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09

Prostitution racket busted in Jammu; 3 arrested, minor rescued

10

Borderline Club Pallanwala, Trikuta Club Jammu win Volleyball titles

10

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ROZA TIMING

SEHR TIME:
04:35 (APRIL 14)
IFTAAR TIME:
07:01 (APRIL 13)

Amit Shah to review J&K security situation today



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will review the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday, sources said. Shah will be given a detailed presentation on the prevailing law and order situation in J-K by security officials of the central government and the union territory administration. The situation along the Line of Control and

International Border, infiltration bids from across the border and attempts to target minority community members are expected to be discussed at the meeting in Delhi, sources said. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Dilbag Singh and other senior officials will attend the meeting.

There were several targeted killings in Jammu and Kashmir in the last three years. The government had informed Parliament that as many as 118 civilians, including five Kashmiri Pandits and 16 other Hindus and Sikhs, were killed in J-K since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 till July 2022. In May, four Hindu pilgrims were killed

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Tariq Khan, Sanjeev appointed JKPS members

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday appointed Tariq Ahmad Khan, former Director General, Planning Department and Sanjeev Gupta, District and Sessions Judge (retired) as members of Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC). "In exercise of powers conferred by Clause 2 of the Article 316 of the Constitution of India read with Section 93 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act 2019 and S.O. 3937 (E) dated 31st October, 2019, read with Order issued in terms of sub-clause (i) of clause (c) of the Proclamation issued by the President dated 31st October, 2019, the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is pleased to appoint the Tariq Ahmad Khan, Director General (Expenditure Division), Planning (Retd) and Sanjeev Gupta, District and

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Railways arena of politics under previous Govts: Modi



PM Narendra Modi addressing gathering after flagging-off Rajasthan's first Vande Bharat Express train between Jaipur and Delhi Cantt via video conferencing on Wednesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAIPUR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said railways had become an arena of politics under previous governments and its modernisation affected by political considerations. "It is our country's misfortune that an important system like the railways, which is such a big part in the lives of common people, was also made an arena of politics," he said after launching Rajasthan's first Vande Bharat Express here via video conferencing. The new Vande Bharat train, the 15th in the country, will operate between Ajmer and Delhi Cantonment stations with stops in Jaipur, Alwar and Gurugram. It will cover the distance in five hours and 15 minutes. The Prime Minister thanked Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot for

attending the event despite going through a "political tussle" in the state Congress. "After independence, India had got a large railway network but political interests always dominated the modernisation of railways," Modi said, adding the decision on who would become the railway minister and which train would run at a certain sta-

tion used to be taken based on political interest. He also alleged that due to political pressure, several trains announced in budgets never actually ran. "There was politics in railway recruitment, corruption was rampant. The situation was such that lands of poor people were snatched

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J&K Bank commissions CRM at Mandi, ATM at Loran in Poonch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: Extending instant banking services to remote areas of Poonch district, J&K Bank on Wednesday commissioned a Cash Recycler Machine (CRM) at Mandi and an Automated Teller Machine (ATM) at Loran. District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch Inder Jeet inaugurated the ATM at Loran in presence of Bank's Zonal Head (Rajouri) Satish Kumar amid a gathering of valuable customers, public representatives and officials of the Bank. Thanking the Bank on the

occasion, the DDC said that "the commissioning of a new ATM at Loran affirms the Bank's commitment of providing the latest banking facilities to people irrespective of their location and status." Meanwhile, Bank's Zonal Head (Rajouri) Satish Kumar inaugurated the CRM at Mandi in presence of Cluster Head (Poonch) Aneet Kanwal Singh amid a gathering of valuable customers, local residents and other Bank officials. "The Self Service terminal accepts and dispenses cash thereby easing the rush at the

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COVID cases in India likely to start subsiding after 10-12 days



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: COVID in India is moving towards the endemic stage, so the cases may keep rising for the next 10-12 days after which they

will subside, official sources said on Wednesday. The sources said even though the cases are increasing, hospitalisation is low and expected to remain low. The current

