday, taking a dig at the opposition while handing out National Creators' Awards here.

He presented the first-ever National Creators' Awards at the Bharat Mandapam here. Among those awarded were

Pankhti Pandey in the 'Green Champion' Keerthika Govindasamy for the best storyteller, singer Maithili Thakur got the 'Cultural Ambassador of the award', Gaurav Chaudhary for the Best Creator in Tech Category and Kamiya Jani for the Favourite Travel Creator.

awarded the Swachhta Ambassador Award to Malhar Kalambe, Modi took a dig at the oppo-



PM Narendra Modi receives warm welcome at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Friday.

sition and said, "Har prakaar ki safai mein kaam aa sakta hai, iss chunaav mein bhi safai hone wali hai (There is going to be a clean-up in this election too)...'

Another moment that caught everyone's attention at the ceremony was when Best Storyteller Award went

award was given to Abhi and to Keerthika Govindhasamy. When she touched the PM's feet, Modi reciprocated and said that touching feet in the

touches his feet. For the 'New India Champion' category, the

field of art is different but

personally he gets disturbed

particularly when a daughter

The disruptor of the Year was awarded to Ranveer

Allahbadia. The Prime Minister suggested that should create awareness about sleep deprivation and mentioned

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### ACB arrests Forester, other official for accepting bribe

JAMMU: Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday trapped and arrested a Forester and an official of the Forest Range Office, Watergam, Baramulla for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 12500 for processing and issuance of Transit Permit

According to an official communique, the Corruption Bureau received a complaint from a timber merchant, a resident of Rafiabad, District

PAGD is an alliance of five

political parties seeking the

restoration of the special sta-

tus of Jammu and Kashmir

which was revoked by the

Addressing a press conference at the party office here,

PDP president Mehbooba

Mufti said the NC's decision

was "disappointing" and a

"setback to the hopes of the

WEATHER

Sunset: 18:32 Hours

Sunrise: 06:49 Hours

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Min: 36

Centre in 2019.

people of J&K"

Max: 23.8°C

Max: 15.9°C

Max: 84

Max: 88

SRINAGAR:

#### Baramulla, alleging therein that he purchased timber from different places and recently sold about 375 Cft timber to a customer from Srinagar for which he needed transit permit from Range Office, Watergam, Baramulla. Accordingly, he submitted four applications online under Pass System (NTPS) which is required

for transporting timber from

Baramulla to Srinagar." As

per the statement, he

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## PM's visit turned new leaf in J&K Destruction caused by Abdullahs, Muftis and Nehrus exposed: Chugh

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh, who is also party incharge for J&K, on Friday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit here has turned a new leaf in the Valley.

the people to the PM's visit demonstrated that the people have seen through the nefarious and anti-national game plan of the three families of Nehrus, Muftis and



BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh chairing a meeting at Srinagar on Friday.

statement.

He said the three families have perpetuated the culture of bullet and violence for their vested interests. But now the tables are turned J&K where tourism and development are the new idioms, he added.

Chugh said the people of the Union Territory have realised the destruction

J &K. There's a new hope and optimism among them and the PM's visit had infused new confidence among the people of J&K, he

#### of announcing LS poll dates assembly elections in Andhra NEW DELHI: The Election

EC holds security review ahead

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

Commission on Friday held meetings with top Home Ministry and Railway officials on the deployment and movement of security personnel across the country ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, sources

The EC top brass is also learnt to have discussed with home ministry officials the possibility of holding assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir alongside state

Pradesh, Odisha, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

While the Supreme Court

had in December last directed the EC to hold assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir by September 30, there was no official word on whether assembly polls in J-K can be held with Lok Sabha polls expected to take place in

April-May. The terms of the state assemblies of Pradesh, Odisha,

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#### Mehbooba accuses Enemy's ability to harm limited but it NC of reducing works on sense of fear: DGP PAGD to a 'joke'

#### STATE TIMES NEWS Peoples Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti on Friday accused the National Conference (NC) of reducing the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) to a "joke" after the Farooq Abdullah-led party unilaterally decided to contest all three Lok Sabha seats in

