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**FIFTH NAVRATRA**

**Maa Skandmata**  
Fifth incarnation of Goddess Durga is called 'Maa Skandmata', Mother of Lord Skand (also known as Kartikeya) who headed 'Devatas' in fight against 'Danavas'. On this Navratra heart comes in 'Vishudh Chakra'. Maa Skandmata has four arms with Bhagwan Skand in her lap and one hand in the blessing mode. Skandmata fulfills all the desires and guides door of heaven to worshipper.  
Mantra to be recited nine times on this Navratra is :-

"Om Aing Hareeng Kleeng  
Chaang Bhagwati Skand Matai  
Lakshmi Roopni Dhan  
Vridhim Kuru Kuru Swaha"

ॐ ऐं ह्रीं क्लीं चां भगवती  
स्कंदमातायै लक्ष्मी रूपिणी  
धन वृद्धिं कुरु कुरु स्वाहा

**Ramzan Mubarak**



**J&K PSC counters misinformation regarding conduct of JKAS mains**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission has strongly countered the 'information being shared on social media as well as press statements issued by a number of political parties, seeking rescheduling of J&K Combined Competitive Examination proposed to be held from 8th April 2022 to 17th April 2022' and clarified its position with

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**COVID: 12 new cases in J&K**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday reported 12 fresh Covid cases that took the infection tally to 4,53,827, officials said.  
Of the new cases, one was reported from Jammu division and 11 were from the Kashmir division, they said.  
Srinagar district recorded 10 new cases while Jammu district registered one case, officials said, adding that 17 of the 20 districts in the Union Territory did not report any fresh case.  
There are 159 active cases, while the overall

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**WEATHER**

**Temperature (Jammu)**  
Max: 36.3°C Min: 19.7°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 48 Min: 19

**Temperature (Srinagar)**  
Max: 26.8°C Min: 9.3°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 57 Min: 23

Sunset : 18:54 Hours  
Sunrise : 06:16 Hours

## Delimitation Commission concludes J&K visit, meets over 400 delegations



Members of Delimitation Commission listening to public suggestions at Srinagar on Tuesday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: The Delimitation Commission of Jammu and Kashmir met with approximately 400 delegations from different parts of UT of J&K during its two-day public sittings at Convention Centre, Jammu and SKICC, Srinagar.

In response to the draft delimitation proposal published in Gazette of India

(extraordinary) and in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Gazette on 14th March, 2022, around 400 suggestions/representations with 4000 signatories were received by the commission till 21st of March, 2022. The Commission decided to provide personal hearing to all these delegations, both in Jammu as well as Srinagar so that the public can direct-

ly interact with the members of the Commission and present their suggestions before them.

During the public sittings, the main points of all the representations were read out and the concerned delegations were given opportunity to highlight any additional points for the consideration of the Commission. The

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## 18 Indian, 4 Pakistani YouTube-based news channels blocked

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has directed the blocking of 22 YouTube-based news channels, of which four are from Pakistan, alleging that they were spreading fake news that could impact national security, foreign relations and public order.

This is the first time that action has been taken against the Indian YouTube-based news publishers since the notification of the IT Rules, 2021 in February last year, it said.

Union Minister Anurag Thakur asserted that the

government will not shy away from taking such action in the future as well.

In an official statement, the ministry said it issued an order on Monday to block 22 YouTube channels, three Twitter accounts, one Facebook account and one news website.

With this action, the ministry has, since December 2021, issued directions for blocking 78 YouTube-based news channels and several other social media accounts on grounds related to national security, sovereignty and integrity of India, public order, etc. "Out of the

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## Muslim neighbours rally behind KP family after Shopian attack

Security provided to Pandit families: IGP

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SHOPIAN: After a Kashmiri Pandit shopkeeper was shot at by terrorists in Shopian on Monday, his family received immense support from his Muslim neighbours who not only rushed him to a hospital but camped at his house as well to ward off any further trouble.

Bal Krishan Bhat, whose family runs a medicine store in Chotigam of the district, was shot at by terrorists outside his shop. He is currently undergoing treatment at the 92-Base Hospital of the Army in Srinagar and his



condition is stated to be stable.

The Bhat family is one of the two Kashmiri Pandit families in Chotigam, nearly 10 km from the Shopian district headquarters and 70

km from Srinagar.

The region is a hotbed of militancy and is considered a stronghold of the terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba.

"We have lived here all along and never left the place. I will add that we have never felt threatened," Bal Krishan Bhat's brother Anil Bhat told PTI.

"We don't know what is in store for us, all our neighbours are very nice, but how will we counter the threat of gun. We will decide on our future course only after my brother returns from

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## J&K registers record increase in area covered under organic certification: LG

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that Jammu and Kashmir is giving major impetus to natural and organic farming and has registered a record increase in terms of area covered under organic certification in a sustainable manner.

"Today, J&K is amongst the major organic producing States/UTs in the country and we are methodically developing a robust ecosystem by extending financial assistance, technological and marketing support for better realization of prices to farmers", the Lt Governor said while addressing the first Zonal Convention on Natural Farming at SKUAST-Jammu.

The two-day convention on the theme "Natural Farming: A National Priority for Human Health and Ecological Restoration" will focus on the major thrust areas of environmental safe-



LG Manoj Sinha addressing 1st Zonal Convention on Natural Farming at SKUAST-Jammu on Tuesday.

ty, public health and agricultural sustainability towards ensuring growth and prosperity of the farming community.

The Lt Governor congratulated Agrivision and SKUAST-Jammu for organizing the convention on the relevant topic of natural farming.

He said that such deliberations will help the policy makers, planners, and farmers to focus on increasing the

sustainability of farm livelihoods, environmental safety, and human health.

