

BLUE MOON

Banquets • Conventions

THE BANQUET WITH A DIFFERENCE

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J.K. PUBLIC SCHOOL

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SOWING SKILLS

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Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

03 Dr Jitendra informs LS about North India's first Nuclear Plant in Haryana

03 AIIMS Jammu salutes Indian Army's bravery in Operation Sindoor with meaningful tribute

09 J&K Police unmasks major terror-funding network in Delhi; two arrested

Decades of injustice against tribals ended in Aug 2019: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR/GUREZ: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday inaugurated the National Tribal Festival at Gurez. The Two-Day Tribal Festival celebrates the culture and tradition of Dard-Shina tribal community.

Addressing the gathering through virtual mode, the Lieutenant Governor lauded the immense contribution of Tribal community to cultural diversity of the country. He also paid tributes to Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

"I consider the Dard-Shina tribal community to be the most precious treasure of India, which is inspiring the people to preserve their traditions and rituals. Its rich traditions are a guiding light for us. The Dard-Shina community's deep connection to nature has shaped a unique culture and set of values. They impart a powerful lesson to humanity to lead a



LG Manoj Sinha at the inauguration of National Tribal Festival at Gurez on Wednesday.

sustainable lifestyle in harmony with nature.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the priceless tribal culture is being preserved and their ancient glory and dignity is restored," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the Central Government has always focussed on empowering the tribal community and

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- » Inaugurates National Tribal Festival at Gurez
- » 2-Day Festival celebrates culture and tradition of Dard-Shina tribal community
- » Dedicates community radio station which will inspire young generation to preserve and cherish the values, knowledge and traditions of the community
- » Says, tribal community has made immense contribution to country's cultural diversity. Its rich traditions are a guiding light for us
- » Under leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, priceless tribal culture is being preserved and their ancient glory and dignity is

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Trump singles out India for Russian oil imports; doubles tariff to 50 pc

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

WASHINGTON/NEW DELHI: US President Donald Trump on Wednesday slapped an additional 25 per cent tariff, raising it to 50 per cent, on goods coming from India as penalty for New Delhi's continued purchase of Russian oil, a move that is likely to hit sectors such as textiles, marine and leather exports hard.

The United States has imposed this additional tariff or penalty for Russian imports only on India while

other buyers such as China and Turkey have so far escaped such measures. The 30 per cent tariff on China and 15 per cent on Turkey is lower than India's 50 per cent.

Reacting to the development, India said that these actions are "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable".

It is extremely unfortunate that the US should choose to impose additional tariffs on India, the external affairs ministry said in a statement, adding India will take

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Woman killed as mini bus overturns

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: A mini bus overturned in Udhampur district on Wednesday, leaving a 30-year-old woman dead and nine other passengers injured.

Officials said the accident took place near Jakhani along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway around 9.15 am.

They said the mini bus was on its way to Udhampur from Chenani when it overturned after its driver tried to avoid a collision with a truck. Ten passengers

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DCO intercepts illegal consignment of Tapentadol tablets

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a major crackdown on the illegal trafficking of pharmaceutical drugs, the Drugs Control Organisation (DCO), Jammu and Kashmir, has intercepted and confiscated a consignment of 4,400 Tapentadol tablets that were being illicitly transported through a private courier service in Jammu. Acting on specific intelligence and

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 34.0°C Min: 23.4°C

Humidity
Max: 81 Min: 67

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 29.5°C Min: 20.0°C

Humidity
Max: 62 Min: 44

Sunset : 19:25 Hours
Sunrise : 05:48 Hours

CM meets public at Raabita Outreach Office

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A number of delegations and public representatives called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Raabita office here on Wednesday to discuss a wide range of issues concerning public infrastructure, traders' issues, higher education, and opportunities for technocrats.

The day's engagements began with a meeting of Members of the Legislative Assembly-Farooq Ahmad Shah (Gulmarg), Sajjad Shafi (Uri), Irshad Rasool Kar (Sopore), Shafi Ahmad



CM Omar Abdullah listening to public issues at Raabita Outreach Office Srinagar on Wednesday.

Wani (Beerwah), and Pawan Gupta (Udhampur West) who apprised the Chief Minister of various constituency-specific issues requiring immediate attention.

Subsequently, a delegation from the Traders Federation of Shopian raised concerns of the local business community. They sought the government's intervention to resolve logistical challenges and improve market access for Shopian-based enterprises.

A separate delegation from the School of Architecture,

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Father, daughter killed, 2 injured after tree falls on tent

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KULGAM: A man and his daughter were killed while two other family members were injured after a tree fell on their tent in Kulgam district, police said on Wednesday.

