

Separatism, terrorism come from outside

India: Union Minister Meghwal

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Separatism and terrorism come from outside and is not native to people living in India, Union Minister of State for Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal said here on Sunday.
Meghwal was in Jammu to take part in an MSME conclave.
Asked about the arrest of 'Waris Punjab De' chief Amritpal Singh, Meghwal told reporters, "I was in Delhi for the Global Buddhist Summit and people from Leh and Ladakh were there. Everyone wants peace.
"India will lead the process of peace in the world. Separatism and terrorism are not in the hearts of those living in India but come from outside." The Punjab Police arrested Amritpal Singh in



Union Minister of State for Culture Arjun Ram Meghwal briefing media in Jammu.

Moga's Rode village early on Sunday, ending an over a month-long manhunt against the radical preacher who styled himself after slain Khalistani militant Jarnail Singh Bhindranvale.
Amritpal has been taken to Assam's Dibrugarh under the National Security Act. The government is commit-

ted to undertaking the welfare of all the people and winning their hearts through good governance and development, Meghwal added.
"It will unite the country and make it great," he said.
Development and good governance are key elements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and these

will help bring peace to Jammu and Kashmir, added Meghwal, who is also the Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs.
"Democracy and good governance are the two important elements of Prime Minister Modi's leadership. These elements will help bring peace and prosperity and that will create employment opportunities in the region," he said.
Meghwal also claimed that Pakistan does not have democracy, development and employment.
"That is why you see such a situation in Pakistan," Meghwal said when asked about that country's alleged efforts to derail peace and progress in Jammu and Kashmir by engineering terror attacks.

India needs to nurture knowledge of Vedas, Sanskrit to become ‘Vishwa Guru’: Bhagwat

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
SABARKANTHA: India needs to nurture the knowledge of the Vedas and the ancient language of Sanskrit to become a 'vishwa guru', Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat said here on Sunday.
He said Indian culture was not orthodox but changed with time and was not one that told us "what to eat and what not to eat".
India was created on the values of the Vedas, which have been followed by generation after generation, Bhagwat said at the 'Ved Sanskrit Gyan Gaurav Samarambh' event organised by Shree Bhagwan Yagyavalkya Vedtatvagyan Yogashram Trust in Mudeti village here.
"Therefore, today's India has to grow but not to become a

superpower like America, China and Russia that wield power. We have to become a country which can offer answers to the problems plaguing the world today. We have to become a country which can show the world the path of peace, love and prosperity through right conduct," Bhagwat said.
India is a country that believes in propagating 'dharma', uniting everyone and becoming a vishwa guru, he said, adding "victory means dharma vijay".
"That is why it is necessary to nurture the knowledge of the Vedas or Ved vigyan and culture (sanskrit). All this knowledge is in Sanskrit. Therefore, it is necessary to have the influence of Sanskrit. If we know to speak our mother tongues well, then we can learn 40 per cent

of Sanskrit," he claimed.
Bhagwat also said experts believe many concepts of science as well as mathematics are easy to learn if one has the knowledge of Sanskrit and music.
Hailing India's stand in the war between Ukraine and Russia, the RSS chief said both nations want India on their side, but India maintains that "both of you are friends" and, therefore, we will not take sides now.
This is not the era of war; hence, stop it, India has maintained, Bhagwat asserted.
"The India of today has the strength to say this to the world's superpowers, something it lacked in the past," he said.
Sri Lanka was once a friend of China and Pakistan and kept India at a distance, but

the island nation turned towards India when it was in trouble (economic downturn).
"Because the country (India) which believes in Dharma does not take advantage of anyone. We take advantage of each other for mutual existence, but it is an exchange of love and not a bargain," Bhagwat said.
Whenever anyone needs what belongs to us, the country will offer it because this is what our forefathers have directed us to do as a duty, Bhagwat added.
"For a country to perform its duty, it will need a culture that is based on the unity of the world. Our culture, our dharma is not orthodox. It is something that changes with time. Our culture will not tell us what to eat and not to eat. But it will tell us not to consume food that spoils our health," Bhagwat said.

