

**03** Two decades of Modi's political journey ensured India's progress by leaps & bounds: Ravinder

**09** Dr Jitendra informs Lok Sabha about StartUps under 'NIDHI' programme

**11** Involved in duping Baramulla resident of Rs 36.35 lakh, 2 Nigerian fraudsters arrested from New Delhi

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## Country's economic prowess gets reflected in its ammunition: Rajnath



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addressing the inaugural session of second conference on Military Ammunition (Ammo India) in New Delhi on Wednesday.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A country's economic prowess gets automatically reflected in the field of ammunition and India must focus on boosting research and development as well as manufacturing capability in this area, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Wednesday.

"We have come far ahead of those times when a bomb's size and explosive capacity

were the only things that mattered. Now, their smartness is as important," Singh said in his speech during an event of industry body Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

If advanced ammunition is the reality of new-age warfare, then the country should focus its attention on where it is standing today in terms of research and development,

indigenous capacity and manufacturing capability in this area, he said.

"A country's economic development and progress in the field of science and technology gets automatically reflected in the capacity of its weapons and ammunition," Singh noted.

He said one should learn the right lessons from history to forge a new path towards the future.

"History teaches us that whenever anyone was able to dominate the world, it was because they did various experiments and research in the field of ammunition," the minister added.

The employment of precision-guided munitions at the Muntho Dhalo base had played a significant role during the Kargil war, he pointed out.

"As a result, we were able to achieve a very big victory in this war. And yesterday (Tuesday) only, we celebrated the 23rd anniversary of the Kargil war," Singh said.

After the Pulwama terror attack in 2019, India again saw the precision capability of these munitions, which helped the armed forces achieve success in their mission, he said.

Singh said one should keep in mind that in the future too, the ammunition - in accordance with their changing specialities - will

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

692 fresh COVID cases in J&K, 21 in Ladakh

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir's COVID-19 case-load climbed to 4,61,947 on Wednesday with 692 fresh infections, while the death toll climbed to 4,765 as two more people succumbed to the viral disease, officials here said.

Of the fresh cases, 261 were reported from the Jammu division and 431 from the Kashmir valley, they said.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Two ancient sculptures found in Budgam

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Two ancient sculptures, including about a 1200-year-old idol of Lord Vishnu, were found in Budgam district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Wednesday.

A police spokesman said residents of Gudsathoo village in Budgam on Tuesday informed police that they found a sculpture while digging land. A police party rushed to the spot and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Murmu approves first judicial appointment Rajesh Sekhri elevated as Additional Judge of J&K HC

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/NEW DELHI: Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday approved first judicial appointment as President, signing the warrant of appointment of Rajesh Sekhri as an additional judge in the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court.

Murmu took over as the 15th President of India on July 25. Sources in the government said this was the first warrant of appointment of a judge President Droupadi Murmu signed.

"In exercise of the power

conferred by clause (1) of Article 224 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Rajesh Sekhri, to be an Additional Judge of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, for a period of two years, with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office," said a notification signed by an additional secretary in the department of justice. Sekhri was so far serving as a judicial officer.

The J&K High Court has sanctioned strength of 17 Judges including 13

Permanent Judges and 4 Additional Judges. However, at present there are fifteen Judges including Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal. With the elevation of Senior Most District & Sessions Judge Rajesh Sekri as Judge of J&K High Court the sitting strength of the Common High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh goes to 16.

Rajesh Sekri, born in Jammu, did his Matriculation from S.D. Sabha He did

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Amarnath Yatra: 1,147 pilgrims leave for cave shrine from Jammu

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The ongoing Amarnath yatra is showing a decreasing trend in the number of pilgrims as a batch of only 1,147 of them left the base camp here on Wednesday for the twin base camps of the cave shrine in

the south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said.

While 3,862 pilgrims had left Jammu for the cave shrine located at a height of 3,880 metres on Monday, 2,189 and 1,147 devotees had embarked on the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Soldier injured in Kulgam encounter

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: An Army jawan was injured in an encounter with terrorists in Kulgam district on Wednesday, police said.

Security forces launched a cordon and search

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Jammu-Srinagar highway partially reopens for traffic

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANIHAL: The strategic 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway, which was shut due to mudslides and shooting stones in Ramban district early Wednesday, was opened for vehicular traffic partially, officials said.

Authorities allowed stranded vehicles, including an Amarnath Yatra convoy, to move towards Kashmir, they said.

