

03 Holy mace of annual Manimahesh Yatra leaves Bhadarwah for Himachal

04 LPG cylinder caught fire, 4 injured

10 Rally of freedom fighters & revolutionaries enthralled JKPS Kunjwani campus

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Jagdeep Dhankhar elected 14th Vice President

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: NDA candidate Jagdeep Dhankhar was elected as the 14th Vice President of India on Saturday as he defeated joint Opposition candidate Margaret Alva.

Dhankhar, a former governor of West Bengal, secured 528 votes while 80-year-old Alva got 182.

The numbers were stacked in favour of Dhankhar as the ruling BJP enjoys an absolute majority in Lok Sabha and has 91 members in Rajya Sabha. The BJP heads the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Even before the results were announced, celebrations had started outside the residence of Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi where Dhankhar was present.

Joyous scenes were also reported from Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu, the hometown of Dhankhar.

Soon after the announcement of the result, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Dhankhar and congratulated him.

Dhankhar, 71, will succeed M Venkaiah Naidu whose tenure ends on August 10.

As many as 725 MPs cast their ballots in the poll, which is 92.94 per cent of total votes, an official said, adding 15



votes were declared invalid.

Members of Parliament, including nominated ones, are entitled to vote in the vice presidential poll.

While the electoral college comprises 788 members, due to eight vacancies in Rajya Sabha, the actual strength is 780. The Trinamool Congress had abstained from voting claiming it was not consulted while naming Alva as the opposition pick. However, two of its MPs -- Sisir Kumar Adhikari and Dibyendu Adhikari -- broke ranks and cast their ballots. The party has 36 MPs, including 23 in Lok Sabha.

The voter turnout this time was lower than 98.2 per cent recorded in the 2017 election when M Venkaiah Naidu was elected as the vice president.

The rise of Dhankhar, 71, to become the next vice president has surprised many.

Dhankhar, who had been associated with the Janata Dal and the Congress, joined the BJP only in 2008 after a hiatus of nearly a decade when he concentrated on his legal career.

He has championed issues related to Other Backward Classes, including the grant of OBC status to the Jat community in Rajasthan.

The BJP described Dhankhar as "kisan putra" while announcing his candidature for the vice presidential election, a move seen in the political circles aimed at reaching out to the politically significant Jat community which had participated in huge numbers in the year-long farmers' protests on the borders of the national capital against agriculture reform measures unveiled in June 2020.

Dhankhar will take oath on August 11, a day after incumbent M Venkaiah Naidu (73) demits office.

From pasting party posters to evolving as an epitome

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Amrit Mahotsav golden opportunity to establish youth's emotional connect with nation-building: PM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the patriotic fervour witnessed during the freedom struggle needed to be instilled in the current generation and channelised for nation-building.

Addressing the third national committee meeting on 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', he said the programme's emotional flavour is the core of the campaign which is creating an atmosphere of "patriotic zeal" in the country.

"The patriotic fervour which was witnessed during the freedom struggle was unprecedented. It is the same fervour which we need to imbibe in our current generation and channelise it for nation building," he said.

"It is a golden opportunity to establish the emotional connect of our youth with nation building," an official statement quoting him said.

The prime minister also



PM Narendra Modi after chairing third meeting of National Committee on 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. Ex-CM J&K Dr Farooq Abdullah and Anupam Kher also seen in picture.

noted that the success of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav is due to the contribution of every citizen of the country, and the committees at national, state and district levels have been working day and night to take it to the masses.

In his closing remarks, he said the national unity must be nourished and nurtured to

promote India as "Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat" because a united nation is a progressive nation.

In this light, he noted, "Tiranga is a symbol of unity, which brings positivity and prosperity for the nation."

It is a "Sanskrit Utsav" (festival of values) for the youth which will fill them with the undying passion to con-

tribute for the country, he said.

"The current generation will be the leaders of tomorrow and therefore, we have to inculcate in them now a sense of duty and responsibility to realise the dreams and vision of India@100," he said.

