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STATE TIMES

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RNI No. : 66908/96

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

Vol. 29 Issue 175 • Jammu • Tuesday • June 25, 2024 • Pages 12 • ₹ 5.00

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IWT: India, Pakistan delegations reach Kishtwar to inspect power projects

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Delegations from India and Pakistan on Monday flew to Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district with neutral experts and began inspection of two power projects under the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), officials said.

About 40 people reached Jammu Sunday evening and flew to Kishtwar this morning for inspection of various under-construction power projects in the Chenab valley region, the officials said.

This is the first visit by a Pakistani delegation to Jammu and Kashmir in more than five years under the dispute settlement mechanism of the 1960 treaty.

India and Pakistan signed the IWT after nine years of negotiations, with the World Bank being a signatory of the pact which sets out a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange between the two sides on the



India and Pakistan delegations at Kishtwar district on Monday.

use of waters of a number of cross-border rivers.

A three-member Pakistan delegation inspected the Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnai hydroelectric power projects under the provisions of the IWT for the last time in January 2019, before the ties between the two countries froze following the revocation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Immediately after landing at an army camp, the delegation visited the National Hydroelectric Power

Corporation (NHPC) headquarters, the officials said, adding, they left for the 85 MW Ratle hydroelectric power project site at Drabshalla for dam inspection.

They will also visit the 1,000 MW Pakal Dul hydroelectric project on river Marusudar, a tributary of river Chenab, and other power projects during their stay in Kishtwar, the officials said.

Pakistan had in a request to the World Bank in 2016

objected to the design features of the two hydroelectric power projects and sought a settlement through a 'Neutral Expert.'

The country, however, later withdrew the request and sought adjudication through a Court of Arbitration. India, on the other hand, insisted that the issue should be resolved solely through 'Neutral Expert' proceedings.

After failed negotiations, the World Bank appointed a Neutral Expert and the chair of the Court of Arbitration in October 2022. Issuing a notice for the modification in the Treaty, India warned that "such parallel consideration of the same issues is not covered under any provision of the IWT."

In July 2023, the Court of Arbitration ruled that it was "competent to consider and determine the disputes set forth by Pakistan's request for arbitration."

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First day of 18th LS begins on stormy note

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The first day of the 18th Lok Sabha began on a stormy note on Monday amid a war of words between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge over the imposition of Emergency in 1975 and strident appeals to protect democracy.

As the opening session saw a total of 262 newly-elected MPs, including the prime minister, taking oath, the opposition staged a protest march inside Parliament complex, with MPs of the INDIA bloc raising slogans on "saving democracy" and displaying copies of the Constitution. The remaining new MPs will take oath on Tuesday, while the election for the post of Speaker is scheduled for Wednesday.

In his customary pre-session remarks, Modi also said people want a good and responsible opposition and asserted that his government will strive to take everyone along and build a consensus.

People want substance, not slogans, he told reporters, in an apparent reference to several previous sessions that were marred by the absence of a debate due to adjournments caused by frequent run-ins between the treasury and opposition benches.

The session commenced under the shadow of the medical exam NEET con-

People want responsible Oppn, I will strive to take everyone along: Modi



PM Narendra Modi addressing media ahead of first session of 18th Lok Sabha in New Delhi on Monday.

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Monday that his government will strive to take everyone along and build a consensus but also took a swipe at the Congress over the Emergency, calling it a "black spot" on democracy when the Constitution was "discarded".

Speaking to reporters minutes before the start of the first session of the 18th Lok Sabha, Modi said the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance's electoral victory was proof that the people have put their stamp of approval on

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Reasi bus attack case: Three picked up for questioning

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Three more people have been detained for questioning about the terrorists who carried out the attack on a bus carrying pilgrims in Reasi district on June 9, police on Monday said.

Police had on June 19 arrested a man for his alleged involvement in harbouring and helping the terrorists involved in the attack. The man was identified as 45-year-old Hakam Din.

During questioning, Din revealed that three terrorists had taken shelter at his house, and in return paid him Rs 6,000. The money was recovered from his pos-

session, police said. Nine people, including seven pilgrims from Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi, were killed and 41 more injured when terrorists opened fire on the bus returning from the Shiv Khori shrine in the Pouni area.

