

03 High-level US delegation meets Dr Jitendra, discusses bilateral collaboration

09 Couple among six killed in separate mishaps

10 Chess Olympiad: India 'B' team wins bronze in Open section; India 'A' women also finish third

Youth attaining 18 years age on Oct 1, 2022 or earlier to become voters in J&K

Draft Roll to be published on Sept 15; claims, objections to be filed between Sep 15-Oct 25; final rolls on Nov 25, 2022

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir youth attaining 18 years of age on October 1, 2022 or earlier are set to get an opportunity to become part of voters list in the Union Territory.

According to a press release issued by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, UT of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday the draft electoral roll will be published on September 15, 2022, claims and objections can be filed between September 15 and October 25 this year while the final rolls will be published on November 25, 2022.

The handout added that the voter registration forms will be user friendly while single Form 8 has been devised for correction of entries, if required and voter card will be linked to Aadhar.

The schedule of Special

Nitish resigns as NDA's CM; stakes claim to form new Govt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PATNA: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday resigned as NDA's Chief Minister to stake claim to form a new government after being declared, unanimously, the leader of the opposition Grand Alliance.

Kumar tendered his resignation to Governor Phagu Chauhan, after a meeting of MPs and MLAs of his JD(U) where ally BJP was accused of backstabbing .

State BJP president Sanjay Jaiswal hit back, accusing Kumar of betraying the mandate of 2020 assembly polls for which Nitish Kumar will be punished by

Army JCO cremated with full military honours in Kathua

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA/JAMMU: A Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) of Army, who was trampled to death by an elephant in West Bengal, was cremated with full military honours at his home town in Kathua district on Tuesday, officials said.

Subedar Ram Singh of 25 Grenadiers was on duty when a group of

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Restrictions imposed in some parts of Budgam

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Authorities in Budgam district on Tuesday imposed restrictions in some areas to maintain law and order as members of the Shia community observed the tenth day of Muharram, officials said.

The officials said restrictions on the movement and assembly of people were imposed as a

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 35.1°C Min: 27.0°C

Humidity

Max : 80 Min : 75

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 31.7°C Min: 20.0°C

Humidity

Max : 72 Min: 54

Sunset : 19:23 Hours

Sunrise : 05:52 Hours

ECI revises schedule of special summary revision of electoral rolls

S. No.	REVISION ACTIVITY	TIMELINE
1.	Publication of Integrated draft electoral roll	15-09-2022 (Thursday)
2.	Period for filing claims & objections	15-09-2022 (Thursday) to 25-10-2022 (Tuesday)
3.	Disposal of claims and objections	By 10-11-2022 (Thursday)
4.	(i) Checking of health parameters and obtaining Commission's permission for final publication (ii) Updating database and printing of supplements	By 19-11-2022 (Saturday)
5.	Final publication of electoral roll	25-11-2022 (Friday)

Summary Revision with reference to 1st October, 2022 as the qualifying date has been notified in the Union Territory. "This is continuation to the earlier notification of June 29, 2022", the press note said, adding that a notification in this regard had been issued by the Election Commission of India on August 8, 2022.

The press released stated that the Election Commission of India, in pursuance of the legal amendments in the Section 14(b) of the RP Act 1950 and consequent modifications in Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, whereby a provision for four qualifying dates i.e., 01st January, 01st April, 01st July and 01st

October as eligibility for youngsters to register in electoral rolls as opposed to the earlier single qualifying date of 1st January only has been made, notified the Special Summary Revision(SSR) exercise for the UT of Jammu and Kashmir with reference to 1st October, 2022 as the qualifying date. This means that any person who attains the age of 18 years on or before 1st October, 2022 and is otherwise qualified to be enrolled as an elector in the Electoral Roll, can apply for his registration in the Electoral Roll during this SSR.

At present the pre-revision activities as well as post delimitation follow up work is going on in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, where in the existing electoral roll of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir are being

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J&K records 626 new COVID cases, Ladakh 17

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 626 fresh COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, raising the tally in the Union territory to 4,70,827, officials said.

While 114 cases were reported from the Jammu division, 512 cases were reported from the Kashmir Valley, they said. The death toll due to the disease

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Rusted grenade defused in Rajouri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An old and rusted grenade was on Tuesday defused by the experts of a bomb disposal squad in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. The grenade was spotted on the banks of a stream at Ghanbir Mughlan in Manjakote area by some villagers who informed the local police station, a police official said. A police party, along with the bomb disposal squad, rushed to the scene and destroyed the explosive device in a controlled explosion, the official said.

