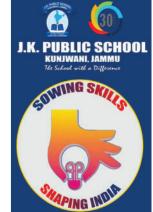


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Dr Jitendra addresses Central, State Information Commissioners; commends nearly 100% RTI disposal

Ashok posted as SSP Security J&K, Altaf relieved

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

JKIIANS shine in sports and games

EC to visit J&K next week to review assembly polls preparedness

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Election Commission, led by Chief Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, will visit Jammu and Kashmir from August 8-10 to review preparedness for assembly polls, weeks before the Supreme Court's September 30 deadline for holding elections in the Union Territory.

Kumar will be accompa-Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and S S Sandhu.

In March, Kumar -- who was then the sole member of the three-member commission to visit the Union Territory -- had assured political parties and the people of Jammu and Kashmir that the poll panel would soon hold assembly elections in Jammu and

Kashmir. At that point, the two posts of election commissioners were vacant. They Lok Sabha polls were announced on March 16.

After record turnout in the Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Kumar had said, "This active participation is a huge positive for assembly elections to be held soon so that the democratic process continues to thrive in the Union Territory.'

In Srinagar, the commission is likely to first meet the political parties. A review will be done with the chief electoral officer and the central forces coordinator.

The commission will also review the preparations with election officers and police superintendents of all districts, as well as the chief secretary and director general of police.

On August 10, the commission will visit Jammu for a review meeting with enforcement agencies. It will also hold a press conference in Jammu to brief the media on the review

tions are held in Jammu and Kashmir, they will be the first since provisions of 370 of the Article Constitution were abrogated and the erstwhile state divided into two Union

The electoral exercise in Jammu and Kashmir is usually spread over a month. Following a delimitation exercise, the number of assembly seats has gone up from 83 to 90, excluding those allocated to Pakistan-

Last December, the Supreme Court directed the poll panel to hold assembly elections in Jammu and

and Kashmir are imminent. the Election Commission on Wednesday asked the Union

STATE TIMES NEWS

Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on

Friday chaired a meeting of

Industries & Commerce

Department to take assess-

ment of the evolving

Secretary, I&C; Principal

Divisional Commissioner,

Kashmir/Jammu; Secretary,

Revenue; Secretary, Law;

MD, JKTPO; DG, Codes;

Director, EDI; Director

Industries, Jammu/Kashmir

and other concerned officers

Outstation officers partici-

pated through video confer-

attended the meeting.

Commissioner

Finance:

Industrial scenario in J&K.

SRINAGAR:

Secretary,

Territory administration to transfer out officers posted in their home districts, an exercise it holds ahead of

following a consistent policy that officers directly connected with the conduct of elections in a poll-bound state or Union Territory are not posted in their home districts or places where they have served for a con-

It is usual for the poll panel to issue instructions related to transfers of officers ahead of Lok Sabha

Recently, it had ordered the updation of electoral rolls in Jammu and Kashmir and the three

In June, it decided to

Admin orders officials to attend main I-Day function in Jammu, Srinagar ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday directed its employees stationed in Jammu city and Srinagar to attend the Independence Day celebrations as part of their official

Independence Day is an important national event and all government employees are duty-bound to

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

BSF DG, special DG's tenures cut short;

repatriated to state cadres **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Friday removed the chief of the BSF and another top officer of the paramilitary force which guards the sensitive India-Pakistan border, including the Jammu region where a spate of terror attacks have claimed 22 lives in recent past. Border Security Force Director General (DG) Nitin

Modi Govt working towards making Centre-state coordination more seamless: Amit Shah

on X.

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Narendra Modi government is working towards making coordination between states and the Centre even more seamless to reach out to a higher number of people with services and solutions, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Friday. Shah made the remark

after attending a two-day conference of governors that began on Friday. The conference at Rashtrapati Bhavan was inaugurated and chaired by President Droupadi Murmu.

"Attended the conference governors Rashtrapati Bhavan today. The Modi government is working towards making the coordination between the states and the Centre even more seamless to reach out to more people with services and solutions," Shah said in a post

The home minister said this platform served as a meeting point of not only the constitutional heads of the states but also of

Attending the confer-She advised the gover-Prime Minister nors to think about how Narendra Modi urged the they, as constitutional governors to play the role of an effective bridge between the Centre and coordination. the state and interact with people and social organisations in a manner that

In her opening remarks Murmu said it was crucial for the smooth functioning of democracy that various central agencies worked with better coordination across all the states.

heads of their respective states, could promote this Murmu said the agenda for the conference included

carefully-chosen issues that were crucial to achieve national goals.