The 53-seater vehicle veered off the road and fell into a deep gorge following the gunfire.

Over 150 people have been picked up for questioning in connection with the attack so far, police said.

According to sources, Din's wife and son have also been picked up for questioning.

Over 225 kanals land scam; ACB raids 5 Patwars in Bhalwal

VIVEK SHARMA

JAMMU: Continuing investigations into over 225 Kanals Land Scam, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday conducted raids at five Patwars in Bhalwal Tehsil in District Jammu. Huge number of documents including copies of mutations, fards and land record registers have been seized.

The land has been sold after proper demarcation of plots seizes ranging from 7 marlas to 2 kanals, collecting crores of rupees from innocent buyers. The ACB sleuths are securitizing land records from 2012 and 2015 to till date in Bhalwal tehsil.

STATE TIMES in its edition dated June 16, under caption "ACB Unearths Over 225 Kanals Land Scam; 5 FIRs Registered; Houses Of Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, Patwaris And Property

Dealers Raided" exposed Land mafia-revenue officials-police nexus.

On June 15, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) had unearthed a major scam involving more than 225 kanals of land usurped by the land mafia

in connivance with revenue officials, a senior police officer said.

Five FIRs were registered against the accused, including government officials, and raids were conducted at the premises of 16 people including Tehsildars, Naib-Tehsildars, Patwaris, property dealers and their conduits involved in the scam.

The ACB teams had conducted searches in residences of revenue offi-



FOLLOW-UP

Shri Amarnath Yatra: 38 rescue teams to be deployed

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Thirty-eight Mountain Rescue Teams of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, SDRF, NDRF, BSF and the CRPF will be deployed for the Amarnath Yatra, officials said on Monday, as a senior police officer briefed them on their specific duties and emphasised the importance of ensuring the pilgrims' safety.

The 52-day pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine of Amarnath, located at a height of 3,880 metres, will commence from the twin tracks -- the traditional 48-kilometre Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag

and the 14-kilometre shorter but steeper Baital route in Ganderbal -- on June 29. More than 4.5 lakh pilgrims paid their obeisance at the natural ice Shiva Lingam formation inside the cave shrine last year.

Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Vijay Kumar on Monday conducted a comprehensive review meeting with the Mountain Rescue Teams (MRTs) of the police, State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Border Security Force (BSF) and the

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Searches in Udhampur, Rajouri over reports of suspicious movement

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Security forces launched search operations in Udhampur and Rajouri districts here following reports of suspicious movement, officials said.

There were reports of suspicious movement in the Karlah area of Patnitop prompting police and security forces to launch a search operation in the vast forest belts, they said.

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Health ministry, NBE officials review NEET-PG exam process

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Top officials from the Union health ministry and the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences on Monday reviewed the process of the NEET-PG exam, two days after the entrance examination to postgraduate medical courses was postponed.

The National Eligibility Entrance Test (Postgraduate) entrance

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 41.8°C Min: 29.7°C

Humidity
Max: 33 Min: 23

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 31.2°C Min: 15.9°C

Humidity
Max: 63 Min: 33

Sunset : 19:42 Hours
Sunrise : 05:23 Hours

Major reform in Medical Education J&K Govt sanctions 3-tier faculty structure in GMCs Jammu, Srinagar

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a major reform in Medical Education, the J&K government has accorded sanction to implementation of 3-tier faculty structure in GMCs of Jammu and Srinagar including both the Super Specialty Hospitals associated with these Colleges with upgradation/re-designation of 287 Lecturers.

"With in-principle approval to implementation of the 3-tier faculty structure in these GMCs there will be creation of another 136 posts at the level of Associate Professor

Faculty brought in conformity with NMC norms, 107 Lecturers re-designated as Assistant Professors

and Professor to further strengthen and improve teaching and patient-care in these reputed medical institutions", informed an official spokesperson of Health and Medical Education Department while elaborating on the subject.

Pursuant to approval of the Administrative Council, an executive order has been issued by Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Dr.

Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, according sanction to implementation of 3-tier faculty structure in these GMCs effecting restructuring of faculty arrangement in these premier institutes. This will bring these Medical entities at par with the faculty structure of newly established GMCs and in tune with the mandatory norms of National

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Bail order perverse, Kejriwal neck deep in money laundering: ED

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate on Monday told the Delhi High Court that the trial court order granting bail to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was based on "perverse" findings as it did not consider the material demonstrating his "neck deep involvement" in the offence of money laundering linked to the alleged excise scam.

