

JATE

Vol. 28 Issue 227 • Jammu • Friday • August 18, 2023 • Pages 12 • ₹ 2.50 Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

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Chandrayaan's exclusive findings to benefit entire world: Dr Jitendra

14 vehicles involved in illegal mining seized

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

Majority of Muslims in India have converted from Hinduism: Azad

and some have not. Nobody has come

from outside or inside. Islam came to

existence just 1,500 years ago. Hindu

religion is very old. Around 10-20 of

them (Muslims) must have come

from outside, some were there in the

Mughal army," the Democratic

Progressive Azad Party (DPAP)

chief told a gathering in Doda dis-

"All other Muslims converted from

Hinduism in India. An example of

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



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: DPAP Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad said a majority of Indian Muslims have converted from Hinduism, adding that an example of this can be found in the Kashmir Valley where a majority of Kashmiri Pandits converted to Islam.

Asserting that religion should not be used to get political mileage, Azad said whoever takes refuge in religion in politics is weak.

"Some BJP leader said some

years ago? All were Kashmiri Pandits. They converted to Islam. All are born into this religion," the former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir said. Azad said that when Hindus die, they are cremated. "They are burnt

in different places. Their ashes are placed in the river which mixes the water, and we drink that water," he

"Later, who sees that the water con-

this can be found in Kashmir. Who

were the Muslims in Kashmir 600

tains their burnt ashes? People drink that water," the DPAP leader said. Similarly Muslims' flesh and bones become a part of the nation's soil, Azad said. "They, too, become a part of this land. Their flesh and their bones become a part of Bharat Mata's soil. Hindus and Muslims both merge into this land. What dif-

ference is there between them?" he

Taking a dig on the use of religion for votes, Azad said, "Whoever takes refuge in religion in politics is weak. Religion should not be used as a vote bank in politics. Voting should not be based on Hindu and Muslim names.

Mild intensity earthquake hits Rajouri

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An earthquake of 3.6 magnitude struck district Rajouri Thursday, but there was no report of any damage, officials said. The epicentre of the tremor, which occurred at 3.49 am, was the mountainous areas of Rajouri, according to the National Centre for Seismology (NCS). The depth of the earthquake was 10 kilometers below the surface, at a latitude of 33.33 degrees north and a longitude of 74.20 degrees, it said.

Minibus turns turtle in Udhampur; 13 injured

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Thirteen pilgrims, including 10 women, suffered injuries when their minibus turned turtle on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Udhampur district, officials said on Thursday.

The accident took place at Batal Ballian area of the dis- ${\it trict} \ {\it Wednesday} \ {\it night}.$

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Chhari Mubarak taken to Sharika Bhawani Temple in Srinagar

Toddlers' World conducts

'Our freedom fighters' activity



Special prayers being offered for Chhari Mubarak at ancient Sharika Bhawani Temple.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chhari Mubarak, the saffron-robed holy mace of Lord Shiva, was Thursday taken to the ancient Sharika Bhawani 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 Sharika Bhawani Temple on Hari Parbat to pay

obeisance to the goddess, popularly known 'Tripursundari', on the occa-

sion of 'Shravan Shukla Paksha Pratipada' as per ageold traditions, said Giri, the custodian of the mace. He said a sizable number of sadhus and devotees participated in the 'pujan' that lasted for more than 90 minutes. Amongst the mystics, goddess Sharika Bhawani is believed to be 'Isht

Devi' (presiding deity) of Srinagar city who manifested herself in a figure of 'Shila (holy rock) at Hari Parbat. 'Chhari Sthapana' ceremony will be performed on Saturday at Shri Amareshwar Temple Akhara building in Budshah Chowk area of the city here and the traditional 'Chhari Pujan' will be performed on the occasion of

'Nag Panchami' on August 21.

J&K HC dismisses Ladakh admin plea against NC candidates contesting LAHDC poll on party symbol

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has dismissed the administration's plea against a single bench order of allowing National Conference candidates to contest the upcoming LAHDC polls, Kargil, on the party symbol.

