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Dr Jitendra updates Lok Sabha about Modi Govt's 'Pension Adalat' concept

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In 2012 Centre decided to list long pending Jammu-Poonch Rail Link as National Project entitled for priority with special financial provisions

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IGNOU extends last date for submission of assignments, other academic works to April 30, 2025

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**SIXTH NAVRATRA**

**Maa Katyayni**

Sixth Navratra is related to 'Maa Katyayni'. When excesses of Danav Mahishasur increased Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva incarnated a Devi who was first of all worshiped by Maharshi Katyayan, so this Devi is called Katyayani. Devi with golden colour has four hands and upper right hand is for blessings. She has sword and lotus in the left hands. On this day of Navratra heart of worshipper is in 'Aayra Chakra'. By the blessings of this Devi one leads fearless, disease-free life and possesses all the comforts of life. Mantra to be recited nine times on this day is :-

"Om Aing Hreeng Kleeng Chaang Kleeng Bhagwati Katyayini Mum Tanu Arogyam Kuru Kuru Swaha"

ॐ ऐं ह्रीं क्लीं चां क्लीं भगवती कात्यायनी मम तनु अरोग्यम् कुरु कुरु स्वाहा

# Waqf (Amendment) Bill passed in Lok Sabha

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Lok Sabha passed the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 on Thursday by a vote of 288 to 232 after hours of heated arguments during the Parliament's Budget Session.

The bill, introduced by Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, aims to improve the administration of Waqf properties, through technology-driven management by addressing existing complexities and ensuring transparency in the functioning of Waqf bodies.

The tabling of the Waqf Amendment Bill sparked an intense showdown between the NDA and the Opposition in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday as it was presented for nearly an eight-hour discussion that got extended to nearly 12 hours.

Congress leaders, including KC Venugopal, raised objections to the bill, accusing the government of bulldozing the



**288 votes in favour, 232 against**

legislation without adequate time for amendments. Venugopal argued that the bill lacked proper consultation and should be reconsidered to allow members to propose changes.

On the other hand, Union Home Minister Amit Shah defended the bill and attacked the Opposition's

stance. He dismissed the opposition's claims of bypassing the legislative process and stated that the bill was the result of extensive consultations through a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), which included inputs from 284 delegations and Waqf boards from 25 states and union

territories.

Speaker Om Birla, meanwhile, assured that the government was open to considering amendments from both sides, which helped maintain order during the volatile debate. The opposition, however, continued to resist and accused the Centre of attempting to "dilute,

**Waqf Bill not anti-Muslim, opposition misleading minorities: Amit Shah**

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday asserted that vote bank is being created by intimidating minorities and confusion being spread in the country in the name of the Waqf bill.

Making an intervention in Lok Sabha during a debate on the Waqf amendment bill, he also said that non-Muslims in Waqf council and boards are meant purely for ensuring administration of properties in accordance with stated aims.

In a hard-hitting speech, Shah said if there had not been an amendment in the Waqf Act in 2013, there would have been no need to bring this legislation.

"Elections were due in 2014 and in 2013, the extreme Wakf law was made overnight for the purpose of appeasement. As a result, 123 properties in Delhi's Lutyens zone were handed over to the Wakf just 25 days before the elections," he said.

"The Narendra Modi government runs on a very clear principle that we will not bring any law for vote bank because law is for justice and welfare of people," he said, adding, "Everyone has the right to follow their religion, but conversion cannot be done for greed,"

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## GoC visits Rajouri to assess prevailing security situation



GOC White Knight Corps Lieutenant General P K Mishra during visit to Rajouri sector.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Lieutenant General P K Mishra, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the White Knight Corps, visited the Rajouri sector on

Wednesday to assess the security situation in the region.

He commended the troops for their professionalism

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**Brij Mohan posted as Prpl Secy Culture Deptt**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The government on Wednesday transferred IFS officer.

"Brij Mohan Sharma, IFS (AGMUT:1995), consequent upon his transfer to Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir, is posted as Principal Secretary to the Government,

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**Property of drug peddler attached**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAJOURI: Authorities on Wednesday attached immovable and movable properties of an alleged drug peddler in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said.

The residential and commercial buildings and a car owned by Haroon Rashid

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**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 31.7°C      Min: 16.3°C

Humidity  
Max: 53      Min: 28

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 23.5°C      Min: 6.5°C

Humidity  
Max: 46      Min: 20

Sunset : 18:51 Hours  
Sunrise : 06:17 Hours

## CJ for collaborated efforts to fight drug abuse

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Tashi Rabstan, on Wednesday called for a collaborated and integrated approach in fighting drug menace in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

He was speaking as chief guest in a seminar on the topic "Drug Use; Addiction, Effects And Solutions: A Cue For Capacity Building under Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan" organised by the J&K High Court Bar



Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan lighting ceremonial lamp.

Association Jammu in collaboration with the Criminologists Society of J&K at Lawyers Chambers,

Jammu.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar presided over the function.

The Chief Justice congrat-

ulated Advocate Rameshwar Jamwal, Balbir Singh Manhas and their team for taking up such a noble cause.

Sharing his experience, the Chief Justice revealed that during his tenure as Chairperson of SALSAs, he would educate students in schools and colleges through innovative methods like nukkad natak, skits and drama in addition to interactive sessions with a panel of lawyers.

Terming lawyers as backbone of the society, the

**■ CONTD ON PAGE 9**

## Parliament passes Immigration and Foreigners Bill with RS nod

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Parliament approved a bill to regulate immigration, entry and stay of foreigners in India, with the Rajya Sabha giving its nod on Wednesday.

