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Eco Survey pegs India GDP growth at 6.5-7 pc

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

SC stays UP Govt's directive to shop owners to display names

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

JKiians showcased their talent in Literary activities

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

LG reviews preparations for celebration

of Independence Day-2024

Directs concerned departments to launch 'Ek Ped Shaheedo Ke Naam-paying

respect to martyrs by planting trees' at prominent public places and memorials

Budget will set roadmap for next 5 years, lay foundation of Viksit Bharat by 2047: PM



PM Narendra Modi briefing media before beginning of Budget Session at Parliament House in New Delhi on Monday.

however, is entitled to intro-

duce any new item, depend-

A Congress MP said his

party highlighted its demand

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The number of

pilgrims who paid obeisance

to Lord Shiva at Amarnath

cave shrine in South Kashmir crossed the four

lakh mark on Monday as

more than 12,000 yatris had

darshan of the naturally

formed ice lingam, officials

"As many as 12,539 pil-

grims performed the vatra on

Monday and had darshan of

Baba Bholenath on the 24th

day of the annual yatra," the

They said the number of

pilgrims who have been to

the 3,880-metre high cave

shrine has now reached

said here.

permission of the Chair.

be identified.

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Budget-2024 will set the direction of the next five years of the current government and will lay a strong foundation for the dream of Viksit Bharat by 2047", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said while talking to media before the start of the Budget Session on

Speaking on the occasion, the

Prime Minister reiterated the pride in the fact that after a gap of 60 years a government has come for the third consecutive year. Placing of the Budget by a third term government is being seen by the nation as a glorious event, said the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister said that this Budget is a milestone budget of the Amrit Kaal and the government is working to realize the guarantees given over a >> Placing of the Budget by a third term government is being seen as a glorious event by the nation"

This Budget will set the direction of the next five years of the current government and will lay a strong foundation for the dream of Viksit Bharat by 2047

Rise up above party politics and commit to the nation by making use of the dignified platform of the Parliament

Till 2029 the only priority should be the country, its poor, farmers, women and the youth

Muzzling of the elected government and its Prime Minister has no place in democratic traditions

First time members should be allowed to come forward and present their views

This House is not meant for political parties, this House is meant for the country. It is not meant to serve the Parliamentarians but 140 crore citizens of India

He highlighted that India is the fastest growing country among the major economies with about 8 percent growth in the last three consecu-

tive years. Today, opportunities are at the peak due to positive outlook, investment and performance, he said. Noting that all the battles have now

meeting with the Deputy Commissioners, and senior officers of Civil and Police administration to review the preparations Independence

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant

Governor, Manoj Sinha on

Monday chaired a high-level

The meeting was attended by Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar. Advisor to Lt Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; RR

Celebration.

Swain, DGP; Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Ecology Environment Department; Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary Home Department; Administrative Secretaries; Divisional Deputy Commissioners: Commissioners, HODs and senior officials of Security forces, Civil and Police Administration, in

LG Manoj Sinha chairing a review meeting at Srinagar on Monday.

the District Administrations and the line departments to ensure all arrangements for hassle- free and smooth conduct of the Independence Day events across the UT.

The Lt Governor directed

He emphasized the importance of all stakeholders working together to facilitate people's active participation and meticulous planning of activities and events to honour freedom fighters,

LS, RS each to have 20-hr general discussion on budget

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are each likely to have a 20-hour discussion on the Union budget, which Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present on Tuesday, with the Lower House expected to have separate debates covering ministries of railways. education, health, MSME and food processing, sources

The business advisory committees (BAC), which have representatives from different parties, of the two Houses met on Monday to finalise the agenda for the session. The government,

Police issues alert on JeM propaganda video, asks people not to share it **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Monday issued an alert about a propaganda video by the pro-Pakistan banned terror out-Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), cautioning people against sharing it as it may attract charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The JeM has produced a 5 minute and 55 second video with a poster of the Bollywood movie Phantom.

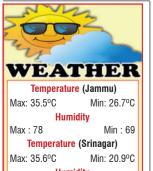
The police said in a statement the clip was released around 2 PM.

