

02 Five peddlers arrested; 98.200 Kgs poppy straw recovered

03 JNEG celebrates Independence Day; unfurls Tricolour

10 JKPS Kunjwani girls win gold medal in inter-zonal district level basketball competitions 2023

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Determined to take decisive, tough action against terrorism, strike last nail in coffin of terror-secessionist ecosystem: LG



LG Manoj Sinha taking salute from march past and students performing patriotic dance during the Independence day celebrations at Srinagar on Tuesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has asserted the determination of the government to take decisive and tough action against terrorism and strike the last nail in the coffin of terrorist-secessionist ecosystem.

"Terrorism is one of the gravest threats to peace and progress", the Lt Governor said at an impressive func-

tion, held to celebrate 77th Independence Day at Bakshi Stadium here after unfurling Tricolour, taking salute and inspecting the parade.

Sinha said the ideology of terrorism and separatism is cancer for the society and all its forms have to be completely eliminated. "We need to identify the remaining elements and isolate them. We need to stop using double

standards for terrorism. A terrorist has to be called a terrorist", he added.

The Lieutenant Governor touched a volley of subjects and dwelt in detail on the achievements registered in Jammu and Kashmir over the years.

"We have reignited love and brotherhood in this sacred soil of Adi Shankaracharya, Kalhana, Lalleshwari,

Sheikh-ul-Alam, Syed Simnani, Mata Roop Bhavani and Sikh gurus and propagating the ageless ideals of humanism, communal harmony and peace", he added while quoting a poem by Dinanath Koul "Nadim". He said, "We are rapidly marching forward to build Viksit Jammu and Kashmir. Overwhelming

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Operations of 12 medical stores suspended across Jammu Div for violations

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A special drive was carried out in Jammu Province on Wednesday wherein surprise inspections of Drug Sale Establishments were carried out under the supervision of Concerned Empowered Authorities. The drive was targeted to ensure that the drugs consisting of habit forming ingredients are strictly sold to the needy patients as

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Two notorious bovine smugglers arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Two notorious bovine smugglers were arrested and cattle being smuggled to Kashmir valley from Samba district rescued, police said on Wednesday.

A vehicle used for smuggling of bovines in Rakh Amb Talli falling under the jurisdiction of Samba police station was seized, they said. The arrested smugglers have been identified as

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Article 370: SC asks if Parliament can enact law to divide J&K into two UTs during President's Rule

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked whether Parliament could have enacted the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, which divided the erstwhile state into two union territories, during the subsistence of President's Rule in 2018-2019.

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill was tabled and passed by the Rajya Sabha on August 5, 2019 and was tabled and passed by the Lok Sabha the next day. It received presidential assent on August 9, 2019.

A five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud posed this question to senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, appearing for Jammu and Kashmir People's Conference, which has, apart from challenging

the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, contested the imposition of President's Rule in the erstwhile state on December 19, 2018 and its extension on



Article 3 and 4 of the Constitution.

Article 3 says Parliament can by law form a new state by separation of territory from any state or by uniting

two or more states or parts of states or by uniting any territory to a part of any state. It can increase the area of any state, diminish the area of any state, alter the boundaries of any state, alter the name of any

July 3, 2019 for six months.

"Can Parliament enact a law (Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act) during the subsistence of a proclamation under Article 356 in the exercise of its power?" the Chief Justice asked Dhavan.

Dhavan replied Parliament can pass a law, subject to all limitations described in

state:

"Provided that no Bill for the purpose shall be introduced in either House of Parliament except on the recommendation of the President and unless, where the proposal contained in the Bill affects the area, boundaries or name of any of

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Those facing arbitrary arrest or threatened demolition must find voice in SC: CJI

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud has said the real strength of the judicial system is granting access to justice to the citizens and a sense of confidence that an arbitrary arrest or threatened demolition "must find solace and a voice in judges of the Supreme Court".

Speaking at the Independence Day celebrations organised on Tuesday by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) at the apex court lawns, the CJI stressed the greatest challenge before the Indian judiciary is to eliminate barriers

to accessing justice and make sure that the judiciary is inclusive and accessible to the last person in the line.

