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STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

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SOWING SKILLS

SHAPING INDIA

03 SIA arrests Sarjan Barkati for fund raising, radicalizing Kashmiri youth

04 Crackdown against illegal mining: DMO Jammu seizes 3 vehicles, 200MT sand

10 VAJK celebrates National Sports Day at Jammu

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

J&K clinches top spot in country in citizen-centric online services New benchmark created in e-Governance Service Delivery with 1016 online services: LG



LG Manoj Sinha formally announcing landmark achievement of reaching 1016 citizen centric services being provided in online mode.

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR/JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday formally announced the landmark achievement of reaching 1016 citizen centric services being provided in online mode making Jammu and Kashmir first amongst all States and the Union Territories in the number of e-services being provided to citizens.

"J&K creates a new benchmark in e-Governance Service Delivery with 1016 services now made available online. Digital transformation of the UT is guided by the principle of people-first and our aim to empower the common man. This historic achievement is testimony to our commitment to transform the social landscape and enhance citizen's satisfaction, ensure transparency

and accountability in the system and empower the aspirational and talented youth and women," the Lt Governor said. He said that it was a milestone achievement in tune with the commitment and resolve of the J&K administration to provide ease, convenience and accessibility of services to the common man ushering in a new era of digital governance.

It was informed that J&K has overtaken MP to become number one amongst States/UTs in the country in the number of online services provided to citizens. Under the Digital J&K programme launched in mission mode last year, the number of online services has increased exponentially from 174 services in July, 2022 to 1016 services as on date with

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LG greets people on Raksha Bandhan

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has extended his greetings to the people on Raksha Bandhan. In a message, the Lt Governor said: On the auspicious occasion of Raksha Bandhan, I extend my greetings and good wishes to the people. Raksha Bandhan is the celebration of the unique bond between brothers and sisters. Rakhi symbolizes love,

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Narcotic smuggler found dead near LoC

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: A narcotics smuggler was shot dead by unknown gunmen in Karnah area of Kupwara district, police said on Tuesday. As per details, during the intervening night of August 28/29, 2023, at about 2200 hrs some sound of gunshots were heard in Haridial area of PP Tretwal Karnah. Upon hearing the gunshots, a swift search

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Art 370: SC wants Centre to tell when electoral democracy will be restored in J&K SG says will make statement on Aug 31

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The five-judge constitution bench of the Supreme Court, hearing a clutch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370, asked the Centre for the first time on Tuesday to specify a time frame for restoration of electoral democracy in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, saying the present arrangement "has to come to an end". Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, told the bench the union territory status of Jammu and Kashmir is not a "permanent thing" and that the government will make an elaborate statement on the vexatious political issue in the court on August 31. The bench, headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandradhuh,

which was hearing Mehta's submissions defending the Centre's decision to do away

with the special status of the former state and its reorganisation, said, "Democracy is important, although we agree that in view of the national security scenario, reorganisation of the state can be done."



The court said lack of electoral democracy cannot be allowed to go on indefinitely. "This has to come an end... give us the specific time frame as to when will you restore actual democracy. We

status for Jammu and Kashmir is not a permanent thing. It will remain for Ladakh. However, I will make an elaborate statement on August 31," Mehta told the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai and Surya Kant. He read out from the statement Home Minister Amit Shah had made while tabling the Jammu and

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LPG cylinder price cut by Rs 200

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The government on Tuesday announced a Rs 200 per cylinder cut in prices of domestic cooking gas to soften the impact of rising inflation on households as well as counter the promise of cheaper LPG made by the Congress party in upcoming assembly elections. At present, a 14.2-kg LPG cylinder in the national capital costs Rs 1,103 - more than double the rate it came for in May 2020. It will cost Rs 903 when the decision is implemented from Wednesday. For Ujjwala beneficiaries,

the price will be Rs 703 after considering the continuing Rs 200 per cylinder subsidy. Announcing the decision, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said the move is aimed at providing relief to households. Also, the government will provide an additional 75 lakh Ujjwala connections, which will take the total PMUY beneficiaries to 10.35 crores. Commenting on the decision, Prime Minister Narendra Modi the festival of Raksha Bandhan is a day to enhance happiness in the family and the decision

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Amarnath Yatra: Chhari Mubarak enroute holy cave shrine

