

02 Cheating case solved, 138 bags of duplicate cement seized

03 J&K State Flag never had Same Constitutional Position as Union Flag (Indian Nation Flag)

08 Sarore Toll Plaza: Protests continue in Samba, YRS demands immediate release of detainees

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Inaugurates, lays foundation stones for dev projects of Budgam Distt Administration sensitive to developmental needs of people: LG



LG Manoj Sinha speaking after inaugurating, laying foundation stones for various developmental projects of Budgam District on Thursday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that the Union Territory Administration is sensitive to the developmental needs of the people and is making every possible effort for inclusive and sustainable

development of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Our efforts are focused on inclusive growth as reflected in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas to provide better quality of life to the citizens, remove disparities

and fulfill the aspirations of all sections," the Lieutenant Governor said while inaugurating and laying foundation stones for various developmental projects of Budgam District and launched the 'Beautification of Budgam Town' initiative. He congratulated the

District Administration, public representatives and the people of Budgam.

"I am hopeful that planned infrastructure development projects and amenities for sustainable living by Budgam District Administration will create healthy competition amongst cities of Jammu Kashmir and encourage public and ULBs to improve infrastructure and make the urban spaces beautiful and inclusive," the Lt Governor said.

The initiative for beautification of Budgam town will boost rapid development of economy, strengthen its ecology and ensure ease of living. These projects are reflective of vibrancy and resolve of the district, he added.

Addressing the gathering at Raj Bhawan, the Lt Governor called upon the public representatives,

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Three killed as truck falls into rivulet

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: A brick-laden truck skidded off the road and rolled into a rivulet in Udhampur district on Thursday, killing three people and injuring another, officials said.

The accident took place in Dudu-Basantgarh area in the early hours.

The injured person has been hospitalised. The deceased has been identified as dumper

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Property of man attached for sheltering terrorists

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANDIPORA: The immovable property of a man on Thursday was attached for allegedly sheltering terrorists in Bandipora district, police said. He was identified as Mehboob U I Inam Shah, a resident of Nadihal village, they said.

The property was attached under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for 'wilful' harbouring of terrorists, police said.



LG Manoj Sinha performing Pujan of Shri Amarnathji Chhari Mubarak.

Sinha performs Pujan of Shri Amarnathji Chhari Mubarak

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Thursday performed the Pujan of Shri Amarnathji Chhari Mubarak in presence of Sh Deependra Giri, Mahant Chhari?Mubarak

Shri Amarnathji, at Mahadev Gir Dashnami Akhada.

The Lt Governor sought the blessings of Lord Shiva and prayed for peace, prosperity, happiness and well-being of one and all.

The Chhari-Pujan on the auspicious occasion of Shrawan Shukla Ashtami is an important ritual prior to the culmination of the annual pilgrimage of Shri Amarnathji Shrine.

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J&K Govt accords sanction to allot 5 marlas land to landless domicile beneficiaries

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Thursday accorded sanction to proposal for allotting 5 marlas land to landless domicile beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAYG).

"Sanction is accorded to the allotment of 05 Maria of state land on lease basis in favour of landless PMAYG/Awas plus beneficiaries, falling in the categories of people residing on State land, people residing on Forest land, people residing in Rakhs and Farms, people in possession of Custodian land; and people residing on

Land already allotted by the Government near Dachigam Park for agricultural purposes, where construction is not permitted and any other category of cases who are otherwise eligible for Housing under PMAY -G but don't have any land available for construction, out of Rural Development Department's Permanent Waiting List 2018-19," reads an order issued by Dr. Piyush Singla, today.

It is further ordered that the Deputy Commissioner concerned shall allot 05 marlas of state land to landless person, who is a domicile

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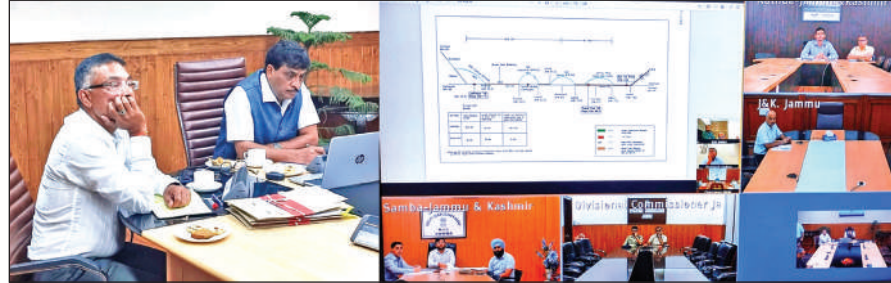
CS directs NHAI for immediate improvement of NH from Jammu to Kathua

High Level Committee to undertake on-spot assessment of entire highway

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday took a review meeting with senior functionaries of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and Government of J&K to review the condition of road connectivity along the NH-44 from Jammu to Kathua and to deliberate upon immediate steps required for improving the road condition to make the journey of commuters comfortable.

The review meeting was attended by Chairperson,



CS A K Mehta taking a review meeting with senior functionaries of NHAI on Thursday.

NHAI, Santosh Kumar Yadav, Principal Secretary PW(R&B) Department, Shailendra Kumar, ADGP Jammu, Mukesh Singh, Divisional Commissioner

Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, Deputy Commissioners, Samba/Kathua, Regional Officer, NHAI and other senior officers of UT and NHAI.

At the outset, the

Chairperson, NHAI briefed all present regarding the ongoing works on the National Highway-44, the current status of road

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Rahul Gandhi holds interaction with youngsters in Kargil

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KARGIL: Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi held an interaction with a group of youths after he reached Kargil town on Thursday evening on the last leg of his over week-long tour of the Union Territory of Ladakh.

