

**03** Why there are not even 20000 Jan Aushadhi Shops in India, a country of over 650000 villages when JA medicines are costing so less?

**03** AIMS Jammu performs landmark HIPEC Surgeries, offers new hope to cancer patients

**10** VAJK to organise 37th Doda District Volleyball Championship from March 24

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**SECOND NAVRATRA**



**Maa Brahmarhini**  
Second incarnation of Maa Durga is called Brahmarhini. It comprises of two words, 'Brahm' which means meditation while 'Charini' stands for implementation of character of meditation. She is also called 'Uma'. She has got a Kamandal (Vessel) in her left hand while 'Mala' (string of beads) in the right. Worshipper of this Devi gets power to resist and fight under all odds. Mantra of Goddess Brahmarhini to be recited nine times is :-  
"Om Hreong Aing Bhagwati Brahmarhini Mum Sarvam Sarv Shatroon Vash Manay Thaa Thaa Swaha."  
ॐ ह्रीं ऐं भगवती  
ब्रह्मचारिणीं मम सर्वम् सर्वं  
सत्रुन् वश मानय त्वा ता स्वाहा

## Harness heritage, build developed J&K: LG tells youth

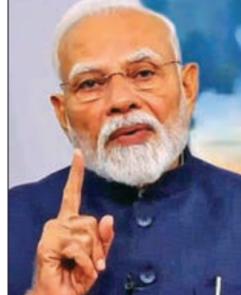


LG Manoj Sinha attending Navreh celebrations in Jammu on Thursday.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that Jammu holds the potential for a dynamic and flourishing future, growing into a vibrant center of culture and advancing into a prosperous Union Territory through steady progress. "Achieving this vision ultimately depends on the younger generation. I sincerely hope that our youth will draw strength from the wisdom passed down by our ancestors and work with determination to elevate Jammu Kashmir to a place among the country's developed regions," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the Navreh celebrations, organised by Kashmiri Pandit Sabha,

Amphalla, Jammu. He invoked the blessings of Maa Sharika for the health, prosperity, and well-being of all. Interacting with the devotees, the Lieutenant Governor wished that the New Year usher in a radiant dawn for everyone, illuminating paths to renewed hope and a thriving future. "Worship of Maa Durga and Maa Sharika is a profound bow to the primal source of power from which universe springs. As Rigveda says, the Mother's strength is infinite. The true seeker who worships her with sincerity attains the essence of reality, from which all life's insights flow effortlessly. I personally hold that Navreh

## India condemns attacks on energy infrastructure in West Asia Modi calls for early restoration of peace



### Testing time, not just for us, but entire world: MEA

**NEW DELHI:** As the conflict in West Asia widened with global ramifications, India on Thursday said the situation has been a "testing time", not just for the country, but the entire global community. At an inter-ministerial briefing here on the West Asia situation, MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal also said, "We continue to remain in touch with concerned countries to ensure our energy security needs are met." The raging conflict in the region entered its 20th day on Thursday. The West Asia conflict began on February 28 when the US-Israel combine launched military strikes on Iran. In retaliation, Tehran has targeted Gulf countries hosting US military bases. "Yes, it has been a testing time, not just for us, but the entire global community. Our

Following his phone conversation with Jordan's King Abdullah II, Modi said the attacks on energy

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: As fresh attacks on West Asian gas hubs triggered global concerns, India on Thursday said the strikes are "unacceptable and need to cease" even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached out

## Fresh snowfall in higher reaches of Kashmir, heavy rains lash plains

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: The tourist resorts of Gulmarg and Sonamarg, along with several areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir, experienced fresh snowfall, while the plains were affected by heavy rains, officials said on Thursday. Gulmarg, located in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, and Sonamarg, in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district, both received fresh snowfall, which was ongoing intermittently until the last reports were received. Officials stated that approximately five to six inches of new snow had accumulated at the

## Int'l cyber fraud racket busted in Srinagar, 7 arrested

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Police's Counter Intelligence Wing (CIK) has busted a highly sophisticated international cyber fraud racket by arresting seven persons here, officials said on Thursday. The CIK-CID received several technical and credible inputs regarding the operation of "covert call centres" involved in fraudulent online activities targeting both foreign and local nationals. "The CIK promptly constituted specialised teams comprising technical experts and field operatives and carried out systematic surveillance, digital intelligence gathering and verification across multiple locations, ultimately identifying a key operational hub at the Industrial Area, Rangreth, Srinagar," they said. Subsequently, a CIK team conducted a swift and well-coordinated raid in different parts of Srinagar city on Wednesday. During the raid, seven suspects were apprehended on the spot, and a large quantity of digital and communication equipment was seized. The seized devices include 13 mobile phones, nine laptops, VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) systems, SIM cards and networking devices, and digital storage

