

03 J&K Bank signs MoU with Mahindra & Mahindra for affordable farm-equipment finance

09 9 tourists among 41 'badly' bitten by stray dogs in Dalgate area

10 Fashion show organised at JKPS Kunjwani for 5th graders

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

Ramzan Mubarak



COVID: 11 new cases in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir reported 11 new Covid cases on Saturday that took the infection tally to 4,54,043, officials said.

Of the new cases, Jammu district reported seven while Srinagar and Baramulla recorded two cases each, they said. There are 67 active cases and the overall recoveries has

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Efforts on to douse major forest fire in Reasi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Efforts are on to put off a major fire in the forest area of Thakrakote in Reasi district, an official said on Saturday.

The fire in the compartment number 40 and 41 of Sailanjan forest area of Thakrakote broke out on April 26, causing huge loss to biodiversity and local communities which thrive on forests for their livelihood, the official said.

Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Babila Rakwal chaired a meeting on Saturday and emphasized

Omar wants Panchs, Sarpanchs staying at secure accommodations to be allowed to visit families on Eid

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) leader Omar Abdullah on Saturday said the government should allow the Sarpanchs and Panchs, who are lodged in secure accommodations, to meet their families on Eid-ul-Fitr.

"These are the kinds of messages I'm receiving these days. Panch & Sarpanch held against their will by the police and not even being allowed to offer Friday prayers. On Eid they will not be allowed to meet their loved ones. This is an unacceptable situation & must be corrected," Abdullah tweeted.

The former chief minister posted screenshots of messages he purportedly received from NC-affiliated sarpanch and panch from Anantnag district in which they claimed that they are being held against their

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 40.4°C Min: 25.6°C

Humidity

Max : 32 Min : 24

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 26.2°C Min: 12.0°C

Humidity

Max : 72 Min: 42

Sunset : 19:13 Hours

Sunrise : 05:44 Hours

PM bats for local languages in courts, explaining laws in simpler terms



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the Joint Conference of Chief Ministers of States and Chief Justices of High Courts in New Delhi on Saturday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday made a strong pitch for use of local languages in courts and explaining laws in simpler terms, saying that it will increase the confidence of common citizens in the justice system and they will feel more connected.

Addressing the inaugural session of the joint conference of chief ministers and chief justices of high courts, being held after a gap of six

years, Modi said he had constituted a group to examine the possibility of whether laws can be drafted in legal language as well as in terms easily understood by the common man.

"I have set up a group that is examining whether both versions can be passed by the assembly or parliament, Modi said.

He said it is in practice in various countries and both the formats are considered legally acceptable.

"Even our scriptures state

that justice is the basis of good governance. It is for this reason that justice should be linked to the people, it should be in the language. Unless the common man understands the basis of justice, for him there will be no difference between justice and executive order, the prime minister said.

He also appealed to chief ministers and chief justices of high courts to give priority to cases related to undertrial prisoners languishing in

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Timing for summer zone schools changed

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Directorate of School Education Jammu today ordered change of timing for summer zone schools.

As per an order issued today, all the Government as well as Private (recognized) Schools upto Higher Secondary Level, falling in Summer Zone of Jammu Division, shall observe school timing from 8:00 A.M to 2:00 P.M from May 1 to September 30, 2022.

25 engagements, including meeting with 8 world leaders, in Modi's trip

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: In his first visit abroad this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will have 25 hectic engagements in his three-day travel to as many countries where he will be spending around 65 hours, government sources said on Saturday.

He will hold meetings, bilateral as well as multilateral, with eight world leaders from seven countries besides having an interaction

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

HC dismisses plea challenging quashment of order regarding withdrawal of pension of former Chairman BOPEE

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a petition filed by one Mushtaq Ahmed Peer, ex-BOPEE Chairman who was involved in MBBS scam and convicted by Anticorruption Court Kashmir, the order of University of Kashmir (hereinafter 'respondent-University') issued by its Assistant Registrar Administration bearing No.F.451.Pen.WH-Adm-TW/KU/18/5718 dated 28th August, 2018, whereby the monthly pension drawn by petitioner has been withdrawn with immediate effect in terms of Article 168 of

