NAVRATRA

Maa Kushmanda

Maa Kushmanda is the fourth

incarnation of Maa Durga and

worshiped on fourth Navratra.

Maa Kushmanda is said to be creato

of the universe. Her presence is

'Surya Manda' by virtue of which rays of light enlighten the universe

She has eight hands and hence,

also called 'Maa Ashtbhuja.

In her seven hands, she has

Kamandal, Bow, Lotus, Amrit

Kalash, Chakra and Gadha.

Eighth hand has string of beads

having all the 'Sidhis' and 'Nidhis'

Lion is the ride of Maa Kushmanda:

"Om Hreeng Kleeng Bhagwati Kushmande Mum

Sarvam Kaamnaay Pooray Pooray Thaa Thaa Swaha"

ॐ ह्वीं क्लीं भगवती

रूष्मांडे मम सर्वम् कामनाय

पूरय पूरय ठा ठा स्वाहा

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Andhra Health Minister calls on Dr Jitendra, seeks collaboration in biotech sector

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/2025-27

J&K Judokas Shine at Junior National **Judo Championships 2024-25**

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

Ashwani's dream debut, Rickelton's fifty fuel Mumbai Indians' eight-wicket win over KKR

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

LG visits families of martyred cops; assures all assistance



LG Manoj Sinha consoling the families of Police Martyrs in Kathua encounter.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday visited the families of J&K Police Martyrs SgCT Balvinder Singh Chib, SgCT Jaswant Singh, HC Jagbir Singh, and SgCT Tariq Ahmed, at their native villages in Kana Chak, Londi, Mattu Chamba Katra.

The Lieutenant Governor offered his condolences to the bereaved

including in the capital

Naypitaw and the second

family members and paid homage to the valiant who supreme sacrifice for the nation while fighting the terrorists in Kathua.

He assured all assistance and support to the families of the martyrs. Lieutenant

Governor posted on X: "Visited the families of our Brave Sons of Maa Bharti, who attained Martyrdom while fighting the terrorists in Kathua.

The supreme sacrifice of SgCT Balvinder Singh SgCT Jaswant Singh, HC Jagbir Singh, and SgCT Tariq Ahmed, will never be forgotten".

This grateful nation salutes their unwavering courage & valour. We stand firmly with the bereaved family members in this hour of grief. I assure that the government will extend all assistance and support to the

Gunshots fired in Kathua during search for terrorists; night cordon laid Six held for providing food, shelter and guidance to terrorists

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A police team came under fire from terrorists in a combing operation in Kathua district on late Monday night, sources said. The operation was underway in the Panjtirthi area of the Ramkote belt.

In the wake of the violent encounter, a night cordon has been laid to ensure that the three terrorists trapped in the forest do not escape, sources said.

Security forces have intensified their search for the three, bolstered by aerial surveillance and sniffer dogs.

Six people were detained after receiving fresh reports of suspected movement involving three individuals believed to be terrorists who had escaped after an encounter in Kathua, officials said.

In a confrontation with the terrorists last Thursday, two terrorists and four policemen

Ops to continue till last terrorist neutralised: DIG

JAMMU: Jammu-Kathua Range Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Shiv Kumar Sharma on Monday reaffirmed the police force's commitment to eliminating every terrorist operating in the hills of the region, saying the ongoing operation in Kathua district would continue until the last terrorist is neutralised. He urged the citizens living along the border to report any suspicious activity as the police rely on information from the

"The operation is underway and as long as a single terrorist remains, the Jammu and Kashmir Police will continue in its mission. Our force is dedicated to eradicating terrorism to ensure Jammu and Kashmir remains safe," Sharma told ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

ers, including a deputy superintendent of police, were injured.

Security forces had intensified search operations using aerial surveillance and sniffer dogs following a nightlong cordon after fresh reports of suspected movement of three individuals, believed to be terrorists, who escaped a recent encounter in Kathua district, officials said.

Two terrorists were killed and four policemen martyred while three others, including a deputy superintendent of police, were injured during a gunfight in a remote forested area in the Sanyal belt of the district on Thursday.

Security forces, which have picked up six persons for questioning, have also launched a search operation in Samba sector near the international border to

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Deaths from devastating earthquake in Myanmar climb past 2,000

STATE TIMES NEWS

BANGKOK: The death toll from the earthquake that hit Myanmar has risen to more than 2,000 as more bodies have been pulled from the rubble, the country's military-led government said

Government spokesman Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun told state-run MRTV that another 3,400 have been injured and more than 300 were missing. The military had previously reported 1,644 dead but did not provide specific figures in its update.