## Par panel commends role of Army, IAF during Op Sindoor

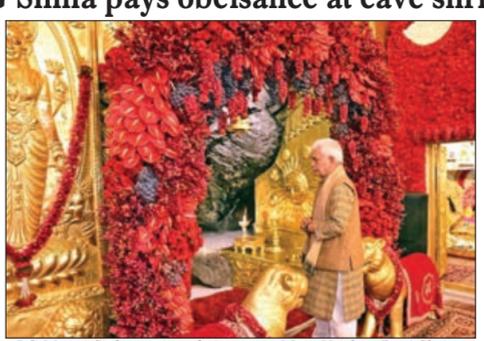
**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: A parliamentary panel on defence has lauded the Indian Army's "decisive role" in safeguarding national security during the decisive operation, and said it expected that "our expenditure should be in proportion to the increase in defence spending of our neighbours". Therefore, the panel feels that the capital budget of the Army should be sufficient to have a "deterrent capacity to ward off adversaries in case of any hostility," the report said. The committee further said post Operation Sindoor, emergency procurement provisions were accorded in 2025 for capital and revenue procurement to further enhance capability to development. "The Committee are also happy to know that emergency procurements are being utilised for acquiring drones, counter-drones, weapon systems, precision ammunition, electronic warfare and surveillance systems," it says. The report is titled -- Demands for Grants of

## 2011 SARFU CUSTODIAL DEATH: NHRC asks Jammu DM, SSP for detailed report

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has directed the District Magistrate, Jammu and the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Jammu, to submit a comprehensive report in connection with a custodial death case dating back to 2011. The Commission has sought detailed information and relevant documents to further examine the circumstances surrounding the death of Sarfu Ram, a resident of Khour Camp in Jammu district. According to reply on an online RTI application filed by Mohd Sadiq, a resident of C-3, Village Enclave, East Extn I/C, Jammu, the Commission has asked the authorities to submit their response by April 17, 2026. The case was originally pending before the now-defunct Jammu and Kashmir State Human Rights Commission and was later transferred to the NHRC following directions issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs in 2023. The incident pertains to the death of Sarfu Ram, son of Om Parkash, resident of Akhmoor, Jammu on August 18, 2011, while he was reportedly in custody at the Joint Interrogation Centre, Miran Sahib, Jammu, under the Jammu and Kashmir Police. According to records, the matter was initially reported by the Superintendent of Police, CID CI, Jammu. In addition, a complaint was filed by the deceased's widow, Preeto Devi, who alleged that her son Sanjay Kumar had been detained and subjected to severe physical assault by police officials in July 2011. When Sarfu Ram approached authorities to inquire about his son's detention, he was allegedly taken into custody. The family claimed that they were not allowed to meet or communicate with him during his detention. The NHRC, while reviewing the case on March 17, 2026, noted that certain crucial reports and documents were still pending. Acting on recommendations from its Investigation Division, the Commission has now sought a detailed report covering all aspects of the case, including the reasons and circumstances of the arrest, copies of FIR No. 47/2011 registered at Police Station Khour, arrest and seizure memos, medical fitness certificates, general diary entries, post-mortem report, forensic examination details, and video recording of the post-mortem. Earlier developments in the case include an inquiry conducted under the supervision of the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, through an Executive Magistrate. The report of this inquiry was submitted in February 2024 and later forwarded to the NHRC's Investigation Division in August 2024 for further examination and analysis. However, the Commission observed that additional clarification and documentation were necessary before proceeding further.

## Chanting 'Jai Mata Di', over 15,000 pilgrims throng Vaishno Devi on first Navratri LG Sinha pays obeisance at cave shrine

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Braving the rain and bitter chill with fervent chants of "Jai Mata Di", thousands of devotees trekked along the serpentine path to the cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi atop the Trikuta hills on the first day of Navratri, to pay obeisance to the deity. The fresh floral decoration filling the air with fragrance, and multi-coloured lights adding to the visual spectacle, the cave shrine in Reasi district witnessed a rush of pilgrims on Wednesday, with around 15,000 devotees seeking the blessings of Mata Vaishno Devi on the first day of Chaitra Navratri. Despite heavy rainfall



LG Manoj Sinha paying obeisance at Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

along the route, hundreds of devotees thronged the pilgrimage base camp in Katra before beginning their ascent to the hilltop shrine. "Over 15,000 devotees have paid obeisance at the cave shrine and a large number of them are on their way," officials said. They said the yatra is proceeding smoothly amid

multi-layered security arrangements. Groups of pilgrims, with chants of "Jai Mata Di" on their lips, and devotional music playing on loudspeakers, marched along the yatra route towards the shrine for Mata's darshan. Vibrant lights and elaborate decorations at the hill-top Bhawan and the base camp have added to the spiritual fervour and gaiety of Katra town. The nine-day festival got off to a grand start, with officials expecting a daily footfall of more than 20,000 to 30,000 pilgrims. Lt Governor Manoj Sinha paid obeisance at the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine

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