

Neelha
Multispeciality Institute
Dr. Shitiz Gupta
M.S., M.Ch.(Plastic Surgery)
Consultant Plastic & Aesthetic Surgeon
Dr. Shikha Dhawan
M.S.(Obs. & Gynae.), D.N.B.(Obs. & Gynae.)
Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist
24-A, Shastri Nagar
(at Dr. Bharat Bhushan Gupta's Clinic), Jammu.
☎ 9419114877

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BLUE MOON
Banquets • Conventions
THE BANQUET WITH A DIFFERENCE
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Website : www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

India needs to become economically self-reliant: Modi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said India needs to become economically self-reliant in the next 10 years so that the nation is not impacted much by global factors.

Speaking on the 90th anniversary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Prime Minister also said a lot of work will be generated for everyone once the BJP-led NDA assumes office for the third term in June.

"We have to increase India's economic self-reliance," he said.

Modi said the banking sector has become profitable and credit growth has been increasing because of efforts taken by his government and the RBI in the last decade.

He further said the gross NPAs of public sector banks, which was around 11.25 per cent in 2018, dropped to less than 3 per cent by September 2023.



The "twin-balance sheet" problem is now a thing of the past, Modi said, adding that banks are now registering a credit growth of 15 per cent. The RBI has played a significant role in all these accomplishments, the Prime Minister added.

He said the Reserve Bank has to accord "top-most priority" to growth and at the

same time focus on trust and stability.

Modi said the next decade is as important for attaining the goal of developed India as it is for the RBI, which will complete 100 years of existence in 2035.

He said as per the "mantra" of the central bank, "The RBI should make fast growth its top-most priority, along with focusing on trust and stability."

Since 2016, keeping inflation under check has become the primary goal of the RBI. Often, there are voices who have pitched for additional attention to growth through measures like rate cuts.

The comments come days ahead of the first monetary policy review of the new fiscal year.

Modi said the "reflection" of double-digit inflation rate was not visible in the financial policies earlier, and claimed credit for giving

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Army opens fire after Pakistani drone spotted along LoC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI/JAMMU: Army troops opened fire after observing movement of a Pakistani drone and suspected persons at two different places along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district, officials said on Monday.

While the drone movement was picked up in a forward area in Sunderbani, the

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Security challenges in Indian neighbourhood discussed during Army Commanders conference

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Geopolitical and "security challenges" in the Indian neighbourhood were discussed by the Army's apex leadership in the presence of its top commanders during a conference here on Monday, sources said.

The discussions were held at Manekshaw Centre as part of the

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Passing out cum attestation parade of 30th BRTC New security mechanism integrating tech, physical infra being considered: DGP



DGP RR Swain briefing media after passing out parade of 30th BRTC at Kathua on Monday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: The Jammu and Kashmir Police is contemplating a new mechanism to integrate technology and physical infrastructure to strengthen the security, including for protected people who are facing threats, officials said.

"We want to promise that through the use of technology, such as CCTVs, physical infrastructure like security

lights and sensors, security will be strengthened," Director General of Police (DGP) R R Swain told reporters.

"By maintaining a balance and ratio, we intend to ensure security in a new manner, which will protect all individuals walking on roads, including those who are deemed as important and under threat," the DGP said. Swain, who presided over

the passing out parade of 922 women constables at the police training college in Kathua on Monday, said that security should not be seen as "a status symbol, but rather a necessity".

Responding to a question about a plan to decrease security at his residence and other protected persons, the DGP said, "There are two aspects - first, there is a change in the security situation, and second, providing security based on a professional approach."

He said that efforts are being made to communicate to the stakeholders that police resources are intended for the people of the Union territory.

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Mian Altaf named as NC candidate for Anantnag-Poonch-Rajouri seat



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Renowned Gujjar leader Mian Altaf, a prominent figure among the Bakarwal and Pahari communities, was on Monday declared as the National Conference's candidate for the newly redrawn

Anantnag-Poonch-Rajouri Lok Sabha seat, slated for polling on May 7.