The 7.7 magnitude earthquake hit at midday Friday, causing widespread damage,

April-June to be hotter

than usual, more

heatwave days likely in

many states: IMD

NEW DELHI: India is

expected to experience hot-

ter-than-usual temperatures

from April to June, with

more heatwave days in cen-

tral and eastern India and

the northwestern plains, the

IMD said on Monday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

largest city, Mandalay. It was the time of Friday prayers for the country's

Muslim minority during the holy month of Ramadan, and some 700 worshippers were killed when mosques collapsed, said Tun Kyi, a member of the steering committee of the Spring Revolution Myanmar Muslim Network. It was not clear whether they were already included in the official count of casualties.

Tun Kyi said some 60 mosques were damaged or destroyed when the earthquake struck, and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Amit Shah to review security in J&K next week

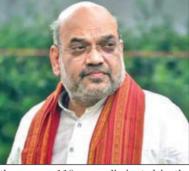
STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit Chhattisgarh on April 4 and 5 to take stock of the anti-Naxal operations in the state, sources said. Shah may also visit Jammu and Kashmir on April 7 and 8 to review the security situation. During his visit to Chhattisgarh, Shah

will chair a high-level meeting and review the ongoing operations, sources

The home minister has set a target of March 31, 2026 to end Naxal menace in the country. He has repeatedly appealed to the Maoists to surrender and join the mainstream, and assured that government will rehabilitate them properly.

According to data prepared by the Union Home Ministry, at least 130 Naxalites have been killed in encounters in Chhattisgarh so far this year. Of



them, over 110 were eliminated in the Bastar division, which comprises seven districts including Bijapur and Kanker. Over 105 Naxals were arrested from different parts of the country and 164 have surrendered so far in 2025.

In 2024, a total of 290 Naxalites were neutralised, 1,090 were arrested, and 881 surrendered. As many as 15 top Naxal leaders have been neutralised so

According to the data, between 2004 and 2014, there were a total of 16,463 incidents of Naxal violence. However, between 2014 and 2024, the number of such incidents decreased by 53 per cent, dropping to 7,744.

Similarly, the number of casualties of security forces decreased by 73 per cent during the period, from 1,851 to 509. The number of civilian casualties decreased by 70 per cent, dropping from 4,766 to 1,495.

In 2014, there were a total of 66 fortified police stations, but the number has increased to 612 in the last 10 years, the data showed.

Similarly, while a total of 126 districts were affected by Naxalism in 2014, it drastically reduced to only 12 by 2024. ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Modi to flag off first Vande Bharat train to Kashmir on April 19: Dr Jitendra Commissioner of Railway

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off the first Vande Bharat train to Kashmir on April 19 from Katra, marking the completion of the 272-kilometre Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project.

Jammu-Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express will initially operate from Katra as the Jammu railway station is undergoing renovation

According to officials, the rail link project was completed last month. Trial runs of the train on the Katra-Baramulla route have been successfully conducted. The

Safety approved the train service between Katra and Kashmir in January, they The Vande Bharat Express is expected to significantly

reduce travel time between Jammu and Srinagar, providing a modern and efficient rail service for the region, they said. Speaking to reporters in Jammu on Sunday, Union Minister Jitendra Singh

said, "Prime Minister Modi will arrive in Udhampur on April 19. He will visit the world's highest railway bridge and inaugurate

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Par panel suggests penalties for IAS officers for failure to file property details

STATE TIMES NEWS

DELHI: NEW Parliamentary committee has suggested penalties or corrective actions against IAS officers if they fail to file their property details within the prescribed time limit.

Ninety-one Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers did not file their immovable property returns (IPRs) in 2024 and 73 the year before, according to 145th report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice on the Demands for

to the Department of Personnel and Training

The report was tabled in Parliament on March 27.

clearance, mandatory to join certain posts, was denied to 15 IAS officers in 2023, 12 in 2022 and 14 in 2021, due to nonfiling of IPRs for respective

The panel recommended that a centralised compliance monitoring mechanism may be established to ensure timely filing of IPRs by all

Grants (2025-26) pertaining involve creation of a dedicated task force within the department responsible for tracking and filing status of all officers. Additionally, the committee proposes to introduce penalties or corrective

actions for non-compliance,

including automatic escalation procedures for officers who fail to file their IPRs despite reminders," the report said. This will strengthen

accountability and ensure timely filing, making the process more robust and ensure greater adherence to the requirements, it said.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

appointed as Pvt Secv to PM **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: IFS officer Nidhi Tewari has been appointed private secretary Prime Minister Modi, Narendra Personnel Ministry order