J&K Civil Service Regulations, Justice Sanjeev Kumar of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court Srinagar Wing, while dismissing the petition, observed that the petitioner cannot claim that since appeal against his conviction is pending adjudication before the High Court, as such, he be not treated as a person convicted for purposes of applying the provisions of Article 168 of J&K CSR.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar, while issuing the judgment, observed that plea of the petitioner that he was not provided a prior opportunity

of being heard is not tenable in law. This is so because had the petitioner been given an opportunity of being heard, the position would not have changed. "The petitioner could not have, by any stretch of reasoning, demonstrated before the respondent-University that the offences for which he has been convicted are not serious or do not constitute grave misconduct. Therefore, issuance of notice of hearing to the petitioner before passing of the order impugned, in the given facts and circumstances would have been a useless formality. The legal

position in this regard is well settled. The Supreme in the case of Dharmpal Satyapal Limited v. Dy. Commissioner of Central Excise, Guwahati, has held that principles of natural justice in particular principle of audi alteram partem is not a straightjacket rule having universal application. There may be situations where it is felt that a fair hearing would make no difference---meaning that hearing would not change the ultimate conclusion reached by decision maker. In such situations fair procedure appear to serve no

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Construction of Bus Stand Banihal: HC quashes land acquisition notifications

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court comprising Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi quashed land acquisition notifications issued by Collector Land Acquisition Banihal for acquisition of land for construction of Bus-Stand Banihal situated in village Devgole and Karwah and admittedly period of two years as provided under section 11-B of Jammu and Kashmir Land Acquisition Act, Samvat 1990 has expired from the date of declaration of intended acquisition and final award u/s 11 of Jammu and Kashmir Land

lapsed rendering the proceedings invalid.

Advocate Irfaan Khan submitted that declaration under section 6 of Jammu and Kashmir Land Acquisition Act, Samvat 1990 was issued on June 29, 2011 for land measuring 13 Kanals 4 Marlas situated at village Devgole and Karwah and admittedly period of two years as provided under section 11-B of Jammu and Kashmir Land Acquisition Act, Samvat 1990 has expired from the date of declaration of intended acquisition and final award u/s 11 of Jammu and Kashmir Land

Acquisition Act, Samvat 1990 has not been made/ published within the statutory period as such the acquisition proceedings has automatically lapsed.

Division Bench, after hearing Advocate Irfaan Khan for petitioners and S S Nanda Sr AAG for respondents, observed that it is evident that no award has been made under Section 11 of the Act within a period of two years from the date of the declaration issued under Section 6 of the Act. "There is no dispute to the date of declaration which

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Markets abuzz for Eid shopping in Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Markets in Kashmir are abuzz with activity on Saturday as people went on a shopping spree in preparation for Eid-ul-Fitr, which will be celebrated early next week, to mark the culmination of Muslim fasting month of Ramzan, officials said.

A good footfall of customers was seen at bakery shops, mutton outlets, chicken vendors, readymade garments and crockery stores, officials said.

Unlike in the past, traffic movement in Lal Chowk city centre was very well managed but other areas of the city witnessed massive traffic snarls due to Eid shopping rush. The business on eve of Eid comes after

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



General Manoj Pande, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC after taking over as the 29th COAS of Indian Army from General MM Naravane.

The theatisation plan was being implemented by India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Bipin Rawat who died in a helicopter crash in December last. The government is yet to appoint Gen Rawat's successor.

In his distinguished career,

Gen Pande also served as the Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN), which is India's only tri-services command.

An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, he was commissioned in the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

ACB nabs XEn PDA red handed while accepting bribe of Rs 10,000

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has nabbed one Farooq Ahmad Rather, Executive Engineer, Pahalgam Development Authority (PDA) for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 10,000 for processing a file which was pending, while his posting as Assistant Executive Engineer, Rural Development Department, Achabal, Anantnag.

As per an official spokesperson, the sluths of ACB received a complaint alleging that Farooq Ahmad Rather, Executive Engineer, Pahalgam Development Authority is demanding a bribe of Rs 10,000 @ 3 per cent for the MGNAREGA bills costing Rs 1.49 lakh and demanding 1.5 per cent share of amounting to Rs

4.25 lakh approximately for already executed and released Capex works. "The complainant alleged that he is contractor by profession, and had done the work under MGNAREGA scheme but the accused officer was demanding bribe for processing file for release of payment @ 3 per cent for the MGNAREGA bills," the official added. He further said that on receiving complaint, prima facie offence under section 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 was found made out. Consequently, FIR No. 08/2022 was registered at Police Station ACB Anantnag and investigation started, during which a trap team caught Farooq Ahmad Rather, Executive Engineer, Pahalagam Development

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

SUNDAY OPEN

AKSHAYA TRITIYA
Special

ABHUSHAN
The Royal Collection

Introducing our new gold collection where tradition meets charm and will leave you mesmerized.

FLAT 15% off
Certified Diamonds & Swiss Watches

RAKESH Jewellers
Apsara Road & Lakhdatta Bazar

Customer Care 97960 60786