

03 Over 200 tonnes sea-coast garbage removed in 20 days: Dr Jitendra

07 KVK theft case solved; 2 arrested, stolen items recovered

10 JDI felicitates ace shooter Chain Singh

My election proof that poor can fulfil dreams too: Murmu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Her election is proof the poor can dream and fulfil them too, India's 15th president and its first tribal head of state Droupadi Murmu said after taking oath of office on Monday, a landmark day that melded tradition with the aspirations of a modern nation.

The tribal leader, India's youngest president at 64 and the first to be born after Independence, took oath of office in the name of god to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law".

It is the power of India's democracy that a girl born in a poor tribal home could reach the topmost constitutional post, she said in her address, marking her journey from Odisha's Mayurbhanj district, one of the most underdeveloped in India, to the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Murmu, who began her speech in Hindi with Johar , a traditional tribal greeting,

Takes oath as country's 15th President



Chief Justice of India, Justice N.V. Ramana administering the oath of office of President of India to Droupadi Murmu at swearing-in ceremony in New Delhi on Monday.

NEW DELHI: Droupadi Murmu was on Monday sworn in as India's 15th President at an impressive ceremony in the packed and historic Central Hall of Parliament.

Hailing from the Santhal community, Murmu is the first tribal leader to assume the office of the President.

Chief Justice of India N V Ramana administered the oath of office to Murmu in the presence

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and Namaskar , said, That I attained the post of president is not my personal achievement. It is the achievement

of every poor person in India. My election is proof of the fact that the poor in India can have dreams and fulfil

them too.

In an address that lasted a little over 18 minutes and often referenced her tribal identity, she spoke on a gamut of issues, including the poor, tribal communities, sustainable development as well as the government's digital India and vocal for local initiatives' and its handling of the Covid pandemic.

As celebrations broke out in several parts of the country, she said she belonged to tribal society and had got the opportunity to rise from serving as a ward councillor to becoming the president of India.

This is the greatness of India, the mother of democracy," she said to thunderous applause from the gathering that included Prime Minister Narendra Modi, ministers, former president Pratibha Patil, MPs as well as leaders such as Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik who backed her election.

The new president,

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383 new COVID cases reported in J&K, 19 in Ladakh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Monday registered 383 fresh COVID-19 cases, taking the infection tally in the Union territory to 4,60,558, officials said here.

While 146 cases were reported from Jammu division, 237 were from the Kashmir valley, they said.

The death toll due to the virus stood at 4,763 as no fresh fatality was

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Nine cops among 21 rescued from flash floods in Kathua, Poonch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

K A T H U A / J A M M U : Twenty-one persons, including nine policemen, were rescued from flash floods in Kathua and Poonch districts on Monday, officials said.

Three trucks parked on the Mughal Road in Poonch got damaged due to shooting stones, they said.

Acting on information about a dozen of persons trapped in flash floods in Ujh river on Monday,

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BJYM organizes Tiranga Yatra from Lal Chowk 3,000 youth participate as wave of change is sweeping after abrogation of Art 370



Bikers participating in Tiranga Yatra at Srinagar on Monday. (more pics on page 9)

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Bharatiya Janata Yuva Moreha (BJYM) launched a two-day Tiranga Yatra on the Kargil Vijay Diwas starting on Monday under the leadership of BJYM National President Tejasvi Surya (MP Bangalore South).

BJP National General

Secretary flagged off the Yatra from Lal Chowk, Srinagar attended by 3000 youths including all National office bearers, State Presidents & NEC Members.

This is for the first time after Abrogation of Article 370 that such grandiose event has been held in Kashmir.

Flagging off the Yatra, BJP General Secretary, Tarun Chugh stated that a wave of change is sweeping after Abrogation of Article 370.

Earlier no one was allowed to unfurl National Flag at Lal Chowk, and if someone attempt, they faced

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Jr Asstt, Orderly caught red-handed while accepting bribe of Rs 4,000

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has nabbed one Mushtaq Ahmad Mir, Junior Assistant and Khalida Tugoo, Orderly, working in Tehsil office Baramulla for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 4,000.

As per an official spokesperson, the sleuths of ACB received a complaint against one Mushtaq Ahmad Mir, Junior Assistant, posted in Tehsil office Baramulla for allegedly demanding bribe of Rs 4,000 from complainant for settling his case pending disposal at Tehsil office. "It

was found that a case was filed by Police Station Baramulla against complainant and others under Section 109 of CrPC on August 5, 2021 which was pending disposal with Tehsil office and for the same, accused Junior Assistant, who was handling case file, demanded a bribe of Rs 4,000 from complainant through Orderly Khalida Tugoo posted in same office. Accordingly, complainant approached ACB and requested for taking necessary legal action against accused public servant."

