

**03** RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat to address Kashmiri Pandits today

**09** 3 arrested, 3 tractors seized for illegal mining

**10** CS wants J&K to emerge as sports power-house

Website : [www.statetimes.in](http://www.statetimes.in), Email: [statetimes1@gmail.com](mailto:statetimes1@gmail.com)



## 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 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 for Goddess Brahmarhini to be recited nine times is :-

"Om Hreng Aing Bhagwati Brahmarhini Mum Sarvam Sarv Shatroon Vash Manay Thaa Thaa Swaha."

ॐ ह्रीं ऐं भगवती  
ब्रह्मचारिणीं मम सर्वम् सर्व  
शत्रून् वश मानय ठा ठा स्वाहा

## Bus falls into gorge in Doda, 2 dead

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two men were killed and another got injured when a mini-bus skidded off the road and fell into a gorge in Doda district here, police said on Saturday.

The vehicle was on its way to Jammu from Parnoo Bhalla area.

The incident took place near Bhagar village of Assar late Friday night, police said.

Driver Majid Hussain (32) of Malaine Bhalla and Ranjeet Kumar (34) of Seri Bhalla died in the accident, they said.

Mudasir Hussain (23) was rushed to a hospital in an injured condition by the rescuers, they said.

## J&K reports 25 new COVID cases

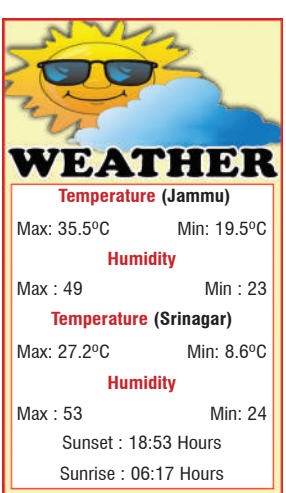
### STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday reported 25 new Covid cases, eight from the Jammu division and 17 from the Valley, thus taking the total number of positive cases in the Union Territory to 453793.

According to the daily Media Bulletin, out of 453793 positive cases, 180 are Active Positive (14 in Jammu Division and 166 in Kashmir Division),

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Ramzan Mubarak



# ED attaches assets in J&K illegal arms licences issuance case

## STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Assets worth Rs 4.69 crore have been attached under the anti-money laundering law in a case related to issuance of alleged illegal arms licenses in Jammu and Kashmir between 2012 and 2016. "Government functionaries of J&K in connivance with many arms dealers, brokers of J&K have brazenly flouted the norms, procedure and rules for issuing arms licenses in lieu of monetary considerations by abuse of their official position as public servants and generated huge proceeds of crime," the statement said.

A provisional order under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) has been issued for attaching bank deposits, plots, flats and residential houses, it said in a statement.

After carrying out raids against an IAS officer, some Kashmir Administrative Service (KAS) officers and government officials, and arms dealers last month, the agency had said it seized "incriminating" documents that allegedly indicate transactions between weapon deal-

ers and bureaucrats in issuance of illegal arms licenses in Jammu and Kashmir between 2012 and 2016. "Government functionaries of J&K in connivance with many arms dealers, brokers of J&K have brazenly flouted the norms, procedure and rules for issuing arms licenses in lieu of monetary considerations by abuse of their official position as public servants and generated huge proceeds of crime," the statement said.

The ED alleged that government officials used to take "commission" from arms dealers and brokers in their own bank accounts and also in the accounts of their family members for getting arms licenses issued as well as for renewals of defence personnel licenses. Searches were conducted by the ED at 11 locations including residential

premises of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Rajeev Ranjan (former DC, Kupwara), KAS officers Itrat Hussain (former DC, Kupwara) and Ravinder Kumar Bhatt (former ADC, Kupwara) and former judicial clerks at the arms section of the office of the deputy commissioner (DC), Kupwara, Tariq Ather and Gajan Singh.

The residential premises of six arms dealers of Jammu and Kashmir including Amarnath Bhargava (Varun Armoury), his brother Mukesh Bhargava (Bhargava Gun House), Surjeet Singh (Deshmesh Armoury), Mohinder Kotwal (Mohinder Kotwal Arms and Ammunition), Manohar Singh (Swaran Arms and Ammunition) and Devi Dayal Khajuria (Khajuria Arms) were also searched.

Cash and gold jewellery worth over Rs 2.50 crore were seized apart from property documents.

"Tentative proceeds of crime are expected to be to the tune of Rs 40 crore," the ED said.

The criminal case of money laundering stems from an August 2018 FIR of the CBI (special crime branch, Chandigarh) where it was alleged that bulk issuance of arms licenses has taken place in Jammu and Kashmir between 2012-2016.

