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Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

03 Bala Jyoti chairs conference on "Women in Electricity" at Bharat Electricity Summit 2026

09 Shah to introduce bill for 'umbrella' law on CAPFs; proposes 50 pc posts for IPS at IG level

11 Judo meet at Samba on March 31

Website : www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

FOURTH NAVRATRA

Maa Kushmanda

Maa Kushmanda is the fourth incarnation of Maa Durga and worshipped on fourth Navratra. Maa Kushmanda is said to be creator of the universe. Her presence is 'Surya Manda' by virtue of which rays of light enlighten the universe. She has eight hands and hence, also called 'Maa Ashtbhuj'. In her seven hands, she has Kamandal, Bow, Lotus, Amrit Kalash, Chakra and Gada. Eighth hand has string of beads having all the 'Siddhis' and 'Nidhis'. Lion is the ride of Maa Kushmanda.

"Om Hreeng Kleeng Bhagwati Kushmande Mum Sarvam Kaamnaay Pooray, Pooray Thaa Thaa Swaha"

ॐ ह्रीं क्लीं भगवती कुष्मंडे मम सर्वम् कामनाय पूर्य पूर्य ठा ठा स्वाहा

Modi speaks to Iran President; stresses on keeping shipping lanes open

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday spoke to the President of Iran, Masoud Pezeshkian, and condemned the attacks on critical infrastructure in West Asia, while stressing the importance of safeguarding freedom of navigation and ensuring shipping lanes remain open and secure.



In his telephonic conversation with the Iranian leader, Prime Minister Modi conveyed Eid and Nowruz greetings, expressing hope that this festive season brings peace, stability and prosperity to West Asia.

"Spoke with President Dr Masoud Pezeshkian and conveyed Eid and Nowruz greetings. We expressed hope that this festive season brings peace, stability and prosperity to West Asia," the prime minister said in a post on X.

Modi condemned the attacks on critical infrastructure in the region, which threaten regional stability and disrupt global supply chains.

"Reiterated the importance of safeguarding freedom of navigation and ensuring that shipping lanes remain open and secure," he said.

The prime minister also appreciated Iran's continued support for the safety and security of Indian nationals in Iran.

This was the second telephonic conversation between Prime Minister Modi and the Iranian President since the present conflict started on February 28.

On March 12, President Pezeshkian briefed Prime Minister Modi on the current situation in Iran and shared

his perspective on recent developments in the region.

The prime minister had expressed deep concern about the evolving security situation in the region and reiterated India's consistent position that all issues must be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.

The US and Israel attacked Iran on February 28, drawing retaliation from Iran which targeted its neighbours and Israel.

Iran also controls the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping route through which 20 per cent of the world's energy is transported. Since the conflict, very few ships have been allowed by Iran to cross it.

PM Modi has spoken to a number of world leaders since the conflict started. These include leaders from Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan, France and Malaysia.

In a phone call with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi condemned attacks on critical infrastructure in West Asia and called for keeping the critical shipping lanes "open and secure", amid major disruption in global energy supplies in view of Tehran's blockade of the Strait of Hormuz.

Significantly, the Iranian president proposed setting up a regional security framework comprising West Asian countries to bring peace and stability in the region "without foreign interference," according to an Iranian readout of the talks. Pezeshkian also urged India, as the

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said the "illegal" war imposed by the United States and Israel on the world should end at the earliest.

"Today, I only prayed for an end to this illegal war that has been imposed by the United States and Israel on us," Abdullah told reporters after offering Eid prayers at the Hazratbal shrine here.

The entire Muslim world is going through an uncertain period as there is no Muslim country that has not been affected by this war, Abdullah said.

The war in the Middle East has had an impact on India as well, he added.

"It affects the Muslims in India sentimentally, and every Indian in terms of energy needs. People are facing difficulties in getting (cooking) gas and diesel



CM Omar Abdullah interacting with media at Srinagar.

needed for the functioning of their homes," Abdullah said.

On the closure of the Jamia Masjid at Nowhatta in Srinagar for congregational prayers on Eid for the seventh consecutive year, the chief minister termed it unfortunate.

"There is a mismatch between the words and the deeds of those in charge of security. On one hand, they claim that everything is normal, and on the other, they close the historic mosque. What kind of normalcy is this? I hope such decisions will be changed in future," Abdullah said.

SC concerned over cops uploading videos online, says poses threat to fair trial

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has expressed its concern over the trend of people instantly uploading videos shot on mobile phone on social media and said that such activities pose a serious threat to a fair trial.

The remark was made by a bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi on Friday.

The bench was hearing a PIL that alleged that police upload videos and photographs of the accused on social media and create a bias in people's minds.

The PIL argued that the court, in another case, had already asked the states to frame guidelines for media briefing by the police, and it would cover social media posts as well.

The bench suggested the petitioner Hemendra Patel to await the outcome of those guidelines, and agreed with senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for Patel, that every person nowadays with a mobile phone has become media.

The senior counsel flagged the recent trend of police posting the images of accused persons being handcuffed, tied by ropes, paraded, forced to kneel, etc, on social media, which, apart



from causing an affront to personal dignity, adds to the public bias.