Shooting stones struck the highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, at Mehad in Ramban besides mudslides triggered by heavy rains, the officials said.

The highway was cleared of debris at Mehad and traffic was allowed towards Kashmir, they said.

The Traffic Police issued an advisory stating that Mughal road, connecting Poonch district of the Jammu region with Kashmir's Shopian district, was blocked between Dubjan and Peer Ki Gali due to landslides. It also said, "People are advised not to travel on Jammu -Srinagar highway without confirmation." The Amarnath Yatra convoy, which was on its way from Jammu to Kashmir, was halted at Chanderkoot yatra nivas due to the highway blockade, the officials said.

Kashmiri journalist stopped from flying to Sri Lanka

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Immigration authorities at the airport here stopped yet another Kashmiri journalist from travelling abroad, citing restrictions imposed by the Jammu and Kashmir Police, officials said on Wednesday.

Akash Hassan, who hails from Anantnag district

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

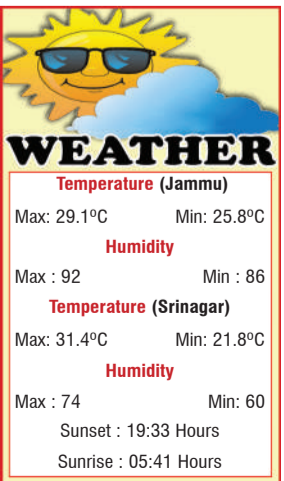
TAD issues selection list under top 50 coaching scheme

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Tribal Affairs Department (TAD), J&K on Wednesday issued the selection list of Top 50 coaching schemes for tribal students preparing for NEET/JEE examinations.

Earlier this month, the department had invited applications from desirous students for availing this scheme which aims to provide coaching to

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 29.1°C Min: 25.8°C

Humidity

Max : 92 Min : 86

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 31.4°C Min: 21.8°C

Humidity

Max : 74 Min: 60

Sunset : 19:33 Hours

Sunrise : 05:41 Hours

## Sonia questioned by ED for 3rd time, charge-sheet soon

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Congress chief Sonia Gandhi was questioned by the (ED) for the third time in a week on Wednesday over her role in the National Herald newspaper linked money laundering case, as the political slugfest between the BJP and the Congress continued over the agency action.

Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials said Gandhi, 75, was quizzed for three hours after which they indicated that the recording of her statement had concluded. The officials said the agency is likely to soon file a



charge sheet in the case in which the statements of Sonia and Rahul Gandhi and other Congress leaders Pawan Bansal and

noted the law was enacted to address the urgent need for a comprehensive legislation to



prevent money laundering and prosecute those indulging in activities related to the proceeds of crime.

"Considering the purposes and objects of the legislation in the form of 2002 Act and



the background in which it had been enacted owing to the commitment made to the international bodies and on

EC conducts workshop for officers in Kashmir

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Wednesday organized a day-long workshop on first level checking (FLC) of EVM and VVPAT for the election officers of all districts of the Kashmir Valley, an official spokesman said.

The workshop for district election officers (DEOs) and deputy district election officers (DDEOs) was conducted at SKICC here, he said.

The programme was organised by the ECI in collaboration with Chief Election Office J-K and District Election Officer (deputy commissioner),

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

2 persons associated with media organisations detained under PSA in J&K in 2022: Govt

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Two persons associated with media organisations were detained under the Public Safety Act in Jammu and Kashmir this year, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said on Wednesday.

Rai was replying to a question in Rajya Sabha on whether Jammu and Kashmir has seen an increase in detention of journalists and local media organisations and a rise in the number of internet shut-downs by authorities since the revocation of Articles 370 and 35-A in August 2019.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## 6,514 KPs still living in Kashmir Valley: Govt tells RS

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Altogether 6,514 Kashmiri Pandits are still residing in Kashmir valley -- highest 2,639 in Kulgam district, Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said on Wednesday.

Rai said in Rajya Sabha that no Kashmiri Pandit has left the valley in 2022.

The number of Kashmiri Pandits who are still residing in the valley as on July 20 is 6,514, he said, replying to a written question.

The minister said the highest number of Kashmiri Pandits are living in Kulgam district (2,639), followed by

Budgam (1,204), Anantnag (808), Pulwama (579), Srinagar (455), Shopian (320), and Baramulla (294), among others.

As many as 12 Kashmiri Pandits were killed by militants in Jammu and Kashmir during 2020, 2021 and 2022, he said.

