

Vol. 29 Issue 218 • Jammu • Wednesday • August 7, 2024 • Pages 12 • ₹ 5.00

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

Reservation enshrined in COI have surely less UU benefitted those who were kept in Focus in 1950

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

August Revolution was foundation of complete independence

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

DB seeks personal appearance of CS, 3 other Secys in contempt case

Improved security situation propels J&K to era of peace, stability, prosperity: LG

"We have been successful in dismantling terror ecosystem'



LG Manoj Sinha addressing officers of Army, Navy and Air Force undergoing Higher Command Course at Army War College in Srinagar on Tuesday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, on Tuesday said the improved security situation propelled Territory of Jammu and Kashmir towards an era of peace, stability and prosperity and is a testament to the resilience and determination of the people.

"It is my firm belief that peace is a prerequisite for **▶ LG addresses officers of Army, Navy, Air Force undergoing Higher Command Course** at Army War College

▶ Emphasises on 'Whole of Government Approach' in J&K's transformation

progress and prosperity. We have been successful in dismantling the terror ecosystem and measures have been taken to sustain peace and

stability. It will ensure that

the benefits of growth reach all sections of society," the Lt Governor said while addressing the officers of Army, Navy and Air Force undergoat Army War College, Mhow. The officers and faculty members are currently on a visit to the Northern Front.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised on 'Whole of Government Approach' in J&K's transformation and role of an efficient, effective and accountable administration which has transformed the way the government works for the people.

He observed that the economic revitalization with fast paced implementation of various initiatives and development projects has ensured a boost in the economy, creating more job opportunities and enhancing infrastruc-

"Social equality and equal access to opportunity is our commitment. The transformative change has been marked by all-encompassing initiatives taken for

Security for Vaishno Devi shrine reviewed ahead of I-D celebrations STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The security of the famous Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills in Reasi district was reviewed

on Tuesday with focus on the

upcoming Independence Day

celebrations, officials said.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Anshul Garg assessed the operational preparedness of the shrine area for hasslefree pilgrimage at a meeting with all the stakeholders at

cials said. Laving focus on smooth regulation of the yatra, Garg said the security measures need to be fortified ahead of the Independence Day celebrations.

base camp Katra, the offi-

He underscored the imperative of collaborative efforts among the stakeholders to forge a robust security framework in sync with requirements, the officials said. The CEO stressed for action on diverse fronts for hassle free pilgrimage in

Election Commission to meet political parties in J&K on Thursday

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Election Commission of India will meet political parties in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday to get feedback on conducting Assembly polls in the $\overline{\text{Union Territory.}}$

The office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir, on Tuesday issued letters to various political parties, inviting them for a meeting with the Election Commission (EC).

The political parties have been given time slots for the meeting with the Election

The EC, led by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, is scheduled to 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 accompanied

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 elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

At that time, the two posts of election commissioners were vacant. They were filled days before the Lok Sabha polls were announced on March 16.

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

Besides meeting the political parties, the commission will also review the situation

with the chief electoral officer and the central forces coordinator.

review the preparations with election officers and police superintendents of all districts, as well as the chief secretary and the director general of police. On August 10, the commis-

The commission will also

sion 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 process.

Whenever Assembly elections are held in Jammu and Kashmir, they will be the first since provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution were abrogated and the erstwhile state divided into two Union Territories in 2019.

The electoral exercise in Jammu and Kashmir is usually spread over a month. Following a delimitation

Stone pelting, strikes stopped following

Article 370 abrogation: MHA data

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Amarnath Yatra: 5 lakh pilgrims pay obeisance

Yatra resumes after day-long suspension

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR/JAMMU: The

number of pilgrims who paid obeisance to Lord Shiva at Amarnath cave shrine in South Kashmir in this year's yatra has crossed the fivelakh mark as more than 2,800 pilgrims visited the naturally formed ice 'lingam' on Tuesday.

The 52-day pilgrimage, which started on June 29, will conclude on August 19. According to officials, 2,813 pilgrims paid obeisance at the 3,880-metre high cave shrine on Tuesday. This has taken the number of pilgrims this year to

Dumping of plastic causing serious environment degradation in river banks: SC

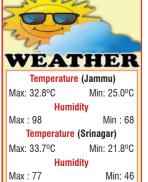
STATE TIMES NEWS

DELHI: The Supreme Court has said dumping of plastic is causing serious environment degradation and also impacting aquatic life in the river banks and water bodies in the coun-

bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and S V N Bhatti said collective effort is required to be made by the responsible authorities with the cooperation of people.