Justice Bagchi told Sankaranarayanan that instead of talking of police, which have been given three months to formulate a standard operating procedure on police media briefings, he should seek a comprehensive mechanism for police, conventional, and social media.

The judge said, on a larger canvas, the court believes police should not create a bias against the accused through briefings.

"Police can be restrained through the SOP. But what about the media, especially social media, and the public? Can they be restrained? Comparatively, TV channels are much more restrained, even though one might disagree with their views," Justice Bagchi observed.

Modi's competence, foresight protected India from global crises: Rajnath

STATE TIMES NEWS
HALDWANI (UTTARAKHAND): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's competence and foresight for "safeguarding

Vaishno Devi Yatra suspended amid rush due to ongoing Chaitra Navratri



STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi was suspended on Saturday due to heavy rush at the Bhawan, as 39,000 devotees offered prayers till late afternoon,

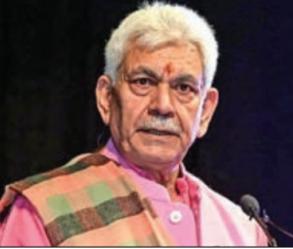
Govt hikes commercial LPG allocation to 50 pc as domestic output improves

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The government has approved an additional 20 per cent allocation of commercial LPG to states and Union Territories, taking the total allocation to 50 per cent, as increased domestic output is helping the situation crawl back to normalcy.

The three-week-long war in the Middle East disrupted energy supplies to India, leading to initial curtailment in LPG supplies to commercial establishments like hotels to prioritize supplies to household kitchens.

LG thanks PM, Union Minister for releasing Rs 111.66 Cr for fisheries project

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Panchayati Raj and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAHD), Rajiv Ranjan Singh, for the release of the central share of Rs. 111.66 Cr to implement the approved fisheries development project in the UT of Jammu Kashmir.



Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji and Hon'ble Minister of Panchayati Raj & Fisheries Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh Ji for releasing the central share of Rs. 111.66 Cr to implement the approved fisheries development project in the UT of Jammu Kashmir.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor has said: "I am grateful to

Fisheries Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh Ji for releasing the central share of Rs. 111.66 Cr to implement the approved fisheries development project in J&K. In current FY, a mother sanction for an amount of Rs.10 Cr has been released by the Ministry and once the amount is utilised, the GOI has assured me to release further central share. The GOI is fully committed to improve the livelihoods and welfare of fish farmers of UT."

Equality must translate into reality: CJI

STATE TIMES NEWS
BENGALURU: CJI Justice Surya Kant on Saturday underscored the need to transform "formal equality" into real, lived experiences for women in the legal profession, calling for structural reforms and sustained institutional support to ensure their continued participation and advancement.

Speaking at the National Conference-2026 on "Reimagining Judicial Governance: Strengthening Institutions for Democratic Justice", organised by the



Supreme Court Bar Association on the outskirts of Bengaluru, he highlighted

within our constitutional framework, this equality is not merely on paper. So equality has to be translated into lived experiences," the Chief Justice said.

He lauded the survey prepared by women lawyers, describing it as "a very remarkable and a very scientific survey" and an "eye opener" that also provides a roadmap to identify challenges and solutions.

Describing the survey as a guiding framework, he said, "This report is a guidebook. It should hold as a smaller constitution for us."

WEATHER FORECAST

JAMMU

TEMPERATURE
Max : 23.2°C
Min : 12.1°C

HUMIDITY
Max : 83
Min : 61

SRINAGAR

TEMPERATURE
Max : 17.9°C
Min : 6.3°C

HUMIDITY
Max : 87
Min : 69

SUNRISE 06:33 Hour
SUNSET 18:42 Hour

J&K celebrates Eid with prayers for global peace

Omar, Farooq offer prayers at Hazratbal

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Amid tight security arrangements, Eid al-Fitr was celebrated with religious fervour and traditional gaiety across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday.

In the Jammu region, a large number of Muslims gathered at various eidgahs and mosques to offer prayers for peace and an end to the conflicts in the Middle East.

Eid al-Fitr marks the end of the holy month of Ramzan, which is observed through fasting, prayers and charity, and ushers in a festival of joy, togetherness and thanksgiving.

Hundreds of devotees offered prayers at different



Muslim brethren offering prayers to mark Eid-al-Fitr in Jammu.

mosques and eidgahs across the region, with the main congregation held at the eidgah on Residency Road in Jammu, followed by gatherings at the Mecca Masjid in Bathindi and the Jamia Masjid in Talab Khatikan.

Religious scholars highlighted the significance of the day, emphasising compassion, sacrifice and gratitude, and prayed for peace across the world, particularly in the conflict-hit regions of West Asia.

The Shahi Imam of Jammu, Mufti Inayatullah

Qasmi, said Eid is a day of joy and gratitude after a month of fasting and worship.

"We pray that Allah keeps everyone happy, prosperous and in good health, and that humanity lives in peace and harmony," Qasmi told reporters here.

Referring to global conflicts, the Shahi Imam said war is not a solution and urged nations to resolve differences through dialogue.

"We appeal to all countries to sit together and end this loss of human lives," he said.

After offering prayers, people were seen exchanging greetings and sweets to embrace the festival in a

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