The 66-year-old leader is a five-time MLA and former minister in the Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah governments.

Hailing from the ancestral Wangath village in Kangan, Central Kashmir, known as 'Baba Nagri', Altaf's nomination has sparked enthusiasm among locals, with his inclusive approach being a key highlight of his candidacy.

The announcement of his name by NC Vice President Omar Abdullah has set the stage for a competitive

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J&K Govt announces holidays on poll dates in 5 LS constituencies

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday announced public holiday on poll dates in five parliamentary constituencies in the Union Territory.

As per a government order, issued by the GAD, the government has notified five days as holidays under section 135 B of the Representation of the People Act 1951.

The order also declared the poll day as paid holiday for every eligible voter employed in any business, trade, industrial undertakings or any other establishment.

The order added that the daily wage and casual workers shall also be entitled for the holiday and wages on the poll day.

According to the order, the polling day of April 19 (Friday) will be a holiday in Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency. In Jammu Parliamentary Constituency, April 26 (Friday) will be



observed as the holiday on account of polling day.

Similarly, for the Anantnag-Rajouri Parliamentary Constituency, the polling day of May 07 (Tuesday) will be a holi-

day. For Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, the polling day of May 13 (Monday) will be observed as a holiday.

Likewise, the Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency will observe May 20 (Monday) as holiday on account of polling day.

The government order also stated that a person who is ordinarily resident of a constituency and registered as an elector, serving and employed in an industrial undertaking or an establishment located outside the constituency including casual workers shall also be entitled to the benefit of a paid holiday on the day of poll.

It is further ordered that the above paid holidays shall also be observed in terms of explanation to Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.

CS reviews admin's readiness for smooth conduct of SANJY 2024

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Monday had a detailed review of preparations being made by the administration for smooth conduct of annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2024.

Senior functionaries of civil and police administration attended the meeting along with DGP, Administrative Secretaries, concerned Deputy Commissioners and other HoDs and representatives from Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board (SASB) and BRO, IMD, Telecom Service providers and Disaster Management agencies.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took stock of measures taken, so far, by BRO regarding maintenance of tracks on both the Pahalgam and Baltal axis in light of the Supreme Court directions.

He assessed the status of works like widening of walking track/passages and installation of railing and retaining walls as per the directions of the Supreme Court. He enquired from the concerned DCs about the disaster mitigation measures like on ground demarcation of flood prone/ vulnerable zones and other disaster

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Sheyphali B Sharan assumes charge as principal DG of PIB

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Senior Indian Information Service officer Sheyphali B Sharan on Monday assumed charge as the principal director general of the Press Information Bureau and the spokesperson of the government. A 1990-batch officer, Sharan is the fifth woman officer to head the PIB

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Kejriwal sent to Tihar Jail; Combative AAP says he will remain CM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was sent to Tihar Jail on Monday after being remanded in judicial custody till April 15 in connection with an excise policy-linked money laundering case, even as the Aam Aadmi Party dug in its heels asserting that he

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WEATHER
Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 28.3°C Min: 15.2°C
Humidity
Max: 70 Min: 43
Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 20.5°C Min: 1.9°C
Humidity
Max: 75 Min: 49
Sunset: 18:50 Hours
Sunrise: 06:18 Hours

UPA government sabotaged Shahpur-Kandi, Ujh projects in district Kathua: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANI/RAMKOT: Union Minister and BJP Candidate for Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency Dr Jitendra Singh said here today that UPA government sabotaged national level projects Shahpur-Kandi and Ujh Multi Purpose in district Kathua just to appease their vote bank at the cost of the interest of the important districts like Kathua and Doda and also at the risk of compromising national interests by allowing India's share of water of River Ravi to flow into Pakistan.

