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STATE TIMES

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SHAPING INDIA

03 Why even 'Top Grade' Engineers from IITs rush for IAS stream & not even IES as first preference?

08 Worship of 12 Jyotirlingas has special significance in Sanatan Dharma: Pt Ved Prakash

10 First day assembly marks commencement of promising academic year at JK Public School Kunjwani

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PoK being part of India is our national stand: Jaishankar

STATE TIMES NEWS

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday said that there is a national position on the issue of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir.

On being asked about the present status of the BJP's poll promise on Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK), while speaking during a media interaction here to underscore India's diplomatic strides in the region, the minister said: "The Parliament of India has taken a united stand, and every political party in the country has supported that stand. It is a stand that we will never accept that Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir is not part of India. So, that is a united stand."

Jaishankar said terrorism is the central issue as far as India's relationship with Pakistan is concerned. "We are a party and a government that has been very clear that we will not ignore terrorism; we will not look away when terrorism happens. If something happens, we will deal with it," the minister said.

On relations with the neighboring countries, the External Affairs Minister said that India's ties with all neighbours, except China and Pakistan, have



improved significantly compared to previous times.

Jaishankar said India's relationship with China was "challenging," but the country was "confident" and capable of protecting its interests.

"We have a challenging relationship with China. But this is a country which is today confident, which is capable of advancing and defending its interests, and in a competitive world, we will compete," he said when asked whether the Chinese interference in small countries around India is a matter of concern.

The minister dismissed the suggestion that India has more unfriendly neigh-

bours than it had a decade ago.

"Please go to Bangladesh and ask people what they think. Please ask in Sri Lanka. During their deepest economic troubles, who stood by them? Go to Nepal and ask them during COVID, where did you get all the vaccines? Who gave you fertilizers and fuel when Ukrainian trouble happened," the minister said.

He said there might be forces in the neighbourhood who create problems and there might be people in India who like to play out these problems.

"So, as far as we are concerned, I think we have right now a very abnormal relationship with China, and we have with Pakistan- you all know what the status of our current relationship is. But barring these two, I think our relationship with neighbours is in fact much better than what it has been for a long time," Jaishankar said.

He said India's relationship with Bangladesh is very strong and it is growing in every area.

Responding to a query on anti-India protests in Bangladesh by opposition forces, the minister said, "I can only say that India-Bangladesh relations are very good,"

Modi to address rally in Udh on April 12, Yogi in Kathua on April 10

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will address election rallies in Udhampur and Kathua districts of Jammu and Kashmir on April 12 and April 10, respectively, BJP leaders said on Thursday.

They will be campaigning for BJP candidate

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Congress to release manifesto for LS polls today

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Top Congress leaders will release the party's manifesto for the Lok Sabha elections on Friday with its focus on the five 'pillars of justice'.

The manifesto would be released by party chief Mallikarjun Kharge and former party presidents Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.

A day after the launch of the manifesto, Kharge and the Gandhis will

CONTD ON PAGE 9

DIG SSB, PoJK DP members, others call on LG

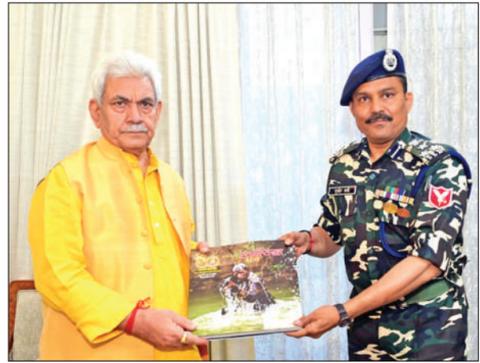
STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sudhir Verma, DIG Sashtra Seema Bal (SSB) Jammu called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan on Thursday and presented a Coffee Table Book of SSB to the Lt Governor.

Meanwhile, a delegation of PoJK Displaced Persons community members on Thursday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan.

Subsequently, several delegations including Kashmir Schools Federation, Mata Maha Kali Shopkeepers

CONTD ON PAGE 9



Sudhir Verma, DIG Sashtra Seema Bal calling on LG Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan on Thursday.