AIF launches cleanliness drive of water bodies at Chariyai

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
UDHAMPUR: In order to keep clean dry water bodies (natural water sources) at village Chairyai in Udhampur, volunteers of Aware India Foundation (AIF) launched massive drive to clean century old water bodies on Sunday.
According to District president AIF Vimal Sharma over a dozen volunteers of foundation removed the grass beats and bushes out of natural water resourees today. Volunteers also removed filth and dry roots and unwanted shrubs. Particular drive launched to protect environment and save our heritage. It was disclosed that main purpose of organizing such programs is to create awareness among the general masses especially the young



AIF volunteers carrying out cleanliness drive.

generation so that our heritage can be protected for coming generations and to maintain and to save natural water sources. Beside this volunteers decided to clean local ponds so that meet the need of water for livestock and to become centre of attraction for visitors also. Volunteers also planted Peepal trees in front of his-

torical temple for healthy environment. Prominent among who participated in drive were Rakesh Sharma District Org, Vijay Kumar, Amar Dev Singh Scouts Master, Raksham social worker and blogger, Pandit Mohan Lal famous Dogri writer, Gopal Sharma, Raghav and Madav Sharma environment lover.

MeT issues ‘Yellow’ warning for thunderstorm in Assam, neighbouring states

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
G U W A H A T I / TINSUKIA: The Met department on Sunday warned of thunderstorm with lightning and gusty winds in Assam and its neighbouring areas over the next two days.
As per the forecast released by the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), a cyclonic circulation is lying over east Assam and neighbourhood between 1.5 km and 2.1 km above mean sea level.
Issuing a 'yellow' category warning for two days, it said thunderstorm with lightning accompanied by gusty wind reaching speed up to 30-40 kmph is very likely to occur at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland,

Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura on Sunday.
The IMD uses four colour codes - green (no action needed), yellow (watch and stay updated), orange (be prepared) and red (take action) - for weather warning.
Thunderstorm with lightning is also very likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, while isolated places of Meghalaya are very likely to receive heavy rains during the same period.
The RMC has also warned of thunderstorm with lightning to occur very likely at isolated places over all seven North Eastern states.
Meanwhile, Tinsukia deputy commissioner Swapneel Paul said two

persons were killed in a hailstorm that lashed the district on Saturday night.
"We have arranged for the ex-gratia cheques of Rs 4 lakh each to be paid to the families of the two victims by today itself," he said.
He said assessment of damages of houses and other property was being done, and rehabilitation grant will be provided once it is completed.
Paul said major damage has been caused to the Rupai-Tinsukia grid line, where nine towers have been severely damaged.
"Special expertise is needed to restore this as it's the main grid line. Two teams from Guwahati are coming. It is difficult to give a timeframe for when

the restoration will be completed," he added.
He said 60-70 per cent electricity poles and wires in Tinsukia town have also been damaged and work to restore power in the town by tonight is going on in full swing.
The main roads that were blocked by uprooted trees on Saturday night were cleared by morning by five teams deployed for the purpose and traffic movement has not been hindered, the DC added.
"We have activated two helpline phone numbers. Traffic movement has not been affected and medical teams are also in place. I urge people not to panic and contact us for any assistance," Paul said.

10,112 fresh COVID cases in India

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NEW DELHI: India on Sunday recorded a single-day rise of 10,112 fresh COVID-19 infections, while the number of active cases increased to 67,806, according to Union health ministry data.
With the fresh cases, India's COVID-19 tally stands at 4.48 crore (4,48,91,989). The death toll climbed to 5,31,329 with 29 fatalities, including seven reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.
The daily positivity rate was recorded at 7.03 per cent and the weekly positivity rate at 5.43 per cent.
At 67,806, the active cases now comprise 0.15 per cent of the total infections. The national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.66 per cent, according to the health ministry website.

Registration of pilgrims for Kedarnath Yatra suspended till Apr 30 in Rishikesh, Haridwar due to bad weather

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
RISHIKESH: The registration of pilgrims for the Kedarnath yatra was on Sunday suspended till April 30 in Rishikesh and Haridwar due to rain and snowfall in the upper reaches of the Garhwal Himalayas, officials said.
The Kedarnath Dham will be opened to the public on Tuesday.
Additional Commissioner (Administration) of Garhwal Division and Additional Chief Executive Officer of Chardham Yatra Administration Organisation Narendra Singh Kaviriyal said that in view of the bad weather and heavy snowfall, the registration of pilgrims for the Kedarnath yatra has been suspended till April 30 in Rishikesh and Haridwar.