The Union Territory of Ladakh had approached a division bench of the court against the single bench order of August 9 which directed the NC to approach the office of the Election Department of the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh for notifying the reserved symbol

J&K Govt freezes

boundaries of administrative

units till completion

of Census 2021

Government of Jammu

and Kashmir has frozen

boundaries

Revenue Villages and other

Administrative units till

completion of Census

A notification issued by

Department in this regard

on Thursday reads, "In

exercise of the powers con-

ferred by clause (iv) of rule

8 of the Census Rules,

1990 and in supersession

of earlier notifications issued on the subject, the

Government of Jammu

and Kashmir hereby

freezes the boundaries of Districts/Tehsils,

Municipalities, Towns,

Revenue Villages and other

Administrative units in the

whole Union territory of

Jammu and Kashmir w.e.f

01.01.2024 till completion

WEATHER

Sunset: 19:10 Hours

Sunrise: 05:48 Hours

Min: 65

of Census, 2021".

Max: 84

Max: 67

Max: 31.2°C

Development

Monitoring

Tehsils,

Towns,

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR:

Municipalities,

2021.

Planning,

(Plough) already allotted to for the polls.

In their plea, the admin contended that even if the NC is entitled to be allowed to use the symbol, the authority to give such concession is the Election Commission of India and not the Election Authority of UT of Ladakh

In their order on August 14, a division bench of the High Court comprising Chief Justice N Kotiswar Singh and Justice M A Chowdhary said, "Since the election pertains to the LAHDC, Kargil, the Election Commission of India is not the authority

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People want to bring Modi Govt again in 2024: Chugh **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Thursday strongly criticised the unwarranted and unfortunate comments of NCP Chief Sharad Pawar and the Congress leader Alka Lamba over the credibility of Election Commission of India (ECI). "The Election Commission

is fair, it works in its own way, it is an independent institution and the whole world recognizes the credibility of Indian democracy and its institutions", Chugh said adding that Sharad Pawar ji should know this.

Referring to the launch of



highlighted the government's commitment to promoting skilled employment opportunities and supporting the welfare of workers.

"Vishwakarma Yojana is a very welcome step. It is a Vishwakarma Yojana, he huge task to spend Rs 13000 country and it is a plan to employ the world's largest class, develop their skills and provide financial assistance to the skilled youth," Chugh Chugh underscored the

BJP's dedication to governance and development initiatives Referring to the new oppo-

sition alliance, Chugh said, "The arrogant alliance is like a Pandora's clan, neither they have the support of the people nor they have a leader or any policy.'

He said this arrogant alliance will disintegrate

Chugh said Prime Minister

West Bengal man arrested with stolen

SRINAGAR: A man from West Bengal was arrested on Thursday with a pistol that he had stolen from a house

Lokesh Kumar, a native of West Bengal's Alipurduar, who is currently living in Elahi Bagh Soura area was arrested at a joint naka at Regal chowk in the early hours of the day, Srinagar police said on X, formerly Twitter. According to a police source, Kumar had stolen the licensed pistol earlier in the night from a house in Srinagar. An FIR has been registered at Kothibagh police station, they added.

Narendra Modi's agenda is clear, positive change in the lives of India's poor, fundamental development of the country, nationalism, Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka and policy of zero tolerance on corruption, freeing India from terrorism, dynastic politics, making a self-reliant India, whose shine and luster spread all over the world.

The BJP government led by Narendra Modi is a government with the basic mantra of service, good governance and welfare of the poor. Many strides have been taken on all the fronts, including development

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Rahul Gandhi visits Ladakh



People greeting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at Leh airport.

Verification of SIM card dealers mandatory;

bulk connections discontinued to

said.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: A grand traditional reception was accorded to Congress Leader and Lok

According to order passed

Sabha MP Rahul Gandhi at Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport Leh by hundreds

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 DB directives in PIL regarding restoration

Our highest priority is to provide employment opportunities to each job seeker: CS



CS A K Mehta chairing a meeting at Srinagar.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar on Thursday remarked that the next goal of the UT after ensuring basic amenities to all of its population is to provide employment to all the job

Dr Mehta was speaking in a meeting called to review the overall implementation of Employment Generation Schemes by different government departments in association with financial institutions in the UT.

Besides the Commissioner

Employment, the meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Agriculture; Secretary, Principal Industries & Commerce; Commissioner Secretary, RDD; Secretary, PD&MD; Secretary, Tribal Affairs; Mission Director, JKRLM; DG Planning besides other officers of the concerned departments.