"The dumping of plastic is causing serious environment degradation and also impacting aquatic life in the river banks and the water bodies in the country. Unless concerted effort is made by the responsible authorities with people's cooperation, irrespective of the efforts to target illegal/unauthorized constructions, the desired improvement of the quality of the water in river Ganga/all other rivers and water bodies in the country will remain illusory," the bench said. The top court directed Additional

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



Sunset: 19:24 Hours

Sunrise: 05:47 Hours

5.00,105.

The officials said 1,500 male pilgrims, 618 female pilgrims, 65 sadhus and two sadhvis were among those who paid obeisance at the cave shrine.

Over 570 security forces and 57 children also performed the pilgrimage. Meanwhile, after being sus-

pended for a day, the Amarnath Yatra resumed with more than 1,800 pilgrims leaving the Jammu base camp this morning for the holy cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

ing Higher Command Course Contact established with terrorists in Udhampur, operation underway

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Security forces established contact with a group of terrorists in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district on Tuesday, police said and added an operation was underway to neutralise them.

Officials said a few gunshots were heard from the Pathi Nalla Khaned area of Basantgarh when joint search parties of the police and the Army moved deep inside the densely forested area to track down the terrorists.

There was no report of any casualty, they said and added that a hunt for the terrorists was underway.

"After specific input was gleaned regarding movements in the area, a SADO (search and destroy operation) was launched in the wee hours today



(Tuesday) by our parties; contact has been established with a group of terrorists in the Khaned area of Basantgarh

Deputy Inspector General (Udhampur) said in a post on X. Reinforcements have also rushed to

STATE TIMES NEWS NEW DELHI: Jammu and

Kashmir has seen a complete stop in stone pelting incidents and strikes in the valley, according to data shared by the Union Home Ministry. In 2023, no incidents of stone pelting or strikes were

reported, showing a 100 per cent drop since 2010, when 2,654 incidents of stone pelting and 132 strikes were reported, the data said. It also said there was a 69

per cent decrease in terror incidents since the BJP government came to power in 2014.

Monday marks the fifth

B'desh President dissolves parliament,

Constitution which provided special status to Jammu and Kashmir within the Indian Union. On August 5, 2019, the Centre also brought the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act that bifurcated the erstwhile state into two Union territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir had

tion of Article 370 of the

reported 7,217 incidents of terror during UPA government between June 2004 and May 2014, which claimed 2,829 lives of civilians and security personnel, while between June

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

SMVDSB run souvenir shop gutted in fire

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: A souvenir shop run by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) was gutted in a fire incident en route to the cave shrine atop the Trikuta hills on Tuesday, officials

The shop located on the new Himkoti trek suffered extensive damage in the fire, which was caused by shortcircuit, the officials said.

The SMVDSB operates souvenir shops at various places en route to the cave

No one was injured in the blaze, which was brought under control by fire

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

allied activities in J&K CHIEF SECRETARY JAMMU & KASHMIR Executive Director, Mubarak Mandi Jammu Heritage

CS reviews promotion of culture,



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting at Srinagar.

STATE TIMES NEWS

Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Tuesday held a meeting of Culture Department to take stock of its activities for pro-

motion of culture & heritage along with its preservation and protection here in J&K. Present in the meeting were Principal Secretary, Culture; Secretary, R&B;

Society (MMJHS); Director, Libraries Research: Director. Archives, Archaeology & Museums; Representative Academy of Art, Culture & other Languages besides concerned officers either through video conferencing.

During this meeting the Chief Secretary impressed upon the officers to take every measure for protection and preservation of our valuable artefacts and historical monuments. He

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

injured in blast near SFs' camp **STATE TIMES NEWS**

KUPWARA: Two women were injured in an explosion near a camp of the security forces in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, officials said.

The injured women have been identified as Nahida Akther and Afroza Begum, both residents of Chek Keegam in the Gujarpati area of Kupwara, they said.