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The saffron-robed holy mace of Lord Shiva, popularly known as 'Chhari Mubarak', Tuesday reached Sheshnag where it will halt for the night before heading for the Amarnath holy cave shrine, officials said. Amidst religious chants, the Chhari was taken from Chandanwari to Sheshnag by Mahant Deependra Giri, the custodian of the holy mace. The holy mace will reach the cave shrine, considered to be the abode of Lord Shiva, in south Kashmir Himalayas for special prayers on August 31, which will mark the culmination



Mahant Deependra Giri carrying holy mace on way to cave shrine.

tion of the annual Amarnath Yatra. The holy mace will be taken to Pancharani on Wednesday for a night halt. The Chhari Mubarak Swami Amarnath Ji had left for the main course of pilgrimage on Saturday from Mahadev Gir Dashnami Akhara here. Special prayers were held at the Dashnami Akhara temple before the commencement of the religious pilgrimage. Giri will carry the holy mace to perform 'pujan' and have 'darshan' in the early morning of 'Shravan-Purnima' on August 31.

Subsidised meal initiative at Jammu's GMC hospital garners huge response

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Subsidised meals available for Rs 10, introduced by a non-profit organisation at the Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital here, has drawn a huge response from patients' families with nearly 400 people availing the facility on the first day alone. Sewa Bharti, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) here, introduced the 'Apna Bhojalaya' initiative at the state-run hospital on Monday. This step seeks to provide affordable and nourishing meals priced at just Rs 10 to the caregivers of patients vis-

iting Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital, Sumit Mahajan, one of the managers of Apna Bhojalaya, told PTI. "There was a huge response on the first day itself with over 390 persons opting for the meal", Mahajan said. "We have kept a target of 400 for today. Keeping in view the increasing demand, we have added more logistical support to the food point," he added. One can purchase breakfast, lunch and dinner thalis at 'Apna Bhojalaya', which is served by 5 to 6 employees besides volunteers.

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BOCA for quashment of Tribunal order; seeks demolition of construction at Sidhra

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The government transferred two JKAS officers and gave additional charge to an IAS officer. According to the order issued by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department, Anagrez Singh,

High Court upholds J&K Special Tribunal order
STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has upheld the orders of J&K Special Tribunal while deciding the writ petition filed by Building Operation Controlling Authority (BOCA) through its Joint Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu where in the BOCA sought direction seeking quashment and setting aside the order of J&K Special Tribunal issued on November 10, 2017 titled Nageen Ara versus Joint Commissioner, JMC. Besides, the BOCA by writ of

mandamus also sought a direction to the respondents to demolish the unauthorised construction. After hearing both sides, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal observed that the court do not find any legal infirmity in the impugned order dated November 10, 2017 passed by J&K Special Tribunal, Jammu, which is well reasoned. The challenge thrown by the petitioner to the same under Article 226 of Constitution of India, is devoid of any merit and hence rejected. Resultantly, the order dated November 10, 2017 passed by J&K

Special Tribunal Jammu is upheld. Advocate Rajnish Raina appeared on behalf of petitioner BOCA, Municipal Corporation Jammu while Senior Advocate R K Jain and Advocate Pranav Jain argued on behalf of respondent Nageen Ara, wife of Mansoor Ahmed Mir, resident of Sidhra. The counsel for the petitioner Advocate Rajnish Raina submitted that respondent Nageen Ara owner of plot measuring 5400 sqft situated at Sidhra, Jammu and she

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Srinagar court grants bail to Gujarat 'conman' Kiran Patel

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: A local court here on Tuesday granted bail to alleged Gujarat conman Kiran Patel who was arrested for posing as a top official in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in March this year. The court of chief judicial magistrate, Srinagar, granted bail to Patel lodged in central jail here, one of his lawyers Anil Raina told PTI. He said the court granted bail to Patel on a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh and two local sureties of the same amount. Apart from Raina, Patel was represented

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India lodges protest with China over its 'map' laying claim over Indian territories

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: India on Tuesday lodged a strong protest with China over its so called "standard map" laying claim over Arunachal Pradesh and the Aksai Chin, and asserted that such steps only complicate the resolution of the boundary question. The External Affairs Ministry also rejected these claims as having "no basis". "Just making absurd claims does not make other people's territories yours," External Affairs Minister Jaishankar told NDTV while reacting to the Chinese move.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagechi said, "We have today lodged a strong protest through diplomatic channels with the Chinese side on the so called 2023 'standard map' of China that lays claim to India's territory." "We reject these claims as they have no basis. Such steps by the Chinese side only complicate the resolution of the boundary question," he added. India's strong reaction came a day after China officially released the 2023 edition of its "standard map" that claimed Arunachal