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Govt establishes separate office for seamless implementation of ABDM in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The J&K Government on Monday established a separate office of Mission Director, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, J&K for smooth and seamless implementation of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

An order issued in this regard by Health

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CBI busts racket falsely promising governorship, RS seats for Rs 100 Cr

NEW DELHI: The CBI has busted a multi-state racket of imposters attempting to cheat people to the tune of Rs 100 crore by falsely promising them Rajya Sabha seats and governorship, officials said. The agency had conducted searches recently in connection with the

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 30.0°CMin: 25.1°C

Humidity

Max : 94Min : 80

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 27.8°CMin: 21.0°C

Humidity

Max : 88Min: 83

Sunset : 19:35 Hours

Sunrise : 05:42 Hours

Muftis, Abdullahs robbed, deceived J&K people for 70 years: Chugh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh on Monday said that people of J&K have now completely given up the two families of Abdullahs and Muftis for having looted them and misleading them in the last many years.

Chugh, who flagged off the first-ever Tiranga rally to Kargil from Lal chowk, said that Muftis and Abdullahs have ruined Jammu and Kashmir and are still trying to ruin it which they will never allow.

"The people here have understood that these people are robbing us", he said and added that . In the bike rally thousands of youth participated in making Narendra Modi's dreams a success. Youth from every part of Kashmir also



BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh speaking after flagging off first-ever Tiranga rally to Kargil from Lal Chowk on Monday.

participated, which will culminate on July 26 at Kargil War Memorial mark-

ing the Vijay Diwas," he said.

He added that in the last 70 years, Kashmir was not progressing because of these two families and now people are realizing that they have been robbed by these two families.

"Mehbooba Mufti had said that after the abrogation of 370, there will be no one to raise the Tricolour. I want to ask her, come to Lal Chowk and see how many youth have raised the tricolour," he said.

He also said that these two families have come together to ruin Kashmir further but BJP will never let that happen and the bike rally is proof of peace and order in Kashmir. Notably, All India Youth BJP presidents, General Secretaries and

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Ex-minister & BJP leader narrowly escapes after truck hits car; 3 injured

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Minister and J&K BJP Vice President Sham Lal Sharma narrowly escaped after his vehicle was hit by a truck on the outskirts of Jammu City on Monday.

The incident took place near Akhnoor on the Jammu-Poonch highway. While Sharma escaped unhurt, two persons, including his assistant and driver sustained minor injuries.

As per the details, the mishap took place around 1:30 PM when a speedily driven truck

(JK02CX-8871) hit the former minister's car

(JK02CJ-1818) near Tanda



area. The former minister was on way from his residence at Purkhoo to Bhambla for attending a function.

In mishap, his PA namely Naresh Kumar, driver Pardeep Singh

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Time for Mining Deptt to wake up from deep slumber Nexus between Mining mafia & Govt exposed; 17 illegal crushers operating in Bajtala

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: It has been observed that despite all possible measures being put in place by the administration and law enforcing agencies and clear-cut instructions by the Court, the illegal mining is going unabated in entire Union Territory, thereby not only causing huge loss to Government exchequer but also damaging the ecology in Jammu and Kashmir to a great extent.

We often hear reports regarding seizure of vehicles and machinery by Police,

found indulged in illegal mining in various parts of J&K, but what after that? Just poor labourers and drivers of vehicles,



EXCLUSIVE

who are generally from outside J&K, are made scapegoat and real criminals taking advantage of loopholes in the system and judiciary, escape scot-free without facing any stern punishment, just to continue their illegal business once again.

Looking at this scenario,

there is no doubt that this malpractice, which is becoming enormous day by day, is not controlled in time will cause detrimental consequences for entire society. Moreover, there is a dire need to make necessary amendments in laws for awarding stern punishments, not only to criminals but also to those, who support them in or another way.

Another thing to worry is that despite highlighting menace numerous times by STATE TIMES and a senior BJP leader and

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Govt jobs in J&K not for sale, merit sole criterion for selection: CS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Government will not tolerate any wrongdoings in selection process for jobs in public sector as merit is the only criterion for entering into government service, Chief Secretary A K Mehta said on Monday.

"You should have faith that merit will be the only basis for selection (in government jobs). We won't accept even one wrongdoing in the selection process," Mehta said at the launch of the Digital J&K, an awareness programme on services that can be availed online in the

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LG calls for transforming J&K into digitally empowered society



LG Manoj Sinha speaking after inaugurating Digital Jammu and Kashmir week at Srinagar.