One leader alone cannot tackle all challenges before country: Bhagwat

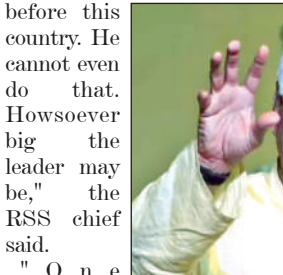
■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NAGPUR: One leader cannot face all the challenges before this country and a single organization or party cannot bring about change, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat said here on Tuesday.

This thought was at the base of the Sangh's ideology, he said, adding that the country got independence only when the common people took to the streets.

Bhagwat was speaking at a centenary programme of the Vidarbha Sahitya Sangh, a Marathi literary body, here.

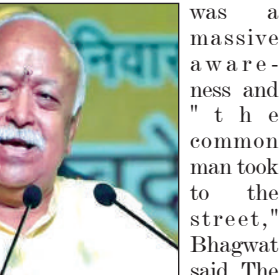
"One thing at the base of the Sangh's ideology is that a single leader is not supposed to tackle all the challenges



organization, one party, one leader cannot bring about change. They help bring it. Change takes place when the common man stands up for

it," he added.

India's freedom struggle began way back in 1857, but it succeeded only when there



revolutionaries too contributed to the freedom struggle and Subhas Chandra Bose created a huge challenge before the British,

but the main thing was that people acquired courage, he said.

"Not everyone went to jail, some people stayed away, but there was a widespread feeling that the country must become independent," the RSS chief said. The RSS wants the Hindu society to become capable of fulfilling its responsibility, he said, adding that "leaders do not make society" but society creates leaders. "All things take place through a change in society and the RSS is organizing society," Bhagwat said. People should not give

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ing establishment of tribal hostels, Eklavya Model Residential Schools; model villages; smart schools etc.

He also apprised the Lt Governor about various issues of public importance of his area pertaining to strengthening of PWD divisions; grid stations; outdoor stadium; creation of land bank; establishment of Dana Shastar University campus

and model school Pathanteer; funding for completion of approved cluster model villages; additional sessions court; relief to the people who have suffered due to flood etc.

Similarly, Manzoor Ahmad Khan, Secretary, BJP Minority Morcha J&K also called on Lt Governor and submitted a memorandum

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Srinagar acid attack survivor identifies main accused, records statement

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A Srinagar woman, attacked with acid for rejecting a marriage proposal on February 1, has identified the main accused in the case Sajjad Ahmed Rather in a court here and recorded her statement, officials and her lawyer said on Tuesday.

Accompanied by her parents and friends, the woman appeared before the court on Monday at 11.30 am and was subjected to exhaustive cross-examination by the defence lawyers which continued till 4.30 pm, her lawyer Mir Naveed Gul said. The woman was undergo-

ing treatment at an eye hospital in Chennai. She appeared before the court to record her statement as a witness and identify Rather as the person who threw acid on her face, the officials said.

Gul said the woman was one of the prosecution witnesses mentioned in the charge sheet, filed by the police within three weeks of the incident that took place in downtown Srinagar city.

"We plan to get some more witnesses mentioned in the charge sheet, after which the prosecution will place its final argument. We have been hoping for speedy

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Impressive procession taken out in Jammu on Ashoora

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An impressive procession of 10th Moharram (Ashoora) was tomorrow taken out in old city from Ziyarat Peer Mitha under banner of Anjuman-e-Imamia, Jammu on Tuesday, which was attended by a number of mourners from different regions of J&K, to pay homage to the martyrdom of Imam Hussain, grandson of Prophet Hazrat Mohammad. After passing through traditional route, the procession culminated at Karbala complex Wazarat road. Earlier, a brief Majlis was delivered by Moulana Syed Ghulam Hussain Rizvi from Iran Cultural House. In



Ashoora procession being taken out in Jammu on Tuesday.

his address he stressed on the teachings of Imam Hussain and highlighted why it is important to follow the path of Karbala. He also

delivered Majlis Sham-e-Ghariban. A procession was also taken out from New Plots by Anjuman-e-Haidery under patronage of Shakeel

Karbala, which got merged into main procession at Imam Bargah Sofi Shah Peer Mitha. Pertinent to mention here that on this day, Imam Hussain and his 72 companions laid their lives and saved humanity and the values of Islam, battling against tyranny of Yazid, the ruler and Caliph of Muslim Ummah at that time.

While addressing media, President of Anjuman-e-Imamia Jammu, Syed Amanat Shah said that it is our duty to spread message of Imam Hussain that one should never bend in front of oppressor and always stand firm against

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Govt nod for Corbevax as booster for adults soon

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Union health ministry is expected to soon approve Biological E's Corbevax as a precaution dose for people above 18 years who are double vaccinated with either Covishield or Covaxin, official sources said on Tuesday.