Govt extends working days, duty hours in GMCs, GDCs of J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In order to improve patient care, Health and Medical Education Department has extended working days and hours in all Government Medical and Dental colleges in Jammu

and Kashmir. According to an order, new reporting time in GMCs and GDCs will be 9 am while relieving time will be 5 pm on all days except Saturday. "In order to improve patient care, 9 am will be reporting

time on weekdays with half an hour lunch break from 1:30 pm to 2:00 pm on all days except Saturday in all government medical and dental colleges of

CONTD ON PAGE 9

PIL seeking eviction of Ex-Ministers/ Ex-Legislators DB directs Estates Deptt to pass individual eviction orders against 43 occupants

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant order of wide public importance, a Division Bench of High Court of J&K and Ladakh at Jammu comprising Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice MA Chowdhary in the much publicized PIL No. 17/2020 seeking eviction of overstaying Ex-Ministers/ Ex-Legislators has directed Director Estates Jammu/Srinagar to deal with each and every person (43 occupants) and pass specific individual orders either for cancellation of accommodation and eviction therefrom, or

allotment thereof by giving specific reasons for doing so.

The Division Bench further directed, "We make it clear that if the accommodation of any individual mentioned in this report is continued, specific reasons supported by necessary materials, must be provided before this Court so that this Court will examine as to whether the authorities have taken an appropriate and fair decision as regards the Govt. accommodation being presently provided to these 43 persons."

After hearing Advocate Sheikh Shaheel Ahmed

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Cong failed to effectively deal with cross-border terrorism: Modi

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU (BIHAR): Accusing the previous Congress governments of failing to effectively deal with cross-border terrorism from Pakistan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said this gave rise to the perception that India was a "weak and poor" target.

Addressing an election rally at Jammu, Modi also mocked the INDIA bloc, saying those who used to "demand jail terms for each other in corruption cases" had come together "in the name of fighting against Modi".

"The Congress and the



RJD (INDIA bloc ally) had given the country such a bad name. The world used to think we are a weak and poor nation. Terrorists from small countries, which are struggling to maintain their supplies of wheat, used to strike

at will. The Congress governments did little except seeking intervention from other powerful nations," the PM alleged.

The acerbic remark was an indirect reference to the US intervention sought by the

CONTD ON PAGE 9

26 candidates file nomination for Jammu Lok Sabha constituency

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the last day of filing nomination papers, nine candidates on Thursday filed their nomination papers from Jammu Lok Sabha constituency for second phase of parliamentary elections scheduled to be held in Jammu and Kashmir on April 26.

The candidates who filed nomination papers in the office of Returning Officer included Naresh Kumar Talla from Jai Prakash Janta Dal, Qari Zabeer Abbas Bhatti from All India Forward Block, Naresh Kumar Chib from Jammu & Kashmir National Panthers

Party (Bhim), Indra Bhalla from Indian National Congress (Substitute Candidate) and Independent candidates Principal CD Sharma, Satish Poonchi, Vicky Kumar Dogra, Perseen Singh and Ravinder Singh.

With the filing of nomination papers by these nine candidates, the total number of candidates who have filed their candidature for 5-Jammu PC goes to 26.

The nomination papers will be scrutinized on April 6 at 11 am. The candidates can withdraw their nomination before 03:00 pm on April 08, 2024 in the office of Returning Officer.

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Prerna gets addl charge of CEO JaKeGA, Anuradha transferred

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Thursday ordered transferred in the administration. According to Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), Anuradha Gupta, JKAS, Chief Executive Officer, JaKeGA, has been transferred and shall await further orders of

CONTD ON PAGE 9

India successfully carries out night launch of nuclear capable Agni Prime missile

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India has successfully carried out a night launch of new generation nuclear capable ballistic missile 'Agni Prime' from the Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha, boosting the country's strategic deterrence capability.

The defence ministry said the test-flight was carried out on Wednesday evening and it met all the trial objectives, validating the

CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 32.5°C Min: 17.5°C

Humidity
Max: 42 Min: 36

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 17.5°C Min: 7.2°C

Humidity
Max: 85 Min: 47

Sunset: 18:52 Hours
Sunrise: 06:14 Hours

Chugh fires AAP's Sanjay Singh for spreading political canard

'AAP running health clinics for liquor scams'

STATE TIMES NEWS

DELHI: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Thursday blasted senior AAP leader Sanjay Singh for spreading canard to gain political sympathy for his party.

Chugh said the corruption of the AAP government was exposed in the country in the liquor policy scam that has its roots in Delhi, Punjab, Telangana and other states.

Chugh said they are not just corrupt, the AAP government's dismal failure on other fronts is already known to the people. All the AAP



propaganda on clinics and schools is an eyewash to fool the voters, he added.

