

**03** Institution of President as Preserver Protector Defender of COI weakened after Art-74 was amended during Emergency

**09** Police attaches properties worth crores of notorious drug peddlers

**10** Wrestling trials for U-17 Asian meet on June 7

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## Demography in Bengal's border areas changing due to infiltration: Modi

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KAKDWIP (WB): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday alleged that demography in the bordering areas of West Bengal is changing because of infiltration while illegal entrants are snatching away the opportunities meant for local youths.

Modi also claimed that the Trinamool Congress government in the state was giving away the rights of "original" OBCs to Muslims by issuing false caste certificates.

He said, "The demography in the bordering areas of Bengal is being changed. The TMC is against giving citizenship to religiously persecuted minorities. Why are they opposing the CAA so much? Why are these people (TMC leaders) lying about the CAA?"

The prime minister alleged that the TMC has indulged in the politics of appeasement so that illegal infiltrators could settle in Bengal.



He asserted that the Matua community members would get Indian citizenship with all the respect that's due to them.

The TMC does not want the Hindus and Matuas to stay in Bengal, Modi alleged while addressing his last election rally in the state in this election at Kakdwip.

"To appease a section of the society, the TMC government is openly attacking the Constitution, which has given reservations to Dalits

and backward castes. Reservations were looted in West Bengal and false OBC certificates were issued to them.

He referred to the May 22 Calcutta High Court order that struck down the Other Backward Classes (OBC) status of several classes in West Bengal granted since 2010, finding such reservations to vacancies in services and posts in the state are illegal.

"But the TMC cannot

accept this verdict. They are misleading Muslims by spreading wrong information regarding the court's verdict. Just imagine to what end they can go for appeasement," Modi added.

"Today, infiltrators are snatching away the opportunities provided for the youths. They are encroaching on your properties and land and the entire country is worried about that," he said.

After counting of votes on June 4, these TMC people will run out of steam, the prime minister claimed.

Modi attacked the TMC, accusing it of preventing the implementation of central schemes for fishermen, and other programmes such as Ujjwala Yojana and Ayushman Bharat.

He also accused the TMC government of compromising national security by allowing unchecked infiltration in West Bengal from across

Two people killed while cleaning well

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR- Two people were killed and three others were hospitalised after they fell into a well in the Kupwara district on Wednesday, officials said.

Five people fell unconscious while cleaning a well in the Satboon area of Kupwara, the officials said. The victims were rescued and rushed to a hospital where the doctors

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

**BSF opens fire on suspected Pak drone near LoC**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
POONCH: The Border Security Force personnel fired several rounds to shoot down a suspected Pakistani drone near the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch, officials said on Wednesday.

The drone activity from across the border was picked up by the alert border guards in Khanetar garrison at around 11.30 pm on Tuesday, the officials said.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Power curtailment schedule withdrawn 24x7 power supply in Smart metered areas: MD JPDCL

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Managing Director JPDCL Vikas Kundal on Wednesday issued a Public Notice in which the curtailment schedule has been withdrawn with immediate effect. The Public Notice issued by the MD JPDCL read that:

"In view of the improvement in power infrastructure by way of Capacity addition and repair of 2x50MVA, 132/66KV Power Transformer at Grid Station Samba and 10MVA, 33/11kV Power Transformer at Miran Sahib, the curtailment schedule for Summer 2024, issued by Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL vide no: CEJ/TS-II/906-20 dated: 27-05-2024,stands withdrawn. JPDCL will provide 24x7 power supply in smart metered areas and up to 20 Hours power supply in other areas. However, JPDCL will have to resort to distressed



MD JPDCL Vikas Kundal during visit to State Load Dispatch Corporation Office in Jammu on Wednesday.

curtailments in order to safeguard the critical power infrastructure as and when required.

The general public is requested to exercise prudence in electricity usage due to the soaring demand of electricity driven by the unprecedented rise in temperatures and the severe heat wave.

The public is further advised to pay their electricity dues in time through online/offline mode.

