

BLUE MOON
Banquets • Conventions

THE BANQUET WITH A DIFFERENCE

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J.K. PUBLIC SCHOOL
KUNJWANI, JAMMU
The School with a Difference

SOWING SKILLS
SHAPING INDIA

03

Jammu Mayor inspects preparedness for Baisakhi fair at Ranbir Canal

03

Those entering Gazetted Engineering Services in ‘J&K’ have reasons to complain of ‘unfair’ discrimination

09

2 women among 16 narco smugglers nabbed across J&K; haul of contraband seized

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

ROZA TIMING

SEHR TIME:
04:37 (APRIL 13)
IFTAAR TIME:
07:00 (APRIL 12)

MHA to convene crucial meet on J&K today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will convene a crucial meeting on Jammu and Kashmir in Delhi on Wednesday to discuss ongoing preparations on G-20 summit, security situation and the developmental pace in the UT.

A top MHA official said that the Ministry has invited officials from J&K including LG Manoj Sinha, DGP Dilbagh Singh,

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Dr Sumedha murder case: Five-member SIT reconstituted

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted earlier by the Jammu district police was reconstituted on Tuesday to investigate the murder of Dr. Sumedha, a local girl who was murdered by Johar Ganai on March 7, 2023 in Janipur area.

Issuing an order in this regard, Jammu SSP Chandan Kohli has appointed SP Headquarters Jammu Raminish Gupta as in-charge of the SIT. Apart from this, SDPO Jammu City South Sachit Sharma, SDPO Domana Vishal Shoor, SHO Bakshi Nagar and SHO

Tourists throng Kashmir to enjoy snow and sunshine
■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SONAMARG: A large number of tourists are visiting Kashmir to enjoy the heady mix of snow-clad mountains and bright sunshine in the union territory, away from the summer heat in the other parts of the country.

"I had imagined the beauty of Kashmir from my childhood ... And this place is certainly more beautiful than I imagined," Balarata Patra, a Kolkata resident, told PTI here, 85 kilometres from Srinagar on the highway to Ladakh.

Patra said while she is enjoying her time in the "Paradise on Earth", she is anxious how she will cope with the weather back home.

"It is so pleasant here. I wonder how I will cope when we return home. I have been sending photographs of snow to my friends in Kolkata and all they wish is that I could send some to them to beat the heat," she added.

The introduction of various amusement forms for tourists like snow

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 33.3°C Min: 17.4°C

Humidity
Max: 62 Min: 52

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 25.1°C Min: 7.1°C

Humidity
Max: 59 Min: 28

Sunset : 18:58 Hours
Sunrise : 06:08 Hours

Union Minister, LG Sinha inspect Srinagar-Banihal section of NH-44
Delhi-Srinagar highway will increase tourist arrivals in J&K 4-fold: Gadkari



Union Minister Nitin Gadkari with LG Manoj Sinha inspecting Srinagar-Banihal section of NH-44 on Tuesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BANIHAL/JAMMU: There will be a four-fold rise in the footfall of tourists in Kashmir after the completion of the Delhi-Jammu-Srinagar highway, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has said.

The minister for Road, Highways and Transport on Tuesday inspected a 924-metre-long Banihal-Qazigund tunnel, which will bypass a nearly three-km landslide and accident-prone area in

Ramban district, and various road projects in the Union territory.

The completion of the tunnel will bring much relief to travellers by bypassing a nearly three-km landslide and accident-prone area in the Ramban district.

Flanked by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Union ministers Jitendra Singh and Gen VK Singh, Gadkari also conducted a breakthrough of Sita Rama Passi Maroog via virtual

mode through a controlled blast in the tunnel.

"After completion of this road in the next two years, the tourist arrival (in Jammu and Kashmir) will increase over 4 times. That will increase the number of resorts and restaurants to 9 in the Union territory," Gadkari told reporters after an inspection of the tunnel.

The minister expressed confidence that after the completion of road projects, there will be a huge development, people will get employment and poverty will be eradicated in the Union territory.

"The lifeline (highway) will have socio-economic benefits to Jammu and Kashmir:

"In Jammu and Kashmir, we are constructing road projects at a cost of Rs 1.25 lakh crore. There are 20 to 22 proposals of ropeways and cable cars worth Rs 25,000-30,000 crore that we are doing. It will have a 4-fold increase in the tourism of Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir will be self-reliant and prosperous," he said. Referring to the work on the highways, he said there will be three roads

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Modi to distribute 71,000 appointment letters on Thursday



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will distribute about 71,000 appointment letters to newly inducted employees on April 13 via video conferencing and also address them on the occasion, according to a statement issued by his office on Tuesday.