Replying to another question, Rai said the government has a policy of zero tolerance against terrorism and the security situation has improved significantly in the Union territory.

There has been substantial decline in terrorist attacks -- from 417 in 2018 to 229

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Yasin Malik hospitalised, said to be stable

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik, who was on a hunger strike in Tihar Jail here, has been admitted to the RML hospital following a fluctuation in blood pressure, sources said on Wednesday, adding he is stable.

Malik has submitted a letter to the doctors at the medical facility, saying he did not want to be treated, they said.

"He was admitted to RML hospital on Tuesday after fluctuation in his BP levels," a source said.

His condition was reported to be stable by evening and his vitals were being

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## If BJP misuses ED, where from Rs 41 Cr came to TMC minister's lady aide



JAMMU: In the seventy fifth year of India's independence, a new 'fervour' of Satyagrah is galore from North to South and East to West. The Satyagrah in the beginning of the last century was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi for freedom of India and its new version in this century is for raising the voice against asking questions to the Gandhis for alleged acts of corruption. Another significant difference in Satyagrah of the Mahatma Gandhi times and the current Gandhis is that in the earthier spell it used to be non-violent but now violence is core of the protests.

India has witnessed violent protests in the various cities during questioning of Rahul Gandhi by the Enforcement Directorate in mid June this year. The same is on foreplay now when his mother and the Congress President Sonia Gandhi is under the scanner.

The Congress of India's independence fame is struggling hard to make its presence felt for a wrong reason when the Gandhis are facing rough weather for their alleged involvement in the

National Herald Case. From supremos of various wings to chief ministers of the Congress ruled states and from the high up to the lower rung leaders, the grand old party is seen parading on the streets of New Delhi alongside their accused bosses, currently on bail.

Sonia-Rahul Gandhi have given Satyagrah a new definition and dimension.

If the modern Gandhis version of Satyagrah succeeds in gaining currency, the day is not far when the other parties like Trinamool Congress, Nationalist Congress Party, Aam Aadmi Party, National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party will also emulate it. In such a situation, it will be a unique scenario across the country with the cars and two-wheelers vanishing in flames and the public property getting razed to ground. These parties too are under the scanner of the Enforcement Directorate with the former (then sitting) ministers of Maharashtra Anil Deshmukh and Nawab Malik, AAP's sitting minister in Delhi Satynder Jain and TMC's sitting minister in West Bengal Partha Chatterjee in jail on police remand. NC's Farooq Abdullah is all set to appear before the ED in Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association scam in the next few days while PDP

President Mehbooba Mufti's mother Begum Gulshan had been served notices by the Agency in a money laundering case months ago.

Imagine the TMC coming into support of its minister Partha Chatterjee, like the Congress did in the case of Sonia-Rahul Gandhi. With its anarchist mindset West Bengal will surely be on fire. For what?

The opposition parties across the country have launched an orchestrated campaign against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP for 'misusing' the agencies like Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation for settling scores with their political adversaries. They continue to parrot the allegations like the Enforcement Directorate being the Election Department of the BJP and calling names to the other central agencies. Assuming that the central agencies were being misused by the ruling party at the Centre, how come over lakh crore rupee cash and properties were seized from the tainted politicians, their kin and others during the past few years?

The opposition allegations fall flat before the single case of West Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee, who is currently languishing in a Kolkata lock-up. The nation is aghast to watch a

young model rocking in one frame of television screens with heaps of cash as also the old Bengal minister in the other two frames. Imagine the enormity of corruption and malpractices, Partha Chatterjee, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate last week in a teacher recruitment scam, has a luxury flat exclusively for his dogs.

The ED unearthed many disproportionate assets of Partha Chatterjee since his arrest, of which were three flats in West Bengal's Diamond City. His arrest followed Rs 21 crore in cash and jewellery worth above Rs 1 crore being recovered from the Kolkata residence of his 'aide' Arpita Mukherjee. Late this evening, another cache of Rs 20 crore and gold worth Rs 2 crore has so far been seized in another flat. This accumulates the seizure to over Rs 41 crore cash besides gold and silver jewellery. The counting of the cash is on and Arpita is reported to have told her investigators that this money belonged to Mamta's arrested minister.

The seizure after seizure is a warning signal for the high-profile Indian politicians, who are mobilizing cadres to organize Satyagrah against the Enforcement Directorate for them to cover up their alleged corruption. Partha and Arpita episode has established the credibility of the agency.