"...Because irrespective of an outcome of the case, I believe the real strength of our system is granting access to justice to our citizens, that sense of confidence of the individual that an arbitrary arrest, a threatened demolition must find solace and a voice in judges of the Supreme Court," he said.

Soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address to the nation on Independence Day lauded the apex court's move

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"JAI SIYA RAM", UK PM Rishi Sunak takes pride in attending Ram Katha at Cambridge



UK PM Rishi Sunak on Tuesday attended 'Ram Katha' by spiritual preacher Morari Bapu.

■ AGENCY

LONDON: UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak attended a 'Ram Katha' event led by spiritual preacher Morari Bapu at Cambridge University campus. Sunak arrived as the event was concluding and expressed that he was present not in his capacity as the prime minister but as a Hindu individual. He conveyed his honor to be at Morari Bapu's Ram Katha on Indian Independence Day and stated that his faith is a deeply personal aspect guiding all aspects of his life. Sunak was seen in a video

paying respects by saying 'Jai Siya Ram' and acknowledging a portrait of Lord Hanuman on the stage, comparing it to the Golden Ganesha on his desk at 10 Downing Street. He mentioned his pride in being both

Searches carried out in Poonch ahead of Budha Amarnath Yatra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MENDHAR: Security forces on Wednesday conducted a search operation in nearly a dozen villages near the Line of Control (LoC) ahead of the annual Budha Amarnath yatra in Poonch district, officials said.

This was the second time in the past week that searches were carried out in the Gursai area of Mendhar subdivision, which falls along the yatra route, the officials said.

Security has been beefed up across Poonch ahead of the 10-day yatra which is scheduled to commence on August 18. 'The Bhoomi Pujan' will be performed in a traditional

way on August 17 and the first batch of pilgrims will leave for the yatra the next day.

The Buddha Amarnath Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, in village Rajpura in Mandi tehsil of Poonch is one of the oldest shrines of Jammu region, and attracts huge rush of devotees during the yatra which concludes with the arrival of 'Charri Mubarak' (holy mace) at the shrine from Dashnami Akhara Poonch.

The River Pulsata flows by the temple, and is considered to be sacred where pilgrims take bath before entering

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Life in jail for man who killed minor son

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANIHAL: A court in Ramban on Wednesday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for poisoning to death his two-year-old son about 10 years ago.

District and Sessions Judge, Ramban, R S Jasrotia convicted Mohd Shafi, a resident of Ind village, in the murder of his

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Cabinet approves extending Digital India prog with Rs 14,903 Cr outlay

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved extension of the Digital India programme with an outlay of Rs 14,903 crore to boost digital initiatives in skilling, cyber security, high performance computing and simplifying technology for masses, among other areas.

Briefing the media after the Cabinet meeting, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnav said the outlay has been approved for a five-year

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Former SHO Gandhi Nagar, now DySP supports land-grabbers Gangyal Police favours 'land grabbers'; drops Arms Act from FIR Victim lodged complaint with SDPO South; all accused bailed out from PS within one hour

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a brazen act of colluding with 'land mafia' in lieu of consideration, a former Station House Officer (SHO) Gandhi Nagar, elevated as Dy SP and posted outside the Jammu District, managed to get Section 3/23 of Arms Act dropped from an FIR 92/2023 registered at Gangyal Police Station on August 12, 2023 in various offenses against four accused in a case related to land purchase fraud.

The complainants, Parshotam Singh, son of Yuvraj Singh, resident of Lwer Jlo Chak Bari Brahmna and Bhamu Partap Singh, son of Ramanjit Singh, resident of Satwari had lodged a written complaint with the SDPO Gandhi Nagar against six persons, Rakesh

Singh Charak alias Rakka and Kulbir Singh Manhas alias Raju, Joginder Singh Langleh, Chinese and two others for manhandling and beating them mercilessly, causing them grievous



EXCLUSIVE

injuries over a land deal.

After medical examination of the victims, an FIR was registered in the Gangyal Police Station for various offenses, including causing physical injuries. However, to give relief to the accused persons, the police is reported to have deleted Section 3/25 of the Arms Act to dilute the case, enabling them to

go approach the court of law for bail.