Officials said the injured women were taken to a hospital in Handwara where they were referred to a hospital in Srinagar for advanced medical care. Police are probing the nature and cause of the blast, officials added.

clears way for fresh elections STATE TIMES NEWS

DHAKA: Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin on Tuesday dissolved the parliament to make way for the formation of an interim administration, a day after prime minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled the country following massive protests against her government.

"The President dissolved Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) under an executive order," a Bangabhaban palace) (presidential spokesman told PTI.

"The decision to dissolve the parliament was taken following the president's discus-

elections. Therein lay the

pledge to ensure that the

staff of armed forces, leaders of different political parties, representatives of civil society and leaders of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement," said a statement issued by the president's Officials said a full-fledged

sions with chiefs of three

interim government is expected to be announced later Tuesday. The president's move to dissolve the parliament has cleared the way for fresh elections. The spokesman also said

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chief and expremier Khaleda Zia

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Prudence demands to view PM's message with its futuristic outlook for J&K



Lassume that all problems of Jammu and Kashmir have been resolved in the past five years since Article 370 was terminated fromConstitution of India. Much has been achieved, which in itself is a great success story;

there exist formidable challenges nevertheless. The achievements have been made in multiple sectors, and the citizens of this part of the country have acquired a rare confidence that was subsumed by the violence of the past three and a half decades.

Regaining confidence in life is not a philosophical dea; it inspires growth and development of personalities, and by extension the whole of the region. This is what has transformed Jammu and Kashmir, but there is lot more to be done. This is clear from the statements made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday that marked the fifth anniversary of the abrogation of

The Prime Minister, while recalling the abrogation of Article 370 by Parliament on August 5, 2019, which ushered in a new era of hope and

promise and helped various sections across J&K and Ladakh, which were made union territories, made it a point to assure the people of the two UTs that his government " will keep working for them and fulfill their aspirations in the coming times." This is a statement which rightly called the abrogation of Article 370 as a "watershed moment in our nation's history.'

It was being said that the achievements made so far in Jammu and Kashmir are

not the end in itself. There are many more miles to go. It was a caution to all those who believe that with the decisions taken on August 5, 2019 and the journey made since then, everything has been delivered. This was a note, in particular, for the cheerleaders of the removal of Article 370 in the BJP. The party has been extolling all virtues of the abrogation of this constitutional provision, as if it was the ultimate goal .The PM reminded them that the journey and task ahead are quite challenging and formidable and it is not the time to rest and sit on laurels.

The PM's assurance to work for the people has two immediate prospects -holding of the Assembly elections in J&K, and restoration of the statehood . The Prime Minister, who has fulfilled all his com-

mitments to Jammu and Kashmir, had reiterated the promise of polls and the restoration of statehood during his visit to Srinagar on June 20 Again on August 5, he held out the assurance, not specifically mentioning the two issues, but reading between the lines makes it clear that he was hinting at both the things and much more, an accountable and accessible government after the

elections are free and fair. Something unthinkable happened in Jammu and Kashmir after August 5, 2019; the people understood that a government rich with the political will can fulfill all the political and constitutional commitments with such a planning in which not even a single soul is harmed . That's precisely the doomsayers were not expecting. They were hoping for chaos and turbulences all over the Valley. They were proved wrong. Tough measures were taken -blanket ban on all means of communications, strict restrictions on movements . Keeping people indoors was better than allowing them to pour in streets and clash with security forces .It was a calm transfer from pre-Article 370 to post Article 370 era., which made the world to wonder. It snatched all the mischief making opportunities

that Pakistan was looking for . The world kept mum on the development because it set an example of reducing the area and influence of conflict

mongers and the conflict's dimensions. A lot is being said about the windfall of tourists in Kashmir, shops opening late into night, and families strolling on the banks of Jhelum and Dal Lake without an iota of fear. These are some of the things that have given confidence to the people that they can plan their timings for outings darkness is not to be dreaded, because there is enough inner and outer light to guide them on

Most importantly, this confidence has also come from empowerment of the marginalized sections of society. To put it more honestly, the whole of the population of J&K and Ladakh had been marginalized as there was no certainty in their life and future was riddled with bombs, IEDs shootouts and stones. There were marginalized sections within the overall marginalized population- tribals, backward classes, villagers and the poor. Their chances of access to opportunities were blocked by the rich, influential and powerful This has changed . Read with the overall stabilization of the situation, it is a great groundwork for the future generations.