He said a government that talks about clinics prepared a liquor policy to benefit the liquor barons at the cost of

public health. In Punjab its result was amply demonstrated in the Sangrur hooch tragedy that killed about two dozen people in the home district of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, he said.

Health clinics claimed by AAP are only cover up operations to run the scams like that of the liquor scam unearthed in Delhi, Chugh added.

Chugh said Sanjay Singh had not been jailed for the freedom movement or any public grievance.

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Lone should do whatever he can, says Farooq on his FIR remarks

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: National Conference (NC) President Dr Farooq Abdullah on Friday downplayed the remarks of People's Conference chief Sajad Gani Lone on registering an FIR against him for his role in the alleged rigging of the 1987 Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls and said "he should do whatever he feels".

Lone on Wednesday said a case against NC president Farooq Abdullah and others for their role in the alleged rigging of the polls will be the biggest confidence-building measure towards

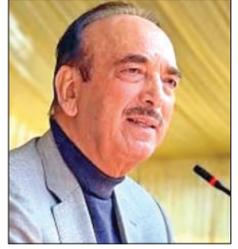
CONTD ON PAGE 9

NC, PDP have been beneficiary of alliances with BJP: Azad

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad has pooh-poohed the claims made by rival National Conference and PDP that his newly-formed party was in cahoots with the BJP and asked whether they are the 'B' teams of the saffron party going by their past coalition arrangements.

Talking to PTI Videos, Azad, who is contesting on his Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), highlighted his party's primary focus on reinstating full statehood to Jammu and



Kashmir and not on the lines that union territories like Delhi and Puducherry enjoy.

To a question that his party was seen as a B team of the BJP, Azad pointed out past associations of regional parties with the saffron party.

"A and B team are those from the valley who have been ministers in the government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, father of the BJP, or those who enjoyed governance with the help of saffron party MLAs in the erstwhile state," he said.

He highlighted his independent political stance, emphasising the need for self-reflection among these parties before casting aspersions.

"I have never taken any support. In (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi's time, I was the leader of opposition,

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Modi Govt's benefits reached everyone regardless of religion, caste: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN/BANIHAL: Union Minister and BJP Candidate for Udhampur, Doda, Kathua Lok Sabha constituency Dr Jitendra Singh said here on Thursday that Modi government's benefits reached everyone, regardless of religion, caste or creed.

Addressing a series of public meetings in the upper reaches of Ramban and Banihal across Pir Panjal during the election tour across Peer Panjal in peripheral areas like Rajgarh, Ukhral, Sangaldan, Gool, Kanthi and finally culminating in Banihal town, Dr Jitendra said, quite in contrast to the policy of appeasement and discrimination among different sections of



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing public rally at village Ukhral on Thursday.

society which was followed by Congress and its allies for over six decades, Prime Minister Narendra Modi after taking over in 2014 sought to introduce a new political culture wherein every section of society was addressed as per its needs, without any consideration of caste, creed or even the vote

preference.

Following the approach of Prime Minister Modi, Dr Jitendra said, for the first time after independence, district Ramban which comprises different communities and different castes, also witnessed a new approach in public welfare schemes. For example, if a gas cylinder was

to be provided to a needy household under the Ujjawala Scheme, it was never asked whether the household belonged to a Hindu or a Muslim, a Brahmin or a Thakur; it was also not asked whom the household had voted for in the last elections nor it was suggested where it should

vote in the next elections, he said.

Similarly, Dr Singh pointed out, under the PMAY, Pukka houses were constructed for all the needy as a result of which several such households which may not have voted for BJP or Bharatiya Jan Sangh in the bygone decades also saw the entire colonies getting converted into Pukka houses.

Dr Jitendra said, the true essence of democracy is that every individual should have the confidence to believe that he is claimant to the same facility as any other individual or any other section of society. Similarly, he said, the essence of democracy is that every mother in any household, big or small,

CONTD ON PAGE 9

CS reviews implementation of new criminal laws in J&K



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting in Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Thursday chaired a high level Steering Committee Meeting of senior functionaries of Home, Police and Law Departments to review implementation of three new criminal laws in J&K enacted by the Parliament in 2023.

Apart from the Principal Secretary, Home the meeting was attended by DG, Prisons

and Crime, Director, Prosecution J&K, ADG, L&O, Secretary, Law, Director, PSL and other concerned officers of the department while Srinagar based officers participated through video conferencing.

The Chief Secretary took note of the measures taken so far regarding the capacity building and training of personnel. He enquired

CONTD ON PAGE 9