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

SRINAGAR: The ability of the enemy to inflict harm in Jammu and Kashmir is limited, but it works on the sense of fear to create insecurity among people, Director

#### Watched 'Article 370', film shows complexity of problem: Rajnath STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said he has watched the film 'Article 370' with his family at a theatre here, and said the movie shows the "complexity" of the "problem" as well as the "challenging

solution"

"Today I went to a cinema hall in Delhi with my family and watched the movie 'Article 370'. I heard praise for this film from many people. The film is inspired by true events and presents the events of the removal of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir in a very

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

General of Police R R Swain said here on Friday.

"I have said from the beginning that the ability of the adversary to cause harm has always been limited. It was not what it was showing. But, they work on the basis of fear. They publish the names of four people who then lose their sleep because of fear," Swain, the J-K Director General of Police (DGP) said.

He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the concluding ceremony of

23rd All India Police Water Sports Championship here. Swain said the adversary works on fear and asked the

people to be cautious. "This system works on fear like the fear of dogs. A dog who barks does not necessarily bite, but people get afraid because of that barking. It is not easy to tackle, the people need to understand it and be cautious about it." he said.

The J-K Police chief said the police and security agencies also need to stay

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#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Chairman Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), Ghulam Nabi Azad on Friday reaffirmed his party's commitment to protecting land and job rights besides ensuring the welfare of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, if elected to power.

Addressing a public meeting at Abhama, in Rajpora Pulwama, Azad underscored the critical need to create employment opportunities for local residents in various



Azad pledges to enact law ensuring jobs, land

protection in J&K if elected to power

meeting at Abhama in Pulwama.

projects in J&K.

He reaffirmed his commitment to empowering the region's economy by boosting

the tourism and horticulture sectors, thereby fostering

Azad advocated for the uninterrupted transportation of fruits by declaring trucks carrying fruit as emergency vehicles, thereby ensuring seamless logistics operations with no halts along the route.

Referring to his tenure as Chief Minister, Azad recalled the efforts made in sanctioning numerous tourism and developmental projects for the betterment of the com-However, he munity. expressed disappointment over the withdrawal of

## Maha Shivratri celebrated with religious fervour in Jammu

JAMMU: Mahashivratri was celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety across the Jammu region with thousands of devotees thronging temples to offer prayers to Bhagwan Shiva.

The celebrations started at the revered temple Peer Kho and Panchvaktar Mahadev Temple in Jammu District, sacred Shiv Temples at Purmandal in District Samba.

The devotees offered flowers, Bel leaves, milk, curd to the 'Shivlingam'.

Famous temples including 'Aap Shambu' at Roop Peerkho, Nagar, Raghunath Temple, Shiv



Shiv Parvati across the region, especially

Temple, witnessed unprecein and around the temples. dented rush of devotees. The Kashmiri Pandit Special arrangements have community celebrated the also been made for night occasion as 'Herath'. Over one lakh devotees paid long prayers in the temples. Elaborate their obeisance at the security famous Shiv Khori temple arrangements were made

in the Reasi district of the

Special Langars were organized by religious bodies at temples while security arrangements were made for smooth and incident free celebrations.

## Rs 100 cut in cooking gas prices, Murty's nomination to RS on Women's Day

#### STATE TIMES NEWS DELHI:

International Women's Day on Friday was marked by some key announcements, including a Rs 100 cut in cooking gas cylinder prices and nomination of philanthropist Sudha Murty to Rajya Sabha, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted how his government's numerous measures have empowered women.

Modi said the reduction of Rs 100 in LPG cylinder prices will significantly ease the financial burden on millions of households across the country, especially benefiting "Nari Shakti" (women power).

"By making cooking gas more affordable, we also aim to support the well-being of families and ensure a healthier environment. This is in line with our commitment to empowering women and ensuring 'Ease of Living' for them," he said in a post on X. Attending the National Creators' Award later, Modi urged content creators to increasingly make women a part of their work.

He said the "collaboration of content and creativity grows engagement, collaboration of content and digital brings transformation,

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