The Immigration and Foreigners Bill, 2025 was passed in Lok Sabha on March 27, 2025. The Rajya Sabha passed the Bill by voice vote on Wednesday after various amendments moved by Opposition members were negated.

Replying to the discussion

on the Bill, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai attacked the previous Congress government and the TMC dispensation in West Bengal for "aiding" illegal immigrants enter the country and "facilitating" their stay by including their names in voters' list and ration cards.

This was strongly objected to by the Congress and TMC members, who along with other opposition parties' MPs, staged a walkout

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## Pakistan Army violates ceasefire after mine blast along LoC in Poonch

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire by resorting to unprovoked firing after a mine exploded along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, a defence spokesman said on Wednesday.

He said the Indian army responded "effectively" to the ceasefire violation and continues to dominate the LoC where the situation is under control.

Official sources said the violation took place at 1.10 pm on Tuesday.

While the Indian Army made no mention of any casualty on the Pakistan side, the sources said five enemy soldiers were injured in the explosion and the subsequent firing between the two sides.

"On 01 Apr 2025, a mine blast occurred in Krishna Ghati Sector while the Pakistan Army was patrolling along the LoC.

This was followed by unprovoked firing and ceasefire violation by Pakistan Army," Jammu-based defence PRO Lt Col Suneel Bartwal said in a revised statement.

"Own troops responded effectively. The Indian Army continues to dominate the LoC. The situation is under control," he said.

The earlier statement had mentioned that "a mine blast occurred in Krishna Ghati Sector due to Pakistan

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## LG exhorts youth to put skills acquired at Universities in nation-building

Youth should explore spiritual, cultural dimension of education and cherish its value system

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha addressed the Alumni Meet of Sharda University at Srinagar on Wednesday. In his address, the Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations to the Alumni, Management, Faculty and Students of Sharda University. He exhorted the youth to put the skills acquired



LG Manoj Sinha addressing at Alumni Meet of Sharda University at Srinagar on Wednesday.

## India's media ecosystem doesn't need validation from foreign bodies: Govt

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: India has a vibrant press and media ecosystem which does not need validation from foreign organisations, the government told the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L Murugan said this in a written response to a question from Congress MP K Sudhakaran, who asked about 'India's decline in the Global Press Freedom Index ranking in 2024'.

"India has a vibrant press and media ecosystem, which does not need validation from foreign organisations,"

he said.

In its report published last year, global media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF) ranked India 159th out of 180 countries based on journalists' ability to work and report freely and independently.

India was ranked below Turkey, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, which stood at 158th, 152nd, and 150th positions, respectively.

RSF has consultative status with the United Nations, UNESCO, the Council of Europe and the International Organisation of the Francophonie. Asked about steps taken by the

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## Suicide Mubarak!

**■ PROF NUTAN K RESUTRA**  
Dear friends; you have always given me encouragement by going through my write ups- whatever they might be!Today, I am not going to talk about any political issue, but am going to wish us all: Suicide Mubarak.

You might be thinking we have heard people say Eid Mubarak, Diwali Mubarak, Lohri Mubarak; but what non-sense does he mean by saying Suicide Mubarak? Who on earth wishes Suicide Mubarak? Well, this is the harsh reality which we all seem to be totally oblivious of, as of today.

I was perplexed, and I was sad too. This is perhaps for the first time in my life that I have not seen and felt winters. My heavy leather jackets have bowed their shoulders in disappointment and my coats, warmers,

suits and high-necks have become shrunk with their lost- hope- eyes not seeing any cold. I was too eager to sit in warm sun, shawl- draped, sipping hot tea, enjoying already known news reading from the newspapers. But alas! I missed it. And not only me, all felt the same thing; climate turning topsy-turvy throughout the world. Reason? Global warming.

Yes friends, we have been encountering strange phenomenon. Europe is faced with water scarcity; Doomsday stones in rivers have started showing up with explicit warnings inscribed on them; Skying had to be cancelled in Switzerland because there was no snowfall on otherwise snow- clad mountains; fierce wild fires not only in the US but also many other places on the globe; Drought in the United Kingdom; sea

creatures generally found in much ocean depths have suddenly started floating on the surface; days hotter, nights colder; and especially in India, Gomukh or the starting point of the Holy Ganga has reduced to alarming size; to name just a few.

Why so? The Science- Pandits conveniently utter the much -used phrase: global warming. The destruction to environment which could not happen in thousands of years, happened in just two centuries;thanks to modernisation and development.Concrete jungles have replaced natural vegetation. Brazil has borne the brunt of greed of her politicians where deforestation has taken place at alarming rate. The developed countries have contributed generously in an increase in carbon emission. Glaciers at the Poles are

shrinking, melting fast and the sealevel is rising. What seemed to me a distant never- to happen-apprehension of mighty rise of sea levels, has suddenly seems to become a horror reality.

When I was a young boy, I had read in science periodicals that by 2050, the coastal cities may be submerged because of melting of ice from the North Pole and increase in sea-level. And I pooh-poohed it thinking this just cannot happen; at least not in the life span of mine and my kids. But this imaginary thought is fast becoming a deadly realty and human race is facing its biggest survival challenge. The frequency of floods, droughts, cloud bursts has become too common now. Just look at the destruction caused in Himachal in last few years. **■ CONTD ON PAGE 9**