The former Congress president is scheduled to address a public meeting on Friday

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Deadline for use of Aadhaar-based payment for MGNREGS not to be extended beyond Aug 31

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The deadline for implementing Aadhaar-based payment system as the only mode of payment to workers under national rural job guarantee scheme MGNREGS will not be extended beyond August 31, government sources said.

The Union government in January this year made the use of Aadhaar-based payment system (ABPS) mandatory for paying

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 32.6°C Min: 24.0°C

Humidity
Max: 92 Min: 39

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 30.0°C Min: 20.2°C

Humidity
Max: 79 Min: 0

Sunset : 19:02 Hours
Sunrise : 05:53 Hours

J&K Police SI Recruitment Scam: Court frames charges against CMO BSF, 23 others

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant development, Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Jammu, Anjum Ara, has framed charges against a total of 24 individuals, including the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), of the Border Security Force (BSF), Karnail Singh, in connection with the Sub-Inspector (SI) recruitment scam. The charges were officially laid out during a court session.

The list of accused individuals comprises Ashok Kumar, Ashwani Kumar, Jaisunya Sharma, Kewal Krishan, Raman Sharma,

Amit Kumar Sharma, Rakesh Kumar, Sunil Sharma, Suresh Kumar Sharma, Jagdish Lal, Kashmir Singh, Atul Kumar, Tarsem Lal, Yatin Yadav alias Nittu alias Gurujii alias Ramu Sir, Vikas Sharma, Anil Kumar, Ashok alias Ashok Pandit alias Gaurav Pandit, Pawan Kumar, Asheesh Yadav alias Monu, Bajinder Singh, Surinder Kumar, Surender Singh alias Commando, and Pradeep Kumar Katiyar.

The case revolves around allegations of irregularities in the written examination for Sub-Inspectors' posts

within the Jammu & Kashmir Police, which was conducted by the J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB). The investigation was prompted by a communication from Dr. Mohammad Usman Khan, KAS, Deputy Secretary of the General Administration Department (GAD), Government of J&K. The GAD's communication, dated July 8, 2022, conveyed the decision to investigate the matter through the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) based on an inquiry committee's findings. The inquiry

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No 'constitutional fraud' in abrogating Article 370: Centre tells SC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Commencing their arguments in support of abrogation of Article 370 in the Supreme Court, the Centre's top law officers on Thursday asserted there was no "constitutional fraud" in annulling the provision that accorded special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, which heard their contentions at length, told them they will have to justify the procedure adopted for abrogation as the court cannot postulate a situation "where the ends justify the means".

The petitioners opposing the repeal of Article 370 have been insisting that the provi-



sion could not have been abrogated, as the term of the Jammu and Kashmir Constituent Assembly, whose concurrence was required before taking such a step, ended in 1957, after it had drafted the erstwhile state's Constitution. With the constituent assembly having become extinct, Article 370 acquired a permanent status,

they have said.

"We cannot postulate a situation where ends justify the means. The means have to be consistent with the ends," the CJI observed when Attorney General R Venkataramani said it was necessary to abrogate Article 370 and there were no infirmities in the process adopted.

There was no constitutional

fraud, as alleged, in abrogation of the provision, said Venkataramani, who opened arguments on behalf of Centre.

"Due process was followed. There was no wrong-doing and there was no constitutional fraud as alleged by the other side. The step was necessary to be taken. Their argument is flawed and inconceivable," Venkataramani told the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant.

CJI Chandrachud told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, also appearing for the Centre, that eventually he will have to explain as to how the word "constituent

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Respecting LAC essential for normalisation of India-China ties: Modi to Xi



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed to Chinese President Xi Jinping India's concerns on the "unresolved" issues

along Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh during a conversation on the sidelines of the BRICS summit, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said on Thursday.

BRICS rejects 'double standards' in countering terrorism

JOHANNESBURG: The BRICS nations on Thursday rejected "double standards" in countering terrorism and vowed to work towards confronting the menace including cross-border movement of terrorists and terror financing networks.

A declaration unveiled at the end of the three-day BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) summit said the leaders of the grouping called for an expeditious finalisation and adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism within the

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The prime minister underlined that maintenance of peace and tranquillity in border areas and observing and respecting the LAC are essential for normalisation of

India-China relations, he said at a media briefing.

In this regard, the two leaders agreed to direct their relevant officials to

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Arms Licence Scam: J&K Govt fails to file latest status report; DB grants two weeks' time

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant development, the Arms Licences Scam involving high-ranking IAS/JKAS Officers has once again taken centre stage in the Division Bench of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The bench, comprised of Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice M.A. Chowdhary, heard a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking prosecution sanctions in corruption cases, including the arms license scam. The court's attention was drawn to the government's failure to submit a timely status report as per previous directives.

The PIL, presented through virtual mode by Advocate Sheikh Shakeel

Ahmed and Advocate Rahul Raina, highlighted the government's sluggish response in providing prosecution sanctions for cases, notably the CBI investigations with FIR numbers RCCHG051201850006 and RCCHG051201850007, linked to the Arms Licence Scam. The court had initially instructed the government to submit a status report by June 2, 2023, a deadline that the government failed to meet.

Advocate Ahmed emphasized the critical nature of the case, underlining the potential national security implications due to the multi-core Arms Licence Scam. While sanction had been granted for JKAS officers, the process for IAS Officers

appeared to be caught in bureaucratic delays. The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), GOI, had previously requested the J&K government to address deficiencies in their prosecution sanction proposal.

Expressing concern over the government's inaction, Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh remarked on the gravity of the issue, given its wide public importance. Senior Advocates S.S. Nanda and Monika Kohli, representing the Government of J&K, sought an additional two weeks to adhere to the court's directives from June 2nd.

Granting the extension, the Division Bench underscored the importance of prompt action and directed

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