About 2.78 lakh arms licenses were issued to various defence and paramilitary personnel by "flouting" the prescribed guidelines and due procedure in lieu of "illicit" monetary consideration which was paid to government officers/ officials through arms dealers/ brokers and proceeds of crime were generated, the ED said.

# All necessary security arrangement to be made for Amarnath Yatra: DGP

Absconding Ex-Minister Babu Singh will be traced soon

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag Singh on Saturday said all necessary security arrangements will be put in place for the successful conduct of the pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Amarnath, scheduled to begin on June 30.

On the sidelines of a function in Udhampur district, the DGP also told reporters that absconding former minister Jatinder Singh alias 'Babu Singh', wanted in connection with the recent seizure of Hawala money that was meant for subversive activities, will be traced soon and questioned.

The police chief said a tight vigil is being maintained on social media which is being misused by Pakistan and its stooges to keep terror

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



DGP Dilbag Singh inspecting attendance-cum-passing out parade at STC Udhampur on Saturday.

## 626 BSF recruits pass out of STC Udhampur

JAMMU: As many as 626 BSF recruits took oath to serve the nation at an attestation-cum-passing out parade at the Subsidiary Training Centre (STC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Saturday.

This is BSF's second passing out parade at the STC here within a fortnight. On March 20, 636 candidates passed out of the centre and the parade was presided over by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag Singh, who was the chief guest of the event on Saturday, congratulated the recruits on completion of their two-year-long training. He said he was proud to

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

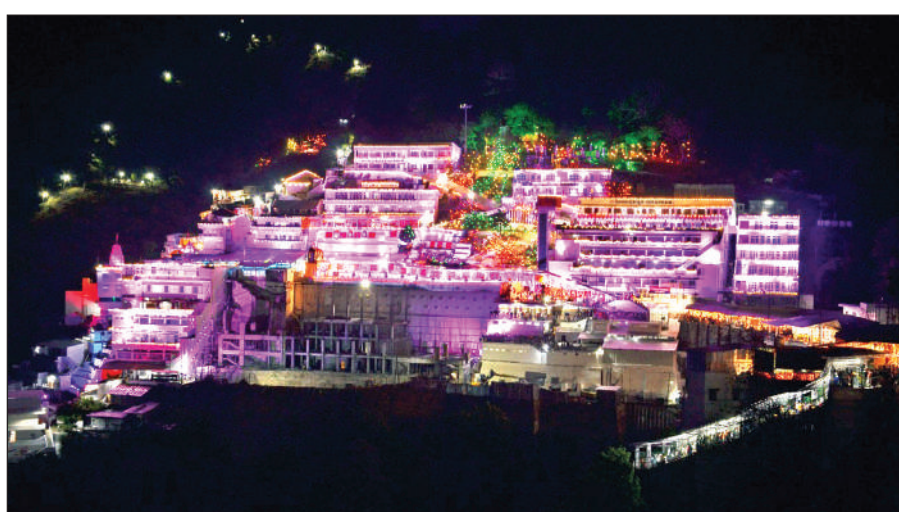
# Navratras festival begins at Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Amid chanting of vedic mantras and performance of other religious ceremonies, Shat Chandi Maha Yagya' (a special prayer) marked the start of nine-day-long Chaitra Navratras' festival at the holy shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi atop Trikuta hills in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, officials said.

The Maha Yagya', organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), is being performed for peace, prosperity and health of humanity and will conclude with Purna Ahuti' on Mahanavami, the officials said.

They said Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB, Ramesh Kumar, other officers of the board and a large number of



View of illuminated Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Bhawan on the occasion of Navratras.

pilgrims participated in the special prayers at the shrine in Reasi district.

The Shat Chandi Maha

Yagya will be telecast from 11.30 pm to 1.00 pm daily from today onwards during Navratras, a board official

said. Meanwhile, the officials said Director General of Police Dilbag Singh

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

# India poised to lead world's Startup ecosystem, J&K lagging behind: Dr Jitendra

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir is lagging behind in the startup initiatives, Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday said the country is poised to lead the world's startup ecosystem.

The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office said greater integration and synergy among industry, government departments, academia and independent institutions was crucial to create an enabling environment for growth of startups.

Singh was addressing the first of its kind programme

on Industry Participation in Startups' organized by various industry organisations of Jammu to promote local startups here.

The minister said under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is poised to lead the world's startup ecosystem but regretted that Jammu and Kashmir is lagging behind.