Jammu & Kashmir week and launching several digital initiatives here at SKICC, the Lt Governor observed that 'digitally empowered' is a new

yardstick to measure the present literacy rate.

"The programmes and initiatives launched today

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Proud bearers for Tiranga; no pallbearers for dubious politicians in Kashmir



ANCHOR

DOST KHAN

JAMMU: When a young bearded local Kashmiri told media persons at the historic Lal Chowk, Srinagar on July 23, 2022 afternoon that the Kargil bound Tiranga rally from Ghanta Ghar was a slap on those claiming that no one would raise the Tricolour in Jammu and Kashmir, the reference was obviously to former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti.

"If special rights and privileges to the people of Jammu and Kashmir are tinkered with, then there would be no one in the state to hold the tricolor", Mehbooba Mufti had warned on July 28, 2017 in her capacity as Chief Minister, ironically in coalition with the BJP. It is different that the alliance had been tailored by the saffron party to create an environment for achieving its political agenda of abrogating Articles 370 and 35A, knowing well the whimsical politics of the Peoples' Democratic Party.

The Kashmir based so-called mainstream political parties are fashioned in tagging Jammu with the Valley when the objective is nefarious to create controversies and to indulge in India bashing but when it came to the rights and aspirations of Jammutes

during their rule, they discriminated against them unabatedly. Jammu had not given any attorney to Mehbooba Mufti for not raising the Tricolour, which they love more than their lives. She got a bitter taste of her overstatement when her party office was targeted and Tiranga installed on October 24, 2020 for her reiteration that she won't raise the Indian flag until the flag of Jammu and Kashmir State is raised.

Mehbooba Mufti struck again a day before and raised questions over the collection of money by the UT administration for the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign. "The manner in which the Jammu and Kashmir administration is forcing students, shopkeepers and employees to pay for the national flag to hoist it is as if Kashmir is an enemy territory that needs to be captured. Patriotism comes naturally & can't be imposed," she said in a tweet, forgetting that it is a nationwide campaign and not exclusively meant for the Valley. The mindset is poisonous.

Anyway, will the leaders like Mehbooba Mufti ponder after the launch of Tiranga Rally from the heart of Srinagar City? The numbers of the locals might not be large enough but the fact that people had come from Bandipora, Budgam and Shopian discounts the claims of the former Chief Minister that

there will be no one to hold the tricolor in Kashmir. That's that.

After being thrown out from the corridors of power in 2019, Mehbooba Mufti misses no opportunity in maligning India and its institutions. She demonstrated the lowest depths of her politics by calling Ramnath Kovind a BJP stooge precisely the time he was demitting the apolitical office of the President of India. The people of India, however, are not surprised over such unevils remarks emanating from a person having held the constitutional position.

By indulging in India bashing rhetoric, the mainstream leaders of Kashmir take cozy comfort in the thought that this must be endearing them to people in Kashmir. In fact, they feel elated over negative publicity in India for their near anti-national observations. The more the Indians question their nationalistic credentials, the more they feel their job done in the mistaken belief of becoming relevant to Kashmir politics and creating constituencies for themselves. They and their media managers encourage negative publicity, especially in the local media, as they don't want to be projected or seen as nationalists in Kashmir politics. This is why there was no enthusiasm over the observations of Yashwant Sinha during his Srinagar visit on July 9, 2022 as the opposition's Presidential can-

didate. Sinha had observed, "All our people who're present here, including Farooq Sahab, Mehbooba Ji, no bigger patriot in the country than them. If these are not patriotic, then none of us have the right to claim patriotism towards our country". For sure the politicians concerned must have cursed such an unsolicited tag. This is against their political agenda when out of power. They want secessionist and separatist elements to believe that they were not against their cause. Some of these leaders are on record having stated that gun toting youth were fighting for the cause of their nation (Kashmir)—an open endorsement of Jihad. Despite their desperate attempts to create space in Kashmir politics, the dubious politicians stand exposed for their opportunism and lust for power. People know they can go to any extent in desperation of power. The Valley is well versed with political chameleons, which is why heavy security bandobast remains a prerequisite at the graves of the most popular politicians of the yesteryears.

Kashmir politics is a case study for political analysts. One of the lessons for the students of politics is that there may or may not be pallbearers for dubious politicians but there will surely be flag bearers to hoist the Tricolour. Srinagar's Lal Chowk is the latest case in point.