J&K reports 122 new positive cases
SRINAGAR: The Government on Wednesday informed that 122 new positive cases of novel Corona virus (COVID-19), 52 from Jammu division and 70 from Kashmir division, have been reported today thus taking the total number of active positive cases in Jammu and Kashmir to 531. Moreover, 62 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and discharged from various hospitals, 12 from Jammu Division and 50 from Kashmir Division. In last 24 hours, 4,137 COVID tests have also been conducted across the UT. In case of any emergency people can avail free ambulance services 24x7 at their doorsteps by calling on toll-free number 108 while as pregnant women and sick infants can avail free ambulance services by dialling toll-free number 102. People can also call on toll-free National helpline number 1075; J&K COVID-19 Helpline Number 104.

rise in Covid cases is being driven by XBB.1.16, which is a sub variant of Omicron,

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Father kills son; injures wife, grand-daughter in Samba

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SAMBHA: A man allegedly killed his 20-year-old son and injured his wife and the couple's minor daughter during a fight on Wednesday in Samba district, police said. Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba, Benam Tosh said they have arrested the accused, Kulbir Singh, and booked him for murder and attempt to murder under FIR No. 78/2023 under section 302/307 IPC at Police Station Samba. According to police, Kulbir Singh attacked his son Jeetan Singh, wife

Poonam, and their 16-year-old daughter in the Dhaki Sumb area with a sharp edged weapon. On receiving information about the incident, police immediately swung into action, registered murder case, rushed to the spot, arrested accused and started further investigation. Scene of Crime (SOC) was visited by a police team comprising of DySP Garu Ram Bhardwaj, SHO Samba Rajeshwar Singh and In-Charge Police Post Goran Sajid Jaral under the supervision of Additional SP Samba Surinder Choudhary.

Diya posted as SP HQ Baramulla, Parihar Dy Comm IR-16th Bn

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Home Department on Wednesday transferred two police officers. According to an order issued by Additional Secretary R.K Goyal, Diya D, IPS, awaiting orders of adjustment, has been posted as Superintendent of Police (Headquarters), Baramulla. "The post of Addl. Superintendent of

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Encounter underway in Shopian

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: An encounter broke out Wednesday evening between militants and security forces in Shopian district, police said. The gunbattle got triggered after security forces launched a cordon and search operation at Chakoor in the district, a police spokesman said. He said further details of the incident were awaited. There were no reports of any casualty so far on either side.

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 34.8°C Min: 17.9°C

Humidity
Max: 66 Min: 58

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 25.8°C Min: 7.4°C

Humidity
Max: 51 Min: 29

Sunset : 18:59 Hours
Sunrise : 06:07 Hours

J&K begins cultivation of medicinal, aromatic plants in nurseries

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The cultivation of medicinal plants and herbs used in the treatment and management of several diseases, including diabetes mellitus, and heart and neurological disorders, has begun in Jammu and Kashmir. This is being done as a part of a pioneering Rs 750 crore project envisaging total transformation in the 625 hectares of the landscape of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) cultivation in the Union Territory. The Department of Agriculture (DoA) has

recently set up a medicinal and aromatic plant nursery in the Talab Tillo area of Jammu, where over 40 types of medicinal and aromatic plants are being grown for distribution among the urban population and farmers for commercial farming. "We have begun farming medicinal plants here. We have grown 40 medicinal and aromatic plants in the Nursery. It is mother stock. These are being grown by farmers. Sets of ten to twenty plants are being given to urban farmers. They are growing them in their homes. These are used daily. We

want everyone to grow it in their homes," Head of the Nursery, Ambica told PTI. The nursery is bustling with medicinal plants and herbs of Sweet leaf, Clove basil, Anantnag carvoment, Orange mint, Spearmint, Corn mint, Lemon grass, Brahmi, Kapoor Tulsi and other aromatic plants used in various treatment of diseases as per Ayurveda. "After the Corona period, people have understood that they have come back to Ayurveda from allopathic systems of medicines. The Department of

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Without preparing entire judgment, Judge can't pronounce concluding portion in open court: SC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has ordered the sacking of a trial court judge in Karnataka, holding that a judicial officer cannot pronounce the concluding portion of a judgment in the open court without the entire text of the judgment having been prepared or dictated. The SC direction came on a plea filed by the Registrar General of the High Court of Karnataka who had challenged the HC's division bench order on the judge's reinstatement by quashing the termination order passed by its full court.