During the meeting the Chief Secretary maintained that J&K has been successful in providing basic amenities like roads, drinking water and electricity to most of its population besides access

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pistol in Srinagar STATE TIMES NEWS

here, police said.

of Mubarak Mandi Complex **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A Division Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court Comprising Chief Justice N Kotishwar Singh and Justice MA Chowdhary while hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in respect of Mubarak Mandi Royal Dogra Palace Jammu which is a historical and a heritage monument, observed that in terms of order dated 05.04.2023, needful has not been done.

The petitioner in his litigation sought aforesaid monument to be restored and that

be digitized.

on April 5, 2023, Division Bench observed in the last order that as per the project timeline furnished by the respondents on 13.03.2018, the entire work was expected to be completed by 31.03.2023. However, what we witnessed on the spot was contrary to the said timeline furnished by none other than the respondents themselves.

DB observed that the authorities have breached the timeline and the projects are far from being completed. DB found scant labour engaged here and there on

the spot. Therefore, the authorities present on the spot were impressed upon to increase the manpower to ensure the completion of the historical/protected monument with promptitude.

According to the authorities present on the spot, the spread of COVID-19 pandemic has also contributed to the delay in execution of the work.

During the visit of High Court Judges it was told to the Division Bench that out of 25 buildings, 05 are permanently lost and out of remaining 20 buildings

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Will only examine if there was violation of Constitution: SC on Article 370

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Continuing its hearing on Article 370, the Supreme Court on Thursday said that it will only examine whether there was any violation of the Constitution, and will not go into the issue of whether the move was in the national interest, while hearing a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution.

Chief Justice DY Chandrachud told Senior Advocate Dushyant Dave that, "You want judicial review to assess the intention of the government to abrogate Article 370? Judicial review will be for the constitutional violation. There is no doubt that if there is such a violation this court will intervene, but are you asking us to judicially review the wisdom underlying the decision to abrogate

Dave in his submissions said, "You can't resort to some kind of executive



power, authorise the President to do this, do away with everything that Article 3 provides in the garb of 356 power. It makes a mockery of the constitutional safeguards. We know what majorities can do. We all saw what happened in 1975. If they don't do it in letter and spirit, your lords can

strike it down and you must."

On this, the CJI said, "If 370 has served its purpose after the constituent assembly comes to an end, why were constitutional orders made applicable post 1957? But the fact that 370 served its purpose is belied by consequent constitutional orders

made applicable thereafter, so 370 continued to be in existence.

The CJI further added, "If your submission is right qua clause 3, then once the constituent assembly completed its task in 1957 there cannot be any constitutional amendments at all, which is thus belied by the constitutional practice itself. Constitutional amendments happened and went on happening till 2019. If you are saying that 370(1) continues to exist, then you cannot say 370(3) ceases to exist. Either everything remains together or everything perishes together. We are talking about a practice being followed for 64 years.

Dave responded, "With all due respect, you can repeal it after 64 years. What was supposed to be agreed upon, that is the question. There is a narrative that Jammu and Kashmir is not part of India due to Article 370 and that is completely ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

curb frauds: Union Minister STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: In a bid to check digital frauds, the government has made verification of dealers selling SIM cards mandatory and discontinued the provision of issuing bulk connections, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Thursday.

Earlier, while announcing the new measures, the minister had said that the government has made police verification of SIM card dealers He later clarified that the

verification of SIM card dealers will be carried out by "the licensee" or the respective telecom operator and added that a penalty of Rs 10 lakh will be imposed on violators.

Besides, in a move to prevent misuse of printed Aadhaar, the government has

mandated capturing of demographic details by scanning QR code of printed Aadhaar, the minister said.

He, however, clarified that Aadhaar is not mandatory for getting SIM.

"Indisputable verification of SIM dealers will be mandatory to curb frauds. Penalty of Rs 10 lakh will be imposed on dealers found violating norms," Vaishnaw

The verification will be done by telecom operators who will collect the details of each business owner and his business related documents verification appointing a dealer.

Earlier, detailed documentation of dealer was not prescribed in the rule. Vaishnaw said that there are 10

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