Police on lookout for 2019 Jammu bus stand blast accused



STATE TIMES NEWS

Jammu and Kashmir Police are on the lockout for a person involved in a blast at a bus stand here in 2019, in which two people died and 32 others were

Intovicated man detained near Kathua border

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: An man was detained after he was found roaming in the border area of Kathua district here, official sources said on Friday.

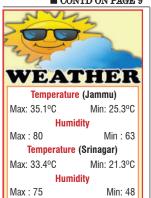
The locals of Kadyala village in Marheen belt informed police that a person was roaming in the area, they said, adding that the man was not in position to disclose his identity due to intoxication. He was later detained by security personnel and is suspected to be a drug peddler, they said.

States asked to remain vigilant to contain dengue outbreaks STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Health Secretary Apurva Chandra on Friday advised states and municipalities to remain vigilant to contain dengue outbreaks timely.

In a statement issued by the health ministry, Chandra also advised them to identify hotspots, increase vector surveillance and geotag cases for preventive actions.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



Sunset: 19:28 Hours

Sunrise: 05:45 Hours

The police are putting up posters of the accused across

police officer said.

Two people, including a teenager, were killed and 32 others were injured in a grenade attack by suspected terrorists near a crowded bus stand on March 7, 2019.

Yasir Bhat, was a juvenile when he carried out the

The accused, identified as

"We have put up posters of

the accused involved in the grenade attack at the Jammu bus stand in 2019. He went missing after being granted bail, prompting the police to take this step," a

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

process. Whenever assembly elec-

Territories in 2019.

occupied Kashmir.

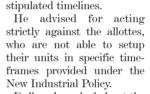
Kashmir by September 30. In a fresh indication that assembly polls in Jammu conducting elections. The commission has been

siderably long period.

and assembly elections.

accept applications seeking allotment of 'common symbols' from registered unrecognised parties in the

CS reviews evolving Industrial scenario of J&K ensuring production of the



units given land allotments

by the Department under

Dulloo also asked about the progress made on identification of land patches in different districts for augmenting the Industrial Estates across the UT. He noted the deficiencies found in the quantity of feasible land plots in developing Industrial estates and the proposals received by the Department for

J&K HC summons IAS officer in criminal contempt case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

would co-opt the under-

privileged.

SRINAGAR: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on Friday summoned Ganderbal Deputy Commissioner Shyambir Singh in an alleged criminal contempt case and directed him to appear before it in person on August 5.

A bench of Justice Atul Sreedharan and Justice Sanjeev Kumar directed Singh to answer the charges of criminal contempt against him in person.

"Issue notice to the contemnor, Mr Shyambir by Humdast. The contemnor shall appear in person before ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 this court on Monday ie

August 5 at 11:00 am sharp," the court said.

The high court also appointed senior counsel RA Jan as amicus curiae to assist in the proceedings.

The proceedings against Singh, a 2018-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer serving as Deputy Commissioner of Ganderbal since 2022, were initiated after allegations surfaced that he had retaliated against Ganderbal Sub-Judge Fayaz Ahmad Qureshi and allegedly abused his official position to intimidate and harass him. Qureshi had passed an order to

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Field expedition reveals

key insights into GLOF

risks in J&K

SRINAGAR: On the direc-

tions of Chief Secretary, Atal

Dulloo, a team of

Department of Geography &

Management,

STATE TIMES NEWS

BSF Special DG reviews security along Jammu frontier



BSF Special Director Y B Khurania chairing a meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Border Security Force Special Director Y B Khurania on Friday arrived for a two-day visit to the Jammu frontier

reviewed the security situa-

tion in the region. The meeting took place in the wake of the perceived threat of cross-border infiltration

International Border (IB) in the Jammu frontier.

The Chief Secretary took

this occasion to take com-

plete appraisal of the devel-

opment of Industrial sector

across the UT. He also took

note of the status of develop-

ment of new Industrial

estates and current invest-

During the meeting, Dulloo

ment scenario in the UT.

Border Security Force (BSF) Inspector General D K Boora and other senior officers of the Jammu fron-

Boora provided a detailed presentation to Khurania, covering all critical aspects of border security and domination along the IB in Jammu. Khurania chaired a securi-

ty review meeting attended by the IG BSF Jammu, IG BSF Kashmir, and senior officers of the Jammu frontier, during which the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

2 children dead, 15 sick from food poisoning STATE TIMES NEWS

also enquired about the

quantum of registrations

made under New Central

Sector Scheme (NCSS) and

the status of land allotments

While taking assessment of

the investment portfolio of

the units established, the

Chief Secretary stressed on

made to unit holders.