Coming down heavily on the Karnataka High Court for "white-washing" serious charges, an SC bench of justices V Ramasubramanian and Pankaj Mithal said the conduct of the judge is unacceptable. "It is true that some of the

charges revolve around judicial pronouncements and the judicial decision-making processes and that they cannot per se, without anything more, form the foundation for departmental proceedings. "Therefore, we are ignoring

those charges. But the charges which revolve around gross negligence and callousness on the part of the respondent in not preparing/dictating judgments, but providing a fait accompli, is completely unacceptable and unbecoming of a judicial officer," the bench said. The top court said the defence taken by the judge that the lack of experience and the inefficiency on the part of the stenographer has to be blamed was entirely unacceptable. "But unfortunately, the High Court not only

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Prerna Puri inaugurates Conference Hall at Directorate of Information, Media Complex, Jammu



Commissioner Secretary Information & Information Technology, Prerna Puri inaugurating Conference Hall at Directorate of Information, Media Complex, Jammu on Wednesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Commissioner Secretary Information & Information Technology, Prerna Puri on Wednesday inaugurated state of the art Conference Hall at the Media Complex, Directorate of Information & Public Relations here. The inauguration ceremony took place in the presence of Director of

Information, Akshay Labroo and other senior officers and staff members of DIPR. The newly renovated conference hall is equipped with state of the art facilities and shall serve as a productive space for the government to reach its people through seminars, conferences, outreach programmes, media interaction etc. On the occasion, the Commissioner Secretary

'The Conference Hall will be a state of the art venue for conducting seminars, public outreach programs, says, Director Info Labroo'

was briefed about the timelines within which the conference hall was put in place and was also briefed about the ongoing campaigns and projects. She congratulated the team at DIPR for completing the work in a short span of time. During the ceremony, Puri emphasised on the need to integrate newer technologies with information dissemination mechanisms to reach out to people on a real time basis. The meeting was also attended by Joint Director Information (Hqrs), JDI Kashmir; JDI Jammu, Deputy Director Information (C), Deputy Director Information (AV), Deputy Director Information (PR) Kashmir/Jammu and senior officers and officials of the department.

Need to address growing debt distress across Globe, says FM Sitharaman

■ AGENCY
WASHINGTON: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday that there is a need to augment present global efforts, including those of the G-20 to address growing debt distress across the globe, as she stressed on debt transparency and information-sharing on this issue. Sitharaman made the remarks at a Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable meeting which was also attended by IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva and World Bank

President David Malpass on the sidelines of the Spring Meetings 2023. "As a priority for the #G20 India Presidency, FM



Sitharaman said that there is need to augment present global efforts, including those of the #G20 to address growing debt distress across the globe," the finance ministry said in a tweet. Sitharaman also stressed on debt transparency and information-sharing

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ED questions Lalu Prasad's daughter Ragini in land-for-jobs in railways case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday recorded the statement of RJD chief Lalu Prasad's daughter Ragini Yadav in a money laundering case linked to the alleged land-for-jobs in railways scam, sources said. Ragini Yadav deposed before the agency for questioning and her statement was recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The agency had raided the premises of Ragini Yadav, her sisters Chanda Yadav and Hema Yadav, and former RJD MLA Abu Dojana in Patna, Phulwari Sharif, Delhi-NCR, Ranchi and Mumbai in March this year. The ED had on Monday

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