Ever since Modi had announced StartUp India, StandUp India' from the ramparts of the Red Fort in his Independence Day address of 2015, it picked up in a big way across the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

# RDD's VLW nabbed red-handed while accepting bribe of Rs 20,000

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has arrested one Sahil Sagar, a Village Level Worker (VLW) of Rural Development Department (RDD), Block Paran Pila, Uri, District Baramulla, red-handed, for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 20,000 from complainant for processing his case under PMAY(G) scheme.

As per an official spokesperson, the ACB received a complaint alleging therein that one Sahil Sagar, a Village Level

Worker (VLW) of Rural Development Department, Block Paran Pila, Uri, District Baramulla was demanding bribe of Rs 20,000 from complainant, a resident of village Bandi, Gujjar Basti, Uri District Baramulla, for processing his case under PMAY(G) scheme. The official informed that as per complainant, he had already paid Rs 13,000 to accused on March 29, 2022, but he was demanding remaining amount of Rs 7,000. "On receiving complaint, prima facie offence under section

7 of Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 was found to be made out. Consequently, FIR No. 11/2022 was registered at Police Station ACB Baramulla and investigation started, during which a trap team caught Sahil Sagar, red handed, while demanding and accepting bribe from complainant. He was arrested by ACB and bribe money was recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses," said official adding that further investigation is going on.

# Create special force of ex-servicemen for protection of KPs: Swamy

'VP Singh, Mufti Sayeed responsible for exodus'

## STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Subramanian Swamy on Saturday said a special force of ex-servicemen be created for the protection of Kashmiri Pandits so as to enable them to return and live in the Valley without fear.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event -- Navreh Milan' (inter community cultural festival) -- organised by J-K Peace Forum here, Swami said Kashmiri Pandits have gone through a horrible experience in the 1990s and they cannot have a similar situation once they return.

So, we will only tell them to return when the situation is good. My suggestion is that one lakh sainiks, who have retired now but still know how to use guns, be asked to live in Kashmir along with their families for five years. They will be given salary, etc for that.

Because when the Kashmiri



Pandits return, there will be a special force to protect them. They (Pandits) have experienced a massacre and they should not have to go through that again, he said.

The BJP leader said this force will be specifically for the protection of the returned Kashmiri Pandits.

They (the forces) will have direct communication lines with the Pandit families so that they can immediately reach out them when called, he

added.

Asked if the Pandits should remain in separate colonies or together with Muslims across the valley, Swami said it was their choice.

If they are not sure that they can live with Muslims, then they should live separately, he said.

Swami said while the Pandits have to be brought back to live here, the government should create an atmosphere conducive for it.

For that, discussions are going on. I can tell you that no government will last in Delhi unless these four-five lakh people, who were forced to leave, get justice and are able to return to their homes and get back their land and existence, he said.

Later, in his address to a gathering at the event, Swami said the Kashmiri Muslims should not have apprehensions that there would be separate colonies for Pandits or there would be any cultural changes.

No, it is not like that. It is their right to return, their right to live securely and they will get everything that everyone here is getting, he said.

He said the Pandits can live in separate colonies for five to six years so as to create trust that it (repeat of 1990s) will not happen again.

Referring to circumstances leading to ethnic cleansing of the minority from the Valley, Subramanian Swamy said it was not the then chief minister Farooq Abdullah, but the then prime minister VP Singh and his home minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, that were responsible for the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the Valley.

Swamy's remarks come in the midst of a controversy over the movie 'The Kashmir Files', which depicts the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the Valley. Several BJP-ruled states have made it tax-free.

Muslims and Pandits are alike. They have the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

# RSS leader lashes out at critics of 'The Kashmir Files' movie; appeals for communal harmony



RSS leader Indresh Kumar talking to reporters at a function organised by Muslim Rashtriya Manch in Jammu on Saturday.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: RSS leader Indresh Kumar on Saturday said that political parties that criticised 'The Kashmir Files', a movie based on the exodus of Kashmiri pandits, should have instead condemned Pakistan-sponsored terrorism which brought death and destruction to the Kashmir valley.

He also appealed to the people to maintain age-old communal harmony and

brotherhood.

The National Conference, PDP, Congress and (Delhi Chief Minister Arvind) Kejriwal should have unequivocally condemned the terror which was responsible for death and destruction in the valley and displacement of Kashmiri pandits, Kumar told reporters on the sidelines of a function organised by Muslim Rashtriya Manch here. Responding to a

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

SUNDAY OPEN

**Navratras COLLECTION**

**RAKESH Jewellers**

Apsara Road & Lakhdatta Bazar

100% HALLMARK - Gold Karat Analyser  
IGI/DGLA Certified Diamonds | Swiss Watches