"Under no circumstances should this video be forwarded. It should be remembered that possessing and forwarding content of this nature is an offence under sections 13 and 18 of the UAPA," J&K Police said on X.

The police asked people and officials to ensure the video is not forwarded to anyone in any manner.

"Second, they should report via a message from whom they received this

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Sunset: 19:36 Hours

Sunrise: 05:37 Hours

Min: 35

Max: 57

Terror attack on Army post, VDG's house foiled in Rajouri; search ops underway

STATE TIMES NEWS

ing upon exigencies, with the RAJOURI/JAMMU: Army troops thwarted a terrorist In Rajya Sabha, sources attack on a security post and said, a discussion for eight house of a village defence guard (VDG) in Jammu and hours is likely to be scheduled on the appropriation Kashmir's Rajouri district and finance bills, and a fourearly Monday morning, offihour debate each on four cials said. ministries, which are yet to A cordon and search opera-

tion was launched to track down the terrorists, triggering gunfight, they added. A terrorist has been killed

Amarnath Yatra crosses 4 lakh mark in 24 days

Over 3,200 pilgrims leave from Jammu for Valley

The officials said 7,760

male pilgrims, 2,772 female

pilgrims, 175 Sadhus and

one Sadhvi were among those

who paid obeisance at the

for short-duration discussions on issues like the and a jawan and a civilian, kin of the VDG whose house Agnipath scheme and the NEET row during the Lok was attacked, suffered meeting. according BACSabha injuries, However, it was decided "Terrorists attacked the

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house of a VDC (member) at Gunda, Rajouri at 03.10 hours. A nearby Army column reacted and a firefight ensued," White Knight Corps

ing," it added. It further said that the Indian Army acted on intelligence, anticipating the threat to a VDG in a remote

area in Rajouri-Reasi.

highlights strength of our economy, showcases various Govt reforms: PM **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has remarked that the Economic Survey highlights the prevailing strengths of our economy and also showcases the outcomes of the various reforms brought by the Government. The Prime Minister posted on X: "The Economic Survey highlights the prevailing strengths of our economy and also showcases the outcomes of the various reforms Government has brought. It also identifies areas for further growth and progress as we move towards building a Viksit Bharat.

intervened, ensuring no harm to the VDC member and his family", it said.

The operations are continu-

ing and the firefight is in progress, the Corps said. According to officials, the terrorists fired on the house of the VDG and ex-service-

man Parshottam Kumar. who is also a Shourya Chakra awardee, in Gundha area of Khawas tehsil. The security personnel retaliated after the terrorists threw a grenade, following

which they attacked a newly

established Army picket in the area around 4 am.

"It's a poster Govt in Punjab" ■ STATE TIMES NEWS tance to farmers but the

AAP Govt cheats farmers: Chugh

CHANDIGARH:

person and through virtual

National Secretary Tarun Chugh on Monday said that the AAP government in Punjab has cheated the farmers by not taking care of them.

In a statement, Chugh said as soon as the Bhagwant Mann government came to power it made

a series of promises.

AAP government had failed



plight. He said the Bhagwant

"But today the entire farming community in the state is so disappointed and disillusioned ", he said.

Chugh said though the Modi government has been

dismally to improve their

Mann government promised to waive farmers' loans but nothing has happened.

"It is only a poster government, which is more into publicity and

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providing all kind of assis-■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 CS assures Industries, Trade bodies of periodical

review of issues for quality resolution

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Monday held a joint meeting of representatives of the trade and Industrial bodies of J&K to take first hand appraisal of the issues faced by them for redressal in a time bound manner.