The government will review the weather conditions in the coming days and accordingly take a decision in the interest of the pilgrims, he said.
Due to incessant rain and snowfall in the upper reaches of the Garhwal Himalayas, the mercury in the region has dropped significantly and authorities are facing problems in clearing the snow

that keeps accumulating on footpaths.
An official spokesperson said the state government has urged the pilgrims to check the weather forecast before starting the yatra and to carry enough warm clothes. The government also said that due to the weather, the pilgrims might have to face all sorts of problems

during the yatra. However, adequate medical arrangements have been made along all the yatra routes, it said.
It added that it is committed to ensuring smooth, safe and uninterrupted travel for the pilgrims and the arrangements are being regularly monitored at the highest level.
The registration of pilgrims for the other three dhams -- Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamunotri -- is underway.
While the shrines of Gangotri and Yamunotri opened on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya on Saturday, the Badrinath Dham will open on April 27.
So far, more than 16 lakh people from India and abroad have registered for the Chardham Yatra, according to officials.

Inflation relief camps to be organised in Rajasthan from today: CM Gehlot

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAIPUR: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot will inaugurate inflation relief camps, to be organised in the state from April 24 to June 20 with an aim to provide relief to people from rising prices, officials said on Sunday.
The chief minister will launch the camp at Mahapura village panchayat of Sanganer here on Monday.
In a statement, Gehlot said that the main objective of these camps is to empower the common people by giving them complete information about their rights, schemes and their eligibility.
The general public and the deprived sections will be provided relief from inflation by connecting them with the

public welfare schemes of the state government.
He said that the common people will get the benefit of 10 public welfare schemes in the camps, which will provide relief from the rising inflation.
Registration has been made mandatory in the camps to join the 10 public welfare schemes run by the state government. For the convenience of the common people, a person from any district can register in the camps of other districts also through the Rajasthan government's Jan Aadhar card, he said.
In the state, 2,000 permanent inflation relief camps will be set up by the district administration at government offices and public places.

A two-day inflation relief camp will be organised in 11,283 gram panchayats and 7,500 wards each as per the calendar. Adequate counters will be set up in these camps for registration and distribution of the Chief Minister's Guarantee Cards'.
In another decision, the state government has made a provision of Rs 592 crore under various schemes for farmers' welfare.
Gehlot has approved the proposal for financial provisions to ensure the progress of the farmers, an official statement said.
Rs 4.50 crore has been allocated for spraying nano urea by drone. At the same time, 5 lakh landless labourers will be given a grant of Rs 5,000 per family to buy manual agricultural machin-

ery. In this, the state government will spend Rs 250 crore.
In the financial year 2023-24, the state government will provide agricultural machinery worth Rs 250 crore to one lakh farmers. Along with this, a grant of up to Rs 4 lakh will be given to agricultural course graduate unemployed youths for providing 1,000 drones.
Drones will also be made available to the Farmers Production Organization (FPO) and Custom Hiring Centers. A provision of Rs 588 crore has been made from the Farmers Welfare Fund and Rs 4.60 crore (state share) under the National Agriculture Development Scheme in all these schemes by the state government.

Skills, competencies will drive future than degrees; old jobs vanishing due to technology: Pradhan

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
BHUBANESHWAR: Skills and competencies will drive the future rather than degrees, and old jobs have begun to vanish due to disruptive innovation and technology, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Sunday.
Pradhan was addressing a conference here ahead of the third G20 Education Working Group meeting later this week.
"Skills and competencies will drive the future rather than degrees. There will be a constant competition between God gifted human intelligence and Artificial Intelligence (AI)," Pradhan said in the keynote address at the conference themed 'Deep Tech with a Focus on Advanced Technology in

Future of Work.'
"Old jobs are vanishing due to disruptive innovation and technology. New jobs are emerging but our workforce needs continuous skilling, reskilling and upskilling. Hence, we must think of new approaches to prepare youth for future jobs," he added.
The minister said that the 21st century will be knowledge-based and technology-driven.
"Guided by its civilisational ethos and as a natural hub of talent, captive market and resources, India is going to play a leading role in fulfilling the global aspirations of the 21st century," he asserted.
"Internet, mobility and global connectivity provides us with an opportunity to think about global requirements. We have to come together to convert this opportunity for India's youth as well as for those belonging to the Global South," he said.
During the conference, industry, academia, startup ecosystem and other stakeholders will brainstorm about reimagining the skilling ecosystem, creating future-ready global citizens and making India a global hub of skilled manpower.