Noting that the technological revolution has stepped up the speed of change tremendously and what could be achieved in generations is now possible in decades, he said one cannot rely on old techniques to realize dreams of our nation.

It is therefore important to build the capacity of the youth and to equip them with the necessary skills to meet the technological challenges of times to come, Modi said.

Highlighting the contribution of tribal freedom fighters, the prime minister said tributes should be paid to them by building local tribal museums. He suggested that a border village

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Kashmir IGP Vijay Kumar, recently promoted as ADGP, will continue to serve in present position

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Inspector General of Police Vijay Kumar, who was recently promoted to the post of additional director general, will continue to serve in his position as the valley's police chief, the union territory government said on Saturday.

An order by the UT's Home Department said Kumar's post has been declared equivalent in the rank and status to that of ADGP.

In the interest of administration, it is hereby ordered that Shri Vijay Kumar, IPS (RR:1997), IGP Kashmir, upon his promotion to the



grade of Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), shall continue in the present position, with the post declared equivalent in the rank and status to that of ADGP, till held by the officer, the order read.

Kumar was appointed as the Valley's police chief on December 28, 2019.

Blast case solved with arrest of two JKGF operatives in Ramban

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN/JAMMU: With the arrest of two operatives of the terrorist group Jammu and Kashmir Ghaznavi Force (JKGF), police on Saturday claimed to have solved a blast case outside a police post in Ramban district within 72 hours.

Two police personnel suffered minor injuries when unidentified terrorists hurled an explosive device on the police post at village Ind in Gool area on August 2 first such incident in over a decade in the area which had been declared terrorism-free.

Two operatives of JKGF -

Shah Din Padyar and Mohd Farooq of Gool - were arrested in connection with the blast outside the police post, Senior Superintendent of Police, Ramban, Mohita Sharma told reporters.

JKGF is a Pakistan-sponsored terrorist organisation which came to light last year and is making repeated attempts to revive militancy in the Jammu region.

More arrests are expected after the identification of the person who was financing these two persons, Sharma said.

After hurling the explosive device toward the police post,

the suspected terrorists fled the scene taking advantage of the darkness.

A case under various sections of Indian Penal Code and Explosives Act was registered in Police Station Gool and the investigation was taken up. Soon after the incident, security forces including police, Army and CRPF launched a massive joint operation in Ind and adjoining areas of Gool to apprehend the person responsible for the attack, the officer said.

During the investigation, she said Investigation Officer visited the spot along with

the Forensic Science Laboratory team and collected several pieces of evidence from the scene of crime including the traces of explosives and footprints of terrorists.

Also, a handwritten piece of paper was found near the post which claimed the attack and it came to fore that JKGF had claimed the responsibility for the attack, the SSP said.

Sharma said the investigation revealed that JKGF earlier used to have a presence only in Rajouri-Poonch districts and accordingly,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Holders of arms licenses not uploaded on NDAL-ALIS portal to deposit arms within 15 days

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Authorities in Jammu on Saturday directed all those persons holding individual arms licenses which have not been uploaded on the NDAL-ALIS portal to deposit their arms and ammunition within 15 days.

District Magistrate Jammu Avny Lavasa passed the order, asking the gun holders to deposit their weapons either with the officer-in-charge of the nearest police station or with a dealer holding a license in Form VIII, or, in case he is a member of the armed forces of the

Union, in the unit armoury.

As per Arms Act 1959, and Arms Rule, 2016 all Individual Arms Licenses which are not uploaded on the NDAL-ALIS (National database of arms license-arms license issuance) portal are invalid.

Whereas, as per section 21 of Arms Act 1959, any person having in his possession any arms or ammunition the possession whereof has, in consequence of expiration of the duration of a license or of the suspension or revocation of license or by the issue of a notification under

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

18 injured as mini-bus falls into gorge at Udhampur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR/JAMMU: At least 18 people, mostly students, were injured when a mini-bus skidded off the road and plunged into a gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Saturday morning, officials said. The mini-bus was on its way to Udhampur from Barneen, they

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

796 fresh COVID cases in J&K, 16 in Ladakh


■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday reported 796 fresh COVID-19 cases that took its infection tally to 4,69,041, officials here said.