The incident occurred early Wednesday in south Kashmir when a tree and boulders dislodged by gusty winds crashed onto the tent sheltering a nomadic

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Jammu Smart City's VIPs: Stray cows enjoying buffet of leftovers — JMC takes power nap under air-conditioners.

Rescuers retrieve one body in Dharali amid bad weather; NDRF team reaches site

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UTTARAKASHI: As the sun set over the flood-ravaged Himalayan village of Dharali with 150 people rescued and one body recovered on Wednesday, fears mounted for those still trapped under the massive river of sludge that buried scores of houses, trees and cars.

Bad weather was hampering rescue operations even as an NDRF team reached the



site in the evening. Tonnes

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Dying art of kite flying in Jammu: From rooftops to reminiscence

■ RAJ DALUJA

JAMMU: There was a time when the skies of Jammu and many parts of northern India danced with colourful kites, and the very act of flying them was a celebration - not just for children, but for people of all ages. From the youngest in the house to the elderly, every-



festival named International Kite Flying Festival is held every year from January 11 to January 14, attracting participants from 132 countries.

In earlier decades, the preparations for kite flying would begin as early as four to five months before the actual festival. Children and youngsters

DOWN THE MEMORY LANE

one once found joy in the simple pleasure of kite flying, especially during festivals like Raksha Bandhan and Janmashtami.

In states like Delhi and Punjab, kite flying still sees flashes of enthusiasm during specific festivals, but the once-vibrant tradition is steadily fading. Here in Jammu, the decline is more evident - and more painful for those who grew up with memories of paper birds soar high and the echo of "Chal gayeeeee Aaaaaa!" ringing across neighbourhood rooftops.

In Jammu, kite flying is traditionally celebrated on Raksha Bandhan and Janmashtami. In Punjab and Haryana it is enjoyed during Vasant Panchami and Lohri in Delhi on 15th of August, while in Ahmedabad, a grand kite

would begin practising, sharpening their skills, and stocking up on kites and manja (glass-coated thread). During the 1980s and 90s, thread makers from Bareilly and Amritsar would arrive in Jammu around May and June to prepare special manja rolls, using powdered glass to give them an edge in kite-cutting competitions.

Among them, Laalli and Shivo emerged as legendary figures at Rani Talab in Jammu. Their threads were considered so elite that having a manja rolls made by either of them was a status symbol in Jammu. Their manja was fierce in flight yet beautifully crafted - a perfect blend of strength and artistry.

In those golden days, Jagdish "Guddi Wala" also known as Dishu



from Pacea Danga was a household name. His kites - known for their perfect balance and intricate designs name Tarbooz, Ankhedar, Dobaaz. Chopar, Ankhedar, Bhoot etc- were considered among the finest in the region. Kite shops dotted every street corner, with endless choices of sizes, colours, and shapes. Though the kites were available in every nook and corner of town Pacea Danga and Purani Mandi was hub of kites of different designs. People from Punjab and other parts of country used to bring their kites for sale in Jammu.

Some children even innovated with tools - tying bushes atop bam-

boo sticks to snatch drifting kites from the sky. Others simply sprinted across rooftops and lanes, chasing their airborne treasures. It wasn't just a game - it was a festival of spirit, shared across generations.

Sadly, much of that vibrant culture has now disappeared.

The introduction of "Gattuu Dor" - synthetic, chemically-coated threads - has played a major role in this decline. These threads, often imported and mass-produced, are not only dangerously sharp (frequently causing injuries to birds and even humans) but have also destroyed the traditional skill-based art of kite flying.



Unlike the earlier method of skillfully pulling the thread (kheech) and cutting the opponent's kite with strategy, today's flying has become a mere battle of materials. The elderly, who once found joy in the slow, deliberate thrill of flying and competing, now mostly watch from the sidelines or avoid participation altogether. The heart and soul of kite flying - the artistry, the patience, the neighbourhood camaraderie - is steadily

being replaced by plastic threads and reckless speed.

There was a time when entire families gathered on rooftops, loudspeakers blaring their favourite music, snacks being shared, and every successful kite cut announced with the triumphant cry: "Ooooo gayeee Aaaa!" It was a community affair - bonding, laughter, and joy stitched into the sky.

Some passionate individuals even made their own manja at home, using glass powder (paws) and fish glue (machhli ki shesh), treating it like a sacred tradition passed down the generations. But today, such efforts are rare, and often discouraged due to the rising safety concerns.

Despite growing concern, Gattuu Dor continues to circulate in Jammu. While police conduct occasional seizures, and awareness drives are launched, enforcement remains inconsistent. Often, the banned threads find their way into homes through back channels - even reaching the homes of senior officials, courtesy of persistent children and eager shopkeepers.

Many citizens are urging the authorities to take stricter action - not just by banning the thread

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