The programme is part of the 'Rozgar Mela' drive, under which 10 lakh people are expected to be given jobs. The statement said it was a step towards fulfilment of the prime minister's commitment to accord the highest priority to employment generation.

"The Rozgar Mela is expected to act as a catalyst in further employment generation and provide meaningful opportunities to the youth

J&K Police busts prostitution racket in Srinagar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Police on Tuesday busted a prostitution racket in Nowgam area of the city, arresting three people and detaining two customers and a sex worker.

"Investigation in Chanpura case led to busting of another prostitution racket in Nowgam area. 1) Shabir Mir of Charlipora Nowgam, 2) his wife Shazia Mir & 3) Adil Gulzar Hazar of Soura arrested on spot for operating this racket. 2 customers & a sex worker also detained (all locals)," police said in a tweet.

No need to panic about spike in COVID cases: Experts to CS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: In a meeting with health experts Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta was on Tuesday assured that there is no need to panic in view of little spike in Covid-19 cases reported across the UT recently.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary, Health; Director SKIMS; Principals of Medical Colleges and Heads of Medicine and Microbiology of Medical Colleges; Directors of Health Services Kashmir/Jammu besides other experts from the Medical field.

Dr Mehta enjoined upon all

these health experts to take all the necessary measures to tackle any issues that may arise fully. He asked them to perform the precautionary testing of individuals as per the set protocols and not to resort to either under testing or over testing in the health facilities. He impressed upon them to create ample awareness among public so that no unnecessary scare is created among them.

The Chief Secretary also emphasized on taking stock of medicines and other paraphernalia before hand so that people are served better. He asked the department to give

booster doses to the vulnerable groups like elderly and persons with comorbidity. He also directed them for encouraging people to observe the Covid appropriate behavior for safety of all.

On the occasion the Chief Secretary directed for constituting a three member committee under Director SKIMS with Principals of Government Medical Colleges of Jammu and Srinagar as members for working out a standard protocol for treatment of patients across the health facilities of J&K for

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Operation of 45 drug retail outlets suspended for violation of norms

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Drug Control Organisation on Tuesday suspended operation of scores of Drugs retail sale establishments across Jammu Province for violation of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940.

As per the department, an extensive drive was conducted in Jammu Province wherein Supervisory Checks of Drugs Sale Establishments were carried out under the direct supervision of respective Assistant Drug Controllers & overall supervision of Deputy Drugs Controller, Jammu Mohammad Iqbal Palla.

The drive was targeted to ensure that the pharmacies operate strictly in consonance with the mandate of law and don't indulge in any

unethical sale of habit forming formulations.

During the said drive, Operations of Forty Five Retail Sale Establishments (15 in Jammu , 08 in Samba , 05 each in Kathua & Rajouri, 03 in Doda, 03 in Udhampur , 02 in Poonch ,02 in Ramban,01 each in Reasi & Kishtwar) were disallowed u/s 22 (d) of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 on spot. The reason for suspension was particularly Non maintenance of Sales records in violation to the rules mandated under the Act. The Licenses were warned of severe action in case the violations are not removed/rectified within stipulated period of time.

Statutory Drug samples of more than Hundred Pharmaceutical

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Three Union Ministers, LG pay obeisance at Vaishno Devi Shrine



Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari, Jitendra Singh and V K Singh along with LG Manoj Sinha after paying obeisance at Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine on Tuesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
REASI/JAMMU: Union ministers Nitin Gadkari, Jitendra Singh and V K

Singh along with Lt Governor Manoj Sinha paid obeisance at the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop

Trikuta hills on Tuesday, officials said. Gadkari, the Union Road Transport

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Situation in J&K normal, waiting for EC to announce polls: Bukhari

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Asserting that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is as normal as in any other part of the country, Apni Party president Altaf Bukhari on Tuesday credited the youth for choosing peace over violence.

The former minister said his party is ready for assembly elections and is waiting for an announcement by the Election Commission.

He claimed that not a single youth has joined militancy in the Union Territory over the past eight months.

"J-K is as normal as any other place in the country. Over the past eight months, not a single local youth joined militancy and we congratulate the people and the security forces for this achievement," Bukhari told

reporters here.

He said smuggling of narcotics from across the border has emerged as the major challenge rather than the gun.

"Our present challenge is drugs and not guns. The government of India is more mature to decide what should be done or not," Bukhari said.

He was responding to a question about demands from certain quarters for the resumption of cross-border trade in J-K alongside efforts for a "religious corridor" to facilitate pilgrims to visit Sharada Peeth in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Asked about the situation in the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370, he

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