MoRTH plans to raise Rs 35,000 cr through asset monetisation this fiscal: Official

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) plans to raise Rs 35,000 crore through various modes of asset monetisation in this financial year, against Rs 32,855-crore target in the last fiscal, a senior government official said on Sunday.
Currently, MoRTH monetises its assets under three different modes viz toll-operate-transfer (TOT) model, Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) and project-based financing, in order to provide all categories of investors an oppor-

tunity to invest in assets pertaining to highways and associated infrastructure. Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) is an instrument on the pattern of mutual funds, designed to pool money from investors and invest in assets that will provide cash flows over a period of time. Elaborating further, the official told PTI that while Rs 15,000 crore is planned to be raised in 2023-24 via project-based financing of high-speed corridors by securitising the future toll revenues without any guidance from the authority, Rs 10,000 is planned to be raised via

InvIT.
He also said that MoRTH is planning to raise Rs 10,000 crore in 2023-24 via ToT. According to the official, in the last four years, MoRTH has already raised Rs 67,997 crore through various modes of asset monetisation till February 28, 2023.
He said Rs 26,366 crore has been raised through monetisation of 1,614 km toll date via ToT, out of this Rs 3,144 crore has been raised in FY 2022-23 till February 2023, while bids have been invited for two more ToT bundles viz bundle 11 and 12 for a total of Rs

7,000 crore.
These are likely to be awarded in July 2023, the official added. He also said that Rs 10,200 crore has been raised till date through InvIT listings of NHAI with length of 635 km in phase I and II. Out of this, Rs 2,850 crore has been raised in FY 2022-23 till February 28, 2023, while InvIT phase III is planned to be awarded in April 2023 for a total of Rs 10,000 crore. The official said Rs 31,321 crore realised via project-based financing of Delhi-Mumbai Expressway toll date, out of this, Rs 7,584 crore has been raised in FY 2022-23.

JKGTF seeks adjustment of Masters & Headmasters

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
KATHUA: A meeting of Jammu Kashmir Government Teachers Forum was held under the chairmanship of its UT President Parveen Singh at Kathua on Sunday.
While addressing the meeting, Parveen Singh expressed great concern over the non-adjustment of masters and Headmasters particularly those who are going to retire in the month of April and so on. He appealed to education authorities to take initiative for their due adjustment.
He added pending cases of time bound promotion may be settled soon, sanction of deputation for summer camps and COVID duties, transfer exercise may be initiated as number of teachers, masters, Headmasters, lectures are seeking their suitable transfer those who have completed their tenure in hard zones. Transfer on medical ground may be considered on priority. Jagdish Chander District President, Taramani General Secretary, Rajiv Shrikant Vice president, Dharam Singh, Angrej Singh Jaswant Singh, Rajesh Kumar, Bansi Lal, Doulat Ram, Fakir Chand were present in the meeting.

DDC Chairman inaugurates Panchayat Ghar at Gutasa -Doda

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
DODA: District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Doda Dhanantar Singh Kotwal on Sunday inaugurated newly constructed Panchayat Ghar at Gutasa in presence of local PRI members and Public. After a long wait of over ten years, the Panchayat Gutasa finally got its Panchayat Ghar with the efforts of BDO Bhaderwah, ACD Doda, BDC chairman, and DDC Chairman Doda. It is pertinent to mention here that work of Panchayat Ghar Gutasa was started in 2012 but the project kept lingering on over all these years. In 2021-22, the work was resumed with the efforts of BDO Bhaderwah and ACD Doda and the project was completed, realizing the dream of Panchayat Ghar for people of the Gutasa Halsa.
Expressing happiness over the completion of the dream project, the people of the Panchayat Gutasa thanked DDC, BDC ACD and for this big achievement.
Among others present were BDC Chairman, Omi Chand; ACD, Phulail Singh; BDO Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar, concerned officials and public of Panchayat Gutasa.

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