The Managing Director JPDCL also visited the State

Load Dispatch Corporation office and reviewed the availability of power for Jammu region and said that with the purchase of additional 200 MW of power, JPDCL shall be able to supply smooth and uninterrupted power to the smart metered areas and also provide relief to the rural areas by reducing the curtailment hours. He was accompanied by Chief Engineer Distribution Manhar Gupta, Chief Engineer System and Operations Rajan Gupta, Executive Engineer

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## FIR against Mehbooba Mufti for 'violation' of poll code

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Election authorities in Kashmir have registered an FIR against former chief minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti for allegedly violating the Model Code of Conduct, officials said on Wednesday.

The FIR has been registered against Mehbooba for violating Section 144 after she and her party workers held a protest sit-in in the Bijbehara area of south Kashmir's Anantnag district, the officials said.

The PDP president termed the registration of the FIR against her as "amusing".

"Amusing to find an FIR

filed against me for apparently flouting MCC. This is the price PDP has paid for speaking truth to power. Our protest was against GOI in cahoots with local administration for detaining hundreds of PDP polling agents and workers in the hours leading up to voting," she said.

"Still not satisfied the same administration went onto launch Cordon and Search Operations in traditional PDP stronghold areas to terrorise our voters and prevent them from exercising their right to vote. Ulta chor kotwal ko daante (the pot

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## DGP reviews working of SIA during surprise visit

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police R R Swain on Wednesday visited the State Investigation Agency (SIA), conducting a comprehensive review of its operations and its GPS anklet tracker technology.

The DGP also emphasised SIA's significant role in investigating terror cases and instilling a fear of law enforcement in terrorists and their associates, a spokesperson said.

During his surprise visit to the SIA headquarters here, the DGP reviewed the agency's operations and interacted with the stationed



DGP R R Swain during visit to SIA office in Jammu.

officials, they added.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Deepika briefed him about the improvements made in the work environment of the investigating body, a police spokesperson said.

She highlighted the filing of charge sheets by SIA in significant terror financing and narco-terrorism cases and introduction of the anklet monitoring programme pioneered by the CID wing.

The anklet monitoring

technology, used as a stringent bail condition, remotely tracks the movement of offenders under UAPA, NDPS, and other serious criminal charges, making Jammu and Kashmir police the first in India to implement such a system, the spokesman said.

The DGP agreed to SIA officials' proposal that those granted bail in connection with terrorism, secessionism, narcotics, land mafia, and gangsterism should bear the cost of the anklet, which is around Rs 50,000, instead of the public, he said.

The agency focuses on property attachments,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Fire engulfs forest area in Udhampur

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A massive forest fire swept through large areas of Udhampur district causing extensive damage to forest resources, including wildlife, officials said on Wednesday.

Efforts of the forest department and local people to control the blaze have been unsuccessful so far and residents have sought the deployment of the Indian Air Force (IAF) choppers

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9


## India successfully test fires Rudra M-II missile

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BALASORE (ODISHA): India on Wednesday successfully flight-tested the RudraM-II air-to-surface missile off the coast of Odisha, defence sources said.

The flight test met all the trial objectives, validating the propulsion system and control & guidance algorithm, they said.

RudraM-II is an indigenously developed solid-propelled air-launched

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



**WEATHER**

**Temperature (Jammu)**  
Max: 44.8°C Min: 25.3°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 18 Min: 13

**Temperature (Srinagar)**  
Max: 27.5°C Min: 13.8°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 51 Min: 29

Sunset : 19:31 Hours  
Sunrise : 05:24 Hours

## Choice between those who constructed Ram Temple and those who opened fire at Ram Bhakts: Shah

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
MAHARAJGANJ/DEORIA (UP): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday asserted that this Lok Sabha election is a contest between those who constructed the Ram Temple in Ayodhya and those who opened fire at Ram bhakts.



At a poll meeting in Deoria in support of BJP candidate Shashank Mani Tripathi, he accused the opposition of stalling the construction of the Ram Temple for over 70

years and said the temple could only be built because of Prime Minister Narendra

at karsevaks in 1990 when Mulayam Singh Yadav was the Uttar Pradesh chief minister.

Earlier at a rally in Maharajganj, Shah took a jibe at the Samajwadi Party and Congress, saying they have decided to blame electronic voting machines for their defeat in the Lok Sabha polls.