Pradesh and Aksai Chin as belonging to that country. The "map" also showed the entire South China Sea as part of China as it featured in the previous editions of the 'map'. In early April also, Beijing announced Chinese names for 11 more places in Arunachal Pradesh which the neighbouring country claims as the southern part of Tibet, drawing a sharp reaction from New Delhi, which outrightly rejected Chinese renaming and asserted that the state is an integral part of India

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Bhadarwah Rajma, Ramban Sulai Honey bag GI Tag

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Two world famous local specialty products namely Bhadarwah Rajma and Ramban Sulai Honey have earned coveted geographical Indication Tag which signifies a great leap forward in promoting these exceptionally popular products of Jammu Division at international level. This was disclosed on Tuesday by Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Jammu, K. K. Sharma here at Krishi Bhawan.

Office whereas he wanted it to be installed in SDM Office which created tension and boycott of the Court of the SDM by the Advocates for months together. The then Divisional Commissioner Jammu recalled an incident when the Deputy Commissioner Poonch was not available at the District Headquarter as he had come to Jammu for official purpose, Parmar assumed the role of District Magistrate and started flashing wireless messages about the desertion of the District Magistrate from the district headquarter, which was widely resented. The Divisional Commissioner also revealed

about the complaints made by the public against Parmar before the then Governor during his visit to Poonch and how he assured the visiting Governor of disciplining the SDM. However, his attempts to reason out with the SDM did not succeed forcing him to conclude that before further damage is done to his reputation or more public unrest is created, he should be immediately transferred. During his next tenure as Additional Secretary to the Government, Food Supplies and Transport Department in 1997, an explanation had been sought from Parmar for leaving the State for his home town in Gujarat with-

out obtaining permission from the competent authority. For the reasons of indiscipline and subordination, Parmar was not posted as Deputy Commissioner in any of the district during his first ten years of service. However, when posted as Deputy Commissioner, Kargil in 2002, he was again transferred prematurely from that place within seven months. As Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, during 2006, his tenure was again marred with controversies including complaints in selection of Supervisor (contractual) in the Social Welfare Department, misuse of helicopters/choppers at the State

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 33.4°C Min: 22.8°C

Humidity
Max: 73 Min: 64

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 30.5°C Min: 14.6°C

Humidity
Max: 70 Min: 28

Sunset: 18:56 Hours
Sunrise: 05:57 Hours

Multiple complaints against Parmar for inefficiency, poor performance
IAS Officer Ashok Parmar's entire service career remained mired in controversies

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The career of Ashok Kumar Parmar (IAS-1992 batch) has remained mired in controversies from his first posting as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Mendhar till date, with multiple complaints being lodged for his inefficiency and poor performance from time to time. Sources in the administration revealed that B. R. Kundal, the then Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, vide his communication dated June 28, 1996, mentioned an incident when Ashok Parmar registered a case in the Police Station on a petty issue of installation of a Solar Light in Sub Judicial Magistrate's

expenses from para-military forces on number of occasions without any cogent reasons etc. The then MLA and Former Minister Harsh Dev Singh had requested for holding inquiry against him and his immediate transfer from that place. After his stint as Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, his tenure as Vice Chairman, Jammu Development Authority (JDA) was again full of controversies like entering into scuffles with his juniors and subordinates including Director, Land Management. The working of the Jammu Development Authority suffered to such an extent that the then

Chandrayaan-3 rover confirms presence of sulphur on lunar surface, search for Hydrogen underway: ISRO

STATE TIMES NEWS
BENGALURU: The Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy instrument onboard 'Pragyan' rover of Chandrayaan-3 has unambiguously confirmed the presence of sulphur on the lunar surface near south pole, through first-ever in-situ measurements, ISRO said on Tuesday. It also said the instrument also detected aluminium, calcium, iron, chromium, titanium, manganese, silicon and oxygen, as expected. "The Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) instrument onboard Chandrayaan-3 Rover has made the first-ever in-situ measurements on the elemental composition of the lunar surface near the south

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pole. These in-situ measurements confirm the presence of Sulphur (S) in the region unambiguously, something that was not feasible by the instruments onboard the orbiters," the space agency said in a statement. According to ISRO, LIBS is a scientific technique that analyses the composition of materials by exposing them to intense laser pulses. "A high-energy laser pulse is focused onto the surface of a material, such as a rock or soil. The laser pulse generates an extremely hot and localised plasma. The collected plasma light is spectrally resolved and detected by detectors such as Charge Coupled Devices. Since each element emits a

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