With the combination of market linkages, large scale mechanization, organic farming, and farmer-centric reforms, we have made significant achievements in increasing our farmers' income, wherein J&K ranks third in the list of top five states in terms of relative income of farmers. Our agriculture sector is going to contribute substantially towards realizing the goal of a self-reliant India, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor observed that in the long run, organic farming with technology based assistance will reduce the input cost and usher in rural prosperity.

"Natural & organic farming can effectively tackle the challenges posed by climate change and soil

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## Attacks on civilians, security forces won't be tolerated: DGP



wreath-laying ceremony of head constable Vishal Kumar of CRPF, who was killed in a militant attack at Maisuma in the city on Monday.

In two other incidents on Monday, two non-local labourers were injured in a terror attack in Pulwama, while a Kashmiri Pandit shopkeeper was injured in a

similar attack in Shopian.

"The security forces -- CRPF, Police -- are discharging their responsibilities. We pay our respects to our slain colleague and our best wishes for the injured colleague for speedy recovery," Singh said.

The DGP said the incidents in which non-local labourers were attacked and a minority community member was targeted "are signs of barbaric and beastly acts."

When an animal goes mad, it is that kind of act."

Singh said, "Unfortunately, this madness has its leash somewhere else...We can recognise it and we are acting against it. We will continue our efforts for maintain-

ing peace and tranquility.

"Our neighbour cannot stomach the improvement in the situation here. When people start earning their livelihood, the other side suffers pangs," he said.

Responding to a question, Singh said the security forces have responded proportionately to the increased activity of overground workers (OGWs) of the terror groups.

"The OGW presence has always been there and when their presence increases, the action by police and security forces also increases accordingly. If you look at statistics, we have eliminated 42 terrorists in the past three

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## Govt teacher suspended for beating girl students, FIR registered

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Government on Tuesday placed under suspension a teacher for inflicting corporeal punishment to two girls of Middle School Khadurian Panchayat Dramman in Rajouri district.

"A report has been received through social media of beating of two young school girls of Middle School Khadurian Panchayat Dramman by a teacher namely Nisar Ahmed," reads an order issued on the direction by Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Sachin Dev Singh.

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## J&K economy grows 7.5 pc in FY22

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The economy of Jammu and Kashmir registered 7.5 per cent growth in last fiscal year on various initiatives undertaken by the Finance Department, an official said.

The department took various initiatives for completion of more projects than in previous years, enhancement of revenue collection, besides ensuring financial discipline for improving public spending and efficient treasury management to clear all the bills in a time bound manner.

The Union Territory recorded a significant hike of 25.38 per cent in tax revenue collection during 2021-22

over the last fiscal year.

"The economy of J&K has improved significantly and during the year 2021-22, J&K registered a growth of 7.5 per cent over financial year 2020-21," Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Atal Dulloo told PTI.

Dulloo said the tourist footfall in J&K has also remained the highest, contributing towards enhancing livelihood of the people associated with the tourism sector.

"To improve livelihood of people, more than 15 lakh people were covered under various financial inclusion schemes which include busi-

ness revival scheme, PM-SVANidhi, GECL and others," he said.

Dulloo said more than Rs 2,000 crore were disbursed to over 65 lakh individual beneficiaries through direct benefit transfer (DBT) which include old age pensioners also, whose livelihood depends on the monthly financial support from the government.

He said that during the last financial year, despite facing COVID challenges, the finance department undertook various initiatives to spur growth.

The Union Territory during 2021-22 witnessed

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## Voice votes taken 200 times during passage of CA Bill in RS

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Rajya Sabha saw voice votes being taken a whopping 200 times for the passage of a bill on Tuesday as the House gave clause by clause approval, reflecting the procedural rigours involved in enacting legislation.

The debate on the Chartered Accountants, the Cost and Works Accountants and the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2022 including the reply of the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman took about two hours and twenty minutes.

However, the process of voting on the 106 clauses and clause-wise amendments took over 30 minutes, Rajya Sabha officials said.

According to RS Secretariat officials, it was after a long time that a bill with so many clauses and amendments was passed with voting taking substantial time.

Procedurally, each clause, if amendments are moved, is required to be put to vote twice based on the number of members moving amendments to each clause.

CPI-M member John Brittas gave 163 notices for amendments to various clauses in the Bill and moved almost all of them during the clause-wise consideration of the Bill. CPI's Binoy Viswam also moved a few other amendments.

Since all amendments are required to be put to

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## Hitlers of J&K should be ousted: Chugh

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: PDP got another jolt in J&K today as senior PDP leader Surinder Chaudhary joined BJP along with more than a dozen other leaders.

BJP national General Secretary Tarun Chugh welcomed them to the party at a function in Jammu and said that the development agenda of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ushered in a new era following which BJP has been gaining popularity in the Union Territory.

Focusing his attack on Abdullah and Mufti families Chugh said it was time Hitlers of J&K are exposed because they promoted family business and exploited the state resources in the last six decades.

He said the struggle



BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh, Party's J&K President Ravinder Raina and prominent party leader Devender Singh Rana welcoming Ex-MLC Surinder Choudhary into party-fold.

launched by Shyama Prasad Mukherjee to give honour and respect to the people of J&K has reached fruition

under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Chugh said the BJP has

transformed J&K from a terrorist to a tourist state. The youth has been given

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## Former PDP leader joins BJP, accuses Mehbooba of pursuing Pakistani agenda

JAMMU: Former PDP leader Surinder Choudhary on Tuesday joined the BJP along with his supporters and accused Mehbooba Mufti of ruining the party and pursuing the Pakistani agenda.

Choudhary and his supporters were welcomed into the BJP by the party's National General Secretary and in charge of Jammu and Kashmir Tarun Chugh.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina and other prominent leaders including former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta and Devender

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