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Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

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

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

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

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

Decades of injustice against tribals ended in Aug 2019: LG

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/2025-27

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

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 digniis restored," Lieutenant Governor said.

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

>> 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 ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Anti-terror operation in Kulgam enters 6th day

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The anti-terrorist operation in Kulgam district entered the sixth day on Wednesday as security forces continued to battle the ultras hiding in the deep for-

A senior police official said the security forces were using all means, including drones and helicopters, to track down the terrorists in the difficult terrain in

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Police asked to beef up security ahead of I-Day

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Authorities on Wednesday asked police and security agencies to beef up the security apparatus in Jammu ahead Independence Day, official sources said.

This is being done in the wake of a threat perception, they said.

Police and security agencies have been asked to strengthen security measures in all the districts

Modi to flag off Vaishno Devi Katra-Amritsar Vande Bharat train on August 10

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually flag off a Vande Bharat Express train service between Amritsar in Punjab and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra in Jammu and Kashmir on August 10, the Jammu Rail Division said on Wednesday.

"The Vande Bharat train will provide a comfortable and faster travel experience to the passengers going to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra," Uchit Singhal, senior divisional commercial manager, Jammu Division, said.

Vande Bharat train No. 26406 will run from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to Amritsar while train No. 26405 will run from Amritsar to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra six days a week except Tuesday," he

According to a press note shared by Jammu Division, train No. 26406 will

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PM expected to visit China later this month

NEW DELHI: After a gap of over seven years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to travel to China later this month to attend the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), people familiar with the matter said on Wednesday.

According to the plan, Prime Minister Modi will embark on visit to Japan around August 29 and after concluding the trip, he will travel to the northern Chinese city of Tianjin for the SCO summit to be held on August 31-September 1.

Modi's visit to China is being planned amid efforts by the two sides to repair their bilateral ties which came under severe train following the deadly clashes between Indian and Chinese troops in Galwan Valley in June 2020.

There is no official confirmation yet on Modi's two-nation risit to Japan and China. The visit is likely to take place from August 29 to September 1. **■ CONTD ON PAGE 9**

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

STATE TIMES NEWS

WASHINGTON/NEW DELHI: US President 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

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

Woman killed as

mini bus overturns

UDHAMPUR: A mini bus

ing a 30-year-old woman

dead and nine other passen-

Officials said the accident

took place near Jakhani

along the Jammu-Srinagar

national highway around

They said the mini bus was

on its way to Udhampur

from Chenani when it over-

turned after its driver tried

to avoid a collision with a

truck. Ten passengers

gers injured

9.15 am.

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

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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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 infrastructure, traders' issues, higher education, and opportunities for technocrats.

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



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

Gupta (Udhampur West)who apprised the Chief Minister of various constituency-specific requiring immediate atten-

Subsequently, a delegation from the Traders Federation of Shopian raised concerns of the local business communitv. 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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GOC reviews security in Poonch

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Army's White Knight Corps, Lt Gen P K Mishra, on Wednesday conducted a review of security situation in border district of Poonch, reinforcing focus on operational dominance and integrated threat response to thwart "nefarious designs" of the enemy.

Lt Gen Mishra was accompanied by GOC, Ace of Spades Division, also known as 25 Infantry Division, Maj Gen Kaushik Mukherjee, during the visit to the areas along the Line of Control (LoC) under the Poonch brigade, officials

"He (Lt Gen Mishra) was briefed on the current security situation, threat assessment and operational posture of own forces (during the visit), Jammu-based White Knight

Corps said in a post on X.

It said the GOC of White Knight Corps reinforced focus on operational dominance and integrated threat response to thwart "nefarious designs" of the enemy.

"The Corps Commander interacted with troops, commended their high morale and operational readiness in the face of evolving threats," the post said.

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

overturned in Udhampur **STATE TIMES NEWS** district on Wednesday, leav-