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting at Srinagar.

UDHAMPUR: Two children have died, and fifteen others fell ill allegedly due to food poisoning at a wedding party in Udhampur district, officials said. "The children showed symptoms of intense vomiting and diarrhoea and were admitted to the hospi- $_{
m the}$ Medical of the Superintendent Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital Udhampur, Dr Sanjeev Sharma, said.

"They had attended a wedding party in the Gordhi area, indicating possible food poisoning," Dr Sharma said. Fifteen children

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Over 1,200 pilgrims leave from Jammu for Amarnathji Yatra



JAMMU: A fresh batch of over 1,200 pilgrims on Friday early morning left from the Jammu base camp for the Amarnath cave shrine

Himalayas amid tight security, officials said.

This year's yatra has already crossed the 4.5 lakhmark of last year, with over 4.75 lakh pilgrims so

Disaster

University of Kashmir with facilitation Department of Disaster Management, Rehabilitation Reconstruction (DMRRR) recently conducted the Field Geographical Expedition of Sheeshnag and Sonasar Glacial lakes in order to prepare their Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) hazard assessment.

Cannot direct re-exam of NEET-UG 24 as no material to indicate systemic leak: SC

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday said it cannot order holding of NEET-UG 24 afresh as no sufficient material is on record at present to indicate a systemic leak or malpractice compromising the integrity of the examination.

It also expanded the remit of the Centre-appointed panel headed by former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chief K Radhakrishnan constituted to review the functioning of the National Testing Agency (NTA), which holds the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance (Undergraduate) (NEET-

UG), and recommend exami-The top court said since the



expanded, the committee would submit its report by September 30 on various measures to rectify deficiencies in the examination sys-

A bench of Chief Justice

Justices JB Pardiwala and

Manoj Misra gave detailed

reasons for its July 23 order

refusing to cancel the contro-

Chandrachud and

versy-ridden NEET-UG 24 examination.

"....sufficient material is not on record at present which indicates a systemic leak or systemic malpractice of other forms. The material on record does not, at present, substantiate the allegation that there has been a widespread malpractice which compromised the integrity of the exam. To the contrary, an

cates that there are no deviations which indicate that systemic cheating has taken place," the court said in a detailed order.

CJI Chandrachud, writing on behalf of the bench, said the information before the court at this stage does not show that the question paper was disseminated widely using social media or the internet, or that the answers were being communicated to students using sophisticated electronic means which may prove difficult to trace.

"The students who were beneficiaries of the leak at Hazaribagh and Patna are capable of being identified. The CBI investigation reveals the number of students who are the beneficiar-

ies of the malpractice at Hazaribagh and Patna at this stage. This leads us to conclude that it is possible to separate the beneficiaries of malpractice or fraud from the honest students. This being the case, the court cannot direct a re-exam," the bench said. The bench said the purpose

of assessing whether the sanctity of the exam has been vitiated at a systemic level was to facilitate and encourage a proportional response.

"If it is possible to separate the tainted candidates from the untainted ones, there would be no justification to cancel the exam. This is because honest candidates would be made to suffer without reason due to the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

The team was headed ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla selected

for Indo-US mission to Space Station: ISRO

STATE TIMES NEWS BENGALURU: Captain Shubhanshu Shukla and Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair have been selected for an upcoming Indo-US mission to the International Space Station (ISS), the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced on

Friday. This has been done on the recommendation of the NASA-identified provider Axiom Space Inc, sources in the ISRO told PTI.

In an official release, the ISRO said its Human Space Flight Centre has entered into a space flight agreement with US' Axiom Space Inc, for its fourth mission to the ISS and a National Mission Assignment Board has "recommended two 'gaganyatris' (space travellers) --Group Captain Shukla (prime) and Group Captain Nair (back-

"The assigned crewmembers will be finally approved to fly to the International Space Station by the Multilateral Operations Panel (MCOP). The recommended gaganyatris will commence their training for the mission from the first week of August 2024," ISRO said.

During the mission, the gaganyatris' will undertake selected scientific research and technology demonstration experiments on board the ISS and engage in space outreach activities, it said.

"The experiences gained during this mission

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9