The approval will be based on the recommendations made by the COVID-19 Working Group of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) last week, the sources told PTI.

If approved by the government, this would be the first time a booster dose of a Covid vaccine different from

the one used for primary vaccination would be allowed in the country.

"Corbevax will be considered as a precaution dose after completion of 6 months or 26 weeks from the date of administration of the second dose of either Covaxin or Covishield vaccines for those aged above 18 years enabling use of Corbevax as a heterologous COVID-19 vaccine for precaution dose administration in this age group," a source said.

This will be in addition to the existing guidelines for homologous precaution dose administration of Covaxin and Covishield vaccines. India's first indigenously

developed RBD protein sub-unit vaccine Corbevax is currently being used to inoculate children in the age group of 12 to 14 years under the COVID-19 immunisation programme.

The COVID-19 Working Group (CWG), in its July 20 meeting, reviewed data of the double-blind randomized phase-3 clinical study which evaluated the immunogenicity and safety of booster dose of Corbevax vaccine when administered to COVID-19-negative adult volunteers of age 18-80 years previously vaccinated with two doses of either Covishield or Covaxin.

"Following the

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Banned Chinese Manja: Flourishing sale in Jammu despite ban



Come August, the fear of throat-slits looms large and the malady becomes more rampant with the monsoon rains leaving space for the blue skies. Reason being the so-called banned Chinese Manja-- a polymer made powdered glass coated kite flying string -- used

liberally by the kite fliers, especially in the run up to the festival of Raksha Bandhan and Jannmashtami.

Last evening, the country's premier television channels beamed the visuals of a young man getting crushed under a truck after being struck by the Chinese string, used in kite flying. This is not the first such incident and certainly this is not going to be the last, given the lackadaisical attitude of the administration in tackling this menace.

The horrendous throat slit incidents have been happening across the cities, towns and rural India, not only during the month of Sawan, but any month of the year. A newly married youth died on December 27, 2021after his throat was

slit by a banned glass-coated kite string (Manjha) in Odisha's Cuttack. A 20-year-old woman died in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh on January 16, 2022 after Chinese 'Manja' slit her throat while driving her Scooty and crossing a bridge. This is just a tip of the iceberg. Every other day similar stories are making the rounds in different modes of media, especially social media.

Like other parts of the country, the Chinese Manja is banned in Jammu too but still its stocking, sale and use is flourishing. In anticipation of the Raksha Bandhan and Jannmashtami festivals, the Jammu skies remain hovered with thousands of kites, some of these gliding down due to 'pecha' by adversaries. This is the dangerous moment for passersby to get struck by the life threatening string, having the potential of hitting anyone on ground. If stretched ferociously, such a move could act like a razor and cut through flesh.

The question arises how Chinese Manja is making entry into the market places despite the ban. Indians hate China for her hostilities against the nation like the entire world disapproves of the Dragon for the spread of Covid-19. But still

Indians are among top buyers of spurious, hazardous and cheap Chinese goods--Manja included. It can't happen without the 'tacit approval' of the various agencies of the government and the police at lower levels. The administration seems to be doing pretty little in checking the use of hazardous Manja. The public awareness too is awkwardly poor. The Jammu Civil Society had, in fact, launched a vigorous campaign to generate awareness against the killer Chinese string by roping in school children and youngsters a few years ago. This had had encouraging impact with the police getting alerted and the unethical traders feeling discouraged to continue with the clandestine stocking and sale of Manja. However, administrative apathy and nexus at various levels have thwarted all efforts of dissuading the users and sellers from indulging in this life threatening activity. Despite the deterrent of five years imprisonment or a fine of Rs 1 lakh or both to the violators, the unscrupulous traders carry out the criminal act unabatedly. At times, reports keep making rounds about police teams taking action against the erring traders and seizing the lots of Chinese Maja but instead of consigning these in the Maalkhana, the stocks

disappear and allegedly find way to shops again or gifted to nears and dears of senior officers' families by the respective police stations.

The use of Chinese Manja stands banned by the National Green Tribunal on the grounds that it posed threat to life and the environment. In 2013, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (then known as the Ministry of Environment and Forests) issued a notification, urging the chief secretaries of all states and union territories to take appropriate action with regard to the use of Manja, while the Animal Welfare Board of India - which operates under this ministry - had called for an outright ban on the deadly string. This being the case, there should have been a mechanism for maintaining inventories about the seizures and disposing of these in a manner the Tribunal deemed appropriate.

Now that the menace is taking alarming proportions, will the responsive administration act after learning the lessons from what is happening across the country in terms of pedestrians and two-wheeler users falling prey to Chinese Manja ducking down below after hovering in the skies?