According to complainants, accused Rakesh Kumar along with others had attacked the complainants and seriously injured both of them.

According to FIR, they had purchased a piece of land at Vijaypur but the owner changed his mind after some time and refused to execute the deed in the office of Sub Registrar. The middlemen in the deal, Rakesh Singh Charak alias Rakka and Kulbir Singh Manhas alias Raju, Joginder Singh Langleh, Chinese and two others, however, assured the applicants to get the issue settled and took responsibility to get the sale deed executed in lieu of Rs 15 lakh. The applicants accepted the terms and conditions of the

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Chhari Mubarak taken to Shankaracharya Temple in Srinagar 843 pilgrims leave Jammu for Amarnath Yatra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chhari Mubarak the saffron-robed holy mace of Lord Shiva was taken to the historic Shankaracharya temple here for special prayers as part of the ongoing annual Amarnath Yatra.

The Chhari Mubarak Swami Amarnath Ji led by Mahant Deependra Giri was taken to the historic Shankaracharya temple located at Gopadri hills for prayers on the occasion of Haryali-Amavasya' (Shravan Amavasya) as per age-old customs.

Giri, the custodian of the mace, said that the sound of conch shells charged the atmosphere and puja was chanting vedic hymns performed.



Swami Mahant Deependra Giri performing rituals of Chhari Mubarak at the historic Shankaracharya temple.

The sadhus, who accompanied the holy mace, participated in the puja as collective prayers were also offered for peace and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir, Giri added.

The Mahant said that special prayers were held for the

well-being of the people. The Chhari Mubarak will be taken to Sharika-Bhawani' temple, Hari Parbat here to pay obeisance to the goddess on Thursday, he added.

Giri said that rituals would be performed for Chhari-

Sthapana at Shri Amareshwar temple Dashnami Akhara here on Saturday after which Chhari-Pujan will be performed at Dashnami Akhara on the auspicious occasion of Nag-Panchami' on Monday.

The Mahant will carry the holy mace to the holy cave shrine to perform puja and have darshan' on the morning of Shravan-Purnima' on August 31 after having night halts at Pahalgam on August 26 and Chandanwari on August 28, Sheshnag on August 29 and Panchtarani on August 30.

The puja at the holy cave shrine will be followed by visarjan' in Lidder river at Pahalgam the next day.

Giri said it is a matter of satisfaction that the yatra

passed off smoothly and remained incident-free.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir have always supported the yatra and I am sure it will continue. When we welcome the yatri, it will send a message across the country. In the times to come, I think more people will undertake the yatra and the facilities will also get improved," he added.

The Mahant said that he would pray at the holy cave shrine for return of peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir as it was before 1989.

Meanwhile, a batch of 834 pilgrims on Wednesday left a base camp here for the Kashmir Valley under tight security to undertake

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CCEA nod to 7 multi-tracking projects of Indian Railways

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday approved seven multi-tracking projects of Indian Railways at an estimated cost of around Rs 32,500 crore, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnav said.

The proposed projects, which will be fully funded by the Centre, will help increase the existing line capacity, smoothen train operations, reduce congestion and facilitate ease of travelling and transportation.

The projects covering 35 districts in nine states -- Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal -- will increase the existing network of Indian

Railways by 2,339 km and provide employment of an estimated 7.06 crore man-days to the people of the states.

The projects include doubling of the existing line between Gorakhpur-Cantt-Valmiki Nagar, the Son Nagar-Andal Multi tracking Project, third line between Nergundi-Barang and Khurda Road-Vizianagaram and between Mukhd-Medchal and Mahbubnagar-Dhone, doubling of existing line between Guntur-Bibinagar, doubling of existing line between Chopan-Chunar and the quadrupling between Samakhiali-Gandhidham.

Vaishnav said these essential routes for transportation of varied basket

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 34.3°C Min: 25.8°C

Humidity
Max: 89 Min: 69

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 31.0°C Min: 18.1°C

Humidity
Max: 78 Min: 51

Sunset : 19:11 Hours
Sunrise : 05:48 Hours