"The counting is on June 4. In the afternoon the two 'shahzade' (Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav) will hold a press conference and say we lost the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Atmospheric data collection tool Radio-Sonde launched from ISRO centre at Samba

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBHA/JAMMU: Central University of Jammu (CUJ) on Wednesday announced that its Radio-Sonde, a crucial tool for atmospheric data collection, was launched successfully from its ISRO centre in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The launch, a part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), ISRO and CUJ, aims to enhance the understanding of atmospheric conditions and climate change, contributing valuable data to both national and global meteorological research, a varsity spokesperson said.

Using hydrogen-filled balloons, the scientists record atmospheric pressure, tem-

perature, wind direction, and speed from 12 kilometres above earth's surface and the data is transmitted to the ground via radio signals.

The spokesperson said this is only the third testing facility of its kind established by ISRO at CUJ.

CUJ vice chancellor Prof Sanjeev Jain said the milestone event marks a significant achievement in the university's ongoing commitment to advancing space science research and technology.

"Today's successful launch of the Radio-Sonde exemplifies our commitment to enhancing innovation and research in space sciences. This entire Radio-Sonde system is fully developed indigenously by ISRO

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Jammu records season's highest temperature at 44.8 deg C

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Mercury continued its upward trend across the district, with Jammu city recording the season's highest temperature at 44.8 degrees Celsius, nearly 5.7 notches above the average, the Meteorological Department said on Wednesday.

The region has been reeling under an extreme heatwave for the past week, with temperatures consistently rising above 40 degrees Celsius since May 16, the MeT department officials said.

The day temperature in Jammu city was nearly 5.7 degrees Celsius above the season's average and 5 degrees Celsius higher than Wednesday's 39.3 degrees Celsius, they said.



Boys jump into canal to beat the scorching heat in Jammu on Wednesday.

Katra, the base camp for Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, recorded 40 degrees Celsius, while Leh city clocked 21 degrees Celsius, the MeT department said.

Kathua, which houses the gateway to Jammu and Kashmir, recorded 46.1 degree Celsius, followed by Samba at 44.7 degrees

Celsius, Udhampur at 42 degrees Celsius and Reasi 41.7 degrees Celsius, according to the department.

Srinagar's maximum day-time temperature was 32.6 degrees Celsius.

In view of the heatwave, the district administration pressed water tankers

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## EC dedicated to incorporating principles of inclusivity in polls: CEC

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Election Commission on Wednesday said the last phases of the Lok Sabha elections have seen immense enthusiasm among voters of various sections such as persons with disabilities, senior citizens, transgender, and members of particularly vulnerable tribal groups.

Home voting facility for senior citizens above 85 years of age and persons with disabilities with 40 per cent benchmark disability was extended for the first time on pan-India basis in this parliamentary polls, the EC



noted.

An EC statement quoting Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said, "It has been the deep founded resolve of the Commission to strive for continuous improvement in the electoral processes setting new standards globally."

The EC, Kumar said, is

determined to make the elections "truly reflective" of the spirit of plurality and diversity that is the pride of the country.

"EC is dedicated to incorporating and deeply integrating the principles and practices of inclusivity and accessibility throughout the entire election process, setting an example before the society for replication everywhere," the CEC said.

The optional home voting facility has been made available for the first time in Lok Sabha elections. Any eligible citizen aged 85 and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Missing Kashmiri poet traced to police custody in PoK

**■ AGENCY**  
ISLAMABAD: A missing Kashmiri poet has been traced to be in the custody of police in the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), the Islamabad High Court was informed on Wednesday, two weeks after he disappeared from Rawalpindi.

Ahmad Farhad's wife had filed a petition in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) claiming that he had been abducted from his home.

When neither police nor any intelligence agency claimed responsibility for his custody, Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani, who was hearing the case, on May 24 issued an eight-page written order, summoning Law Minister Azam Tarar along with the sector commanders

of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Military Intelligence (MI) and director of Intelligence Bureau (IB) as well as the defence and interior secretaries in person before the court on May 29.

On Wednesday, the officials of intelligence agencies did not appear but Attorney General Mansoor Usman Awan told the court that Farhad was currently in the custody of Kashmir police.

Awan also presented a police report from Dhirkot police station in PoK, which had registered a case against him.

The Islamabad police chief told the court that since the poet was in the custody of Kashmir police, the area was out of the jurisdiction

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9