In a series of public meet-



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing a public meeting during his campaign in Bani on Monday.

ings in upper hilly reaches of Bani and Billawar in district Kathua here today, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the most unfortunate part is that

for 10 years during UPA rule, this region was represented by Congress MLAs and MPs, who did not

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LG releases publication on life of Sant Mauni Baba, meets Young Innovator

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday released the second edition of the publication titled "Prerna Srot: Vilakshan Sant Mauni Baba ki Punya Katha", written by Dr Abhishek Kumar Upadhyay.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha met young innovator Master Karman Singh, at Raj Bhawan.

The Lt Governor congratulated the 15-year-old Karman Singh for his exceptional achievements in innovation and extended

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New criminal laws 'significant step' towards modernising justice system: CJJ

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on Monday praised the new criminal laws passed by the government that seeks to replace the British era laws, calling them a "significant step" towards modernising the justice system.

Delivering keynote address on 20th DP Kohli memorial lecture in the memory of founding director of the CBI, Chandrachud said Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA) provide a



comprehensive approach ensuring a seamless flow of information. They are intended to facilitate better coordination and collaboration among the stakeholders involved in the investigative

and adjudicatory processes. The new laws will come into force on July 1, replacing the colonial era Indian Penal Code (IPC), Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and Indian Evidence Act.

The new criminal laws enacted by Parliament encompass substantive crime, procedure and evidence, he said.

"These laws aim at digitising various aspects of criminal procedure. This is a significant step towards modernising the justice system. From the initial registration of a first information

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Emergency Landing Facility drill: Landing of IAF's Chinook, Mi-17 helicopters on highway in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Indian Air Force Chinook and Mi-17 helicopters will land on a stretch of the national highway linking Kashmir with the rest of the country as part of an Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) drill, the first such exercise in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Monday.

According to the officials, around two sorties of the US-manufactured Chinook and the Russian-made Mi-17 helicopters are scheduled to land on the Wanpoh-Sangam stretch of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway during the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday.

The work on the 3.5-km emergency landing strip was started in 2020 and complet-



ed late last year as part of the programme initiated by the IAF with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for the creation of ELF's at different locations across the country.

Security has been heightened along the landing strip with additional personnel deployed to ensure that peo-

ple do not stray close to the area, the officials said. "Traffic on the highway has been diverted from Wanpoh to Sangam to bypass the Bijbehara emergency landing strip where trial landing and takeoff is scheduled," an official said.

Chinook helicopters, which have a top speed of 310

kmph, are used for lifting heavy weights. The main cabin can hold over 33 fully-equipped troops.

It can also be used for medical evacuation and the helicopter, which has a travel range of 741 km, can accommodate 24 stretchers.

The Mi-17 helicopters can accommodate up to 35 troops.

Both these helicopters have been pressed into relief and rescue operations during natural disasters.

The IAF's ELF drill is to showcase the synergy and liaison between civil agencies, such as the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), district administration and state police, and the air force towards the

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India bids farewell to WW-II Hero Subedar Thanseia at age of 102

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: India mourns the loss of Subedar Thanseia, a distinguished World War II veteran of the Indian Army's Assam Regiment, who passed away at the age of 102 on 31st March 2024 after a brief illness.

Subedar Thanseia belonged to the state of Mizoram. His remarkable life was defined by his valour at the Battle of Kohima, a crucial confrontation in World War II, and his significant role in establishing the legacy of the 1st Assam Regiment during their critical deployment at Jessami.

Throughout his service, Subedar Thanseia demon-

strated a commitment to the nation that went beyond the call of duty, earning him a revered place in the annals of India's military history. His actions at Kohima, against formidable odds, contributed to a pivotal victory for the Allied forces, marking a turning point in the conflict in the East.

After his retirement, Subedar Thanseia continued to inspire with his dedication to community and country, actively participating in veteran affairs and educational initiatives. His life after service was as impactful,

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