A 2014-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, Tewari is currently serving as Deputy Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Tewari's appointment as private secretary on a co-terminus basis, said the order dated

Govt fully prepared to table Waqf bill: Rijiju **STATE TIMES NEWS** NEW DELHI: Minority

Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju asserted on Monday that the government is

fully prepared to table the amended Waqf bill in Parliament, as he accused some political parties and organisations of seeking to foment unrest in society and mislead people over its provisions.

With Parliament reconvening on Tuesday following the weekend and Eid holiday, he said the timing of the bill's introduction will be decided following consultations after

wants it passed as soon as possible.

The ongoing Budget ses-

sion of Parliament is sched-



uled to end on April 4, and the bill will have to be passed by both the Lok Sabha as well as the Rajya Sabha to

The government has indicated that it will discuss with

become a law.

leaders of different parties on Tuesday the timing of the Bill's introduction. It is likely to be first introduced in the Lower House, probably on Wednesday.

Opposition parties are

strongly opposed to the bill, slamming it as unconstitutional and against the interest of the Muslim community. Several leading Muslim organisations have been rallying support against the bill, which was scrutinised by a Joint Committee of Parliament and approved with several amendments.

Speaking to reporters, Rijiju accused some

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Eid celebrated in Jammu, Kashmir with fervor, gaiety

JAMMU: Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated with religious fervour and traditional gaiety across the Jammu region on Monday amid tight security arrangements, with a large number of people gathering at different eidgahs to pray for

Eid-ul-Fitr marks the end of the period of fasting, prayer and charity during the holy month of Ramzan, culminating in an occasion for festivities, joy and togetherness.

On the eve of Eid, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah greeted the people on the Union Territory.

On Monday, the largest congregation was held at the eidgah on Residency



Road in Jammu, followed by the Mecca Masjid and the Jama Masjid Khatikan where hundreds of Muslims offered Eid prayers in the morning.

Muftis and religious scholars spoke about the significace of the day, explaining the philosophy behind the customary sacrifice.

"I want to extend my wishes to everyone on Eid, the festival of happiness. There's a tradition in Jammu where people come together during religious functions," Mufti Anayat Tullah, head priest of the Jama Masjid in Jammu,

Emphasising the love and brotherhood among various communities in Jammu, he said, "I hope this bond of love continues. I want to appeal to everyone -- do not fall into the trap of those spreading hate.

Eid-ul-Fitr was also cele-

the largest congregation of devotees assembled at the Hazratbal Shrine on the banks of the Dal lake.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and National Conference Farooq Abdullah were among the notable persons offerprayers Hazratbal.

Large congregation of Eid prayers were reported from all districts of the valley.

Dressed in their best, Muslims of all ages and genders assembled in eidgahs, mosque and shrines to offer

The day is marked by Muslims visiting their relatives and friends to exchange gifts and greetings to mark the culmination of the fasting month of Ramzan.

Sinha flags off Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Pracheen Marg Pavitra Chhari Yatra at Kol Kandoli Temple



LG Manoj Sinha flagging off Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Pracheen Marg Pavitra Chhari Yatra.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NAGROTA: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Pracheen Marg Pavitra Chhari Yatra, on Monday.

He paid obeisance at the holy Kol Kandoli Temple in Nagrota and prayed for good health, peace, prosperity and

happiness for all. Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor attended the 'Pratham Pooja' of the Chhari Yatra and extended his heartiest greetings to the devotees on the auspicious occasion. The Chhari Yatra, carrying the Holy Jyot, will reach the Oli Mata Temple Bamyal, following the traditional heritage route.

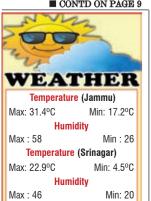
Most parts of the country will see higher-than-normal maximum temperatures, except for some areas in western and eastern India where the temperatures are expected to be normal. Minimum temperatures will also be above normal in most regions, India Meteorological

Department (IMD) chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said

in an online press confer-

"From April to June, most parts of north and east India, central India, and the plains of northwest India are expected to experience two to four more heatwave days than normal," he said. Usually, India records four

to seven heatwave days ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



Sunset: 18:49 Hours

Sunrise: 06:20 Hours