Present in the meeting were Principal Secretary, Commissioner Culture: Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Secretary, Labour & Employment; MD, JKTPO: Director Handicrafts. Kashmir/ Jammu; Director Industries, Jammu/Kashmir and other



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting at Srinagar.

concerned officers

After listening to each of the participating representative, the Chief Secretary assured them of quality reso-

extensive periodical reviews. He directed the concerned for segregation of these issues to resolve them in a

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Jammu under attack, opposition should stop its wrong-footed slogans



Jammu is under attack. It should be clear to all stakeholders in the region that recent series of terror attacks are not on the army alone, these are ${\it designed\ to\ disrupt\ hard-earned}$ peace of the region, and that impacts everyone .Newer dimen-

sions have surfaced with a discourse of terror returning to Jammu region, superseding its image of a region of peace. Jammu, by any calculus, anchors peace and stability for the whole of Jammu and Kashmir, today when it is Union Territory, and earlier when it was part of the special status state prior to August 5, 2019 when Article 370 became null and void.

Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi visited Jammu region twice since he took over on July 1. This shows how serious is the army about these terror attacks and their impact on the region and its residents. The terror attacks, in whatever form they take place, have a tendency to resonate across the country. as the soldiers belong to the whole nation. In the recent weeks, nine soldiers, including Captain, were lost within a span of a week in Kathua and Doda districts. They were from Uttarakhand, and few others states. When body bags of the brave soldiers, who sacrifice their lives in line of duty in Jammu and Kashmir, are taken to homes, the whole nation feels the pain. Their families are stoic and gradually become icons of bravery, bearing the loss of their sons with unprecedented fortitude.

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Over 1.600 security forces

and 174 children also per-

As per the officials, there

have been two deaths -- a

formed the pilgrimage.

sevadar from Haryana

Pakistan has made Jammu region as its latest theatre of proxy war of a different kind with purpose. It was waiting for the **NEWS ANALYSIS**

opportunity to strike. It got the opportunity when the troops were moved out of Jammu region to border with China in Ladakh, and also to meet other exigencies. It was natural that with the movement of the troops anti-counter terrorism grid would leave some gaps open. Pakistan has filled these gaps with its terrorists, who are highly trained and motivated. They have been able to attack with precision, promoting the Indian army to induct more troops and special forces to take on this brand of ter-

It is certain that soldiers will defeat Pakistan's designs and terrorists will be sent to graves they deserve, but there is another issue about the political leadership of the region. It is a fact that terror attacks have taken place, these cannot be denied. But some political groups, Congress at the forefront, is staging

demonstrations and challenging the narrative of zerotolerance toward terrorism, the policy enunciated by the Modi Government for the past decade. The grand old party should understand that terrorism is neither an overnight phenomenon nor can it be eliminated overnight. The party leaders, who have been staging demonstrations against the terror attacks and attacking the government, are

cause of the Indian nationalism and its fight against Pakistan- exported terrorism . Condemning terrorism is a matter of principle and manifestation of anger over such incidents, chastising the government over such incidents is incomprehensible. It is time to stand united in fight against terrorism and there should be no party colour in this.

doing disservice to the

The parties like Congress, National Conference, PDP and other groups challenging the government over its policy against terrorism, should reflect on two aspects to which history bears a testimony There were far more dangerous attacks when they were in power. The list is unending, starting from the selective killings to massacres in almost all parts of Jammu and Kashmir . The period beginning 1989 to 2018 is a saga of nightmare that J&K underwent. It is because of that period and its legacy that Pakistan has been able to resume its proxy war in a deadly manner in Jammu. They have a mirror to look into before making comments that go against the nation-

The Opposition is deliberately overplaying the card of terror attacks and the loss of lives of soldiers in its quest to settle scores with the Modi government, obliging the inimical forces which want such sloganeering that emboldens terrorists and raise questions about the striking capacity of the security forces. This is a dangerous game. If someone played this game with them when they were at helm of affairs, it does n't mean that they should repeat the same mistake.

For them, if they are really interested in knowing, they should look at the transformation of J&K fron the times they were ruling and now. Jammu terror attacks would be avenged. The Indian Army and J&K police are capable of doing so, but what has been gained in the Union Territory should not be overlooked . Kashmir is witnessing peace after decades and ignoring that too is living in a denial

The Opposition should come out of its frozen mindset and recognize the reality as it exists across Jammu and Kashmir. Its selective approach could be self-defeating.