In a written note filed in relation to its plea seeking a stay on the trial court's decision, the agency contended the order suffers from a "jurisdictional defect"

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ED arrests 2022 JKSSB SI paper leak mastermind

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Enforcement Directorate on Monday arrested the alleged mastermind of the 2022 JKSSB Sub-Inspector recruitment exam paper leak case as part of a money-laundering investigation, official sources said.

Yatin Yadav, son of Deshraj Yadav, a suspected tout, was arrested in Jammu under criminal sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the sources said.

The Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB) Sub-Inspector recruitment exam was held on

March 27, 2022.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) case stems from a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) FIR and charge sheet filed against Yadav and some others.

The arrest comes at a time allegations of irregularities in the conduct of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) and the University Grants Commission-National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET) have rocked the country, leading to the Centre handing over their investigation to the CBI.

The ED sources claimed that being the "mastermind" of the

alleged paper leak gang, Yadav executed a well-crafted plan involving other accused touts based in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir to arrange candidates willing to access the leaked paper against payments ranging from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 30 lakh.

Post examination, the payments collected from the aspirants -- mainly in cash -- were routed to Yadav's bank accounts, they said. The ED had earlier attached Yadav's bank accounts, a company called New Global Fumigation Corporation and assets of some others worth Rs 1 crore as part of its probe.

Govt committed to bringing more reforms: Amit Shah

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah lauded Prime Minister Narendra

Modi on Monday for introducing the Goods and Services Tax (GST), which he said has been effective in reducing the prices of household items, and asserted that the NDA government is committed to bringing more reforms to improve the lives of the citizens.

According to the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs' (CBIC) data, a majority of household items, including flour, cosmetics, televisions and refrigerators, have become cheaper after the GST implementation.

"Standing true to the principles of a people's government, PM Shri @narendramodi ji introduced the



GST to give relief to the citizens. Today, GST has not only given people respite from a multi-layered tax system but also has been effective in reducing the prices of household items. We are resolved to bring in more reforms to improve the lives of the citizens," Shah wrote on X. The GST, which

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Justice Tashi visits Child Care Institutions 'Palaash', 'Pareesha' at Nishat, Srinagar

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority accompanied by Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, who is also holding the charge of Member Secretary, Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Monday visited "Palaash" (Children Home for Boys) and "Pareesha" (Children Home for Girls) at Nishat, here to take stock of the improvements made in these Homes since his previous visit.

On his arrival at Pareesha, Justice Tashi was accorded warm welcome by Jahangir Bakshi, Secretary, DLSA, Srinagar, Satinder Kour, Superintendent, Pareesha and staff of the homes.

Justice Tashi interacted with 12 girls staying there and enquired about their studies and other activities of interest.



Justice Tashi Rabstan along with inmate of Palaash and Pareesha at Nishat.

The Superintendent Pareesha informed Justice Tashi about the various upgraded facilities provided at Pareesha like improved Computer room, open gym, facility of evening Tutor and proposal for installation of solar panel to ensure uninterrupted power supply.

The Home for Boys "Palash" situated adjoining to Pareesha having a capacity of 50 children was also

inspected where 37 boys of different age groups were present. Similar facilities were available in the said Home. During an interaction with the children both at "Palaash" and "Pareesha", Justice Tashi was informed by the children that they are being provided with nutritious and satisfactory meals. They further informed that they are being provided with books as well as sports equipment. However, the boys

expressed the requirement of sports-wear.

Regarding the visit of Medical officer Justice Tashi was informed that the doctor visits once a month upon which the number of visits by the doctors need to be increased. He expressed satisfaction about the facilities and amenities being provided to the Children. On the occasion, the children of both the Homes volunteered to showcase their talent and sang songs and poems.

Justice Tashi appreciated the efforts of Social Welfare Department in providing satisfactory meals to the children besides maintaining cleanliness and required standard of living. This visit underscored the commitment of the J&K Legal Services Authority and the Social Welfare Department to the welfare of children in institutional care, ensuring they receive the necessary support and opportunities for their development.