The death toll remained unchanged at 4,776, they said.

While 136 fresh cases were reported from the Jammu division, 660 were from the Kashmir valley, the officials said. There are 5,261

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 35.0°C Min: 25.8°C

Humidity

Max : 85 Min : 66

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 31.8°C Min: 16.6°C

Humidity

Max : 74 Min: 36

Sunset : 18:52 Hours

Sunrise : 06:10 Hours

No fresh batch of pilgrims leaves for Amarnath shrine from Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: No fresh batch of pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here for the cave shrine of Amarnath in the south Kashmir Himalayas on Saturday, officials said amid a decline in the foothall of the devotees.

On August 2, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had appealed to the Amarnath pilgrims to visit the cave shrine before August 5 in view of a forecast of inclement weather and more rains.

The 43-day annual pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high

cave shrine commenced on June 30 on the twin routes -- the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag and the 14-km shorter Baltal route in Ganderbal. It is scheduled to end on August 11 on the occasion of "Shravan Purnima" coinciding with "Raksha Bandhan".

"No fresh batch of Amarnath pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here for the valley on Saturday," a police official said.

Sources said the number of devotees intending to undertake the yatra witnessed a

substantial decline over the last week due to the premature melting of the naturally formed ice-shivling at the cave shrine.

"Over three lakh devotees from across the country have had Baba's darshan. Because of the rising temperatures, Baba does not have that form and the nature is also not supporting it."

"There has been heavy rainfall in many areas. I would like to request the devotees across the country, who are yet to have darshan, to come before August 5 as more rains are predicted

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Old shell explodes in Budgam

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: An explosion took place in Budgam district on Saturday, police said.

No injury or loss of life was reported in the incident.

A police official said, a loud sound was heard in the morning by inhabitants of the Kralpora area of the central Kashmir district, where some families from the minority community also live.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) and a bomb disposal squad team visited the incident site, he said. "It seems some unexploded old shell in building material

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Dalai Lama honoured with Ladakh's highest civilian award

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama was honoured with the 'dPal rNgam Duston' award -- the highest civilian honour of Ladakh -- for his immense contribution to humanity, especially towards the union territory, an official said on Saturday.

The sixth award was conferred by Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh which celebrated the 'dPal rNgam Duston' with great fervour on the occasion of its foundation day at Sindhu Ghat on Friday.

The 87-year-old spiritual leader, who is on a visit to the union territory since July 15, appreciated the gesture and



stressed maintaining communal harmony in the region.

"Ladakh and Tibet are connected by the mighty Indus River along with religious and cultural similarities," he said, adding the changing cli-

matic condition is a major cause of concern and urged everyone to be environmentally conscious in their act.

MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal said Ladakh is blessed to have the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Two Pvt Secys among 12 officials transferred

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Saturday transfers two Private Secretaries among 12 officials.

According to the order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), Babita Kumari Pandita, Private Secretary has been transferred from ARI & Trainings Department and shall report in the GAD for further posting; Saudat Jan, I/c Private Secretary, awaiting orders of adjustment in the J&K Advisory Board for Development of Gujjar & Bakervals has been transferred and posted in the ARI & Trainings Department; Asif Ahmad Bhat, Section officer, has been transferred

from Floriculture, Gardens and Parks Department and posted in the Agriculture Production Department; Mohammad Iqbal Mir, I/c Section Officer, has been transferred from Agriculture Production Department and posted in the Floriculture, Gardens and Parks Department; Priya Gupta, Senior Stenographer, has been transferred from Mining Department and posted in the ARI & Trainings Department to work with Administrative Secretary.

Suhail Nazir Bhat, Senior Stenographer, has been transferred from GAD and posted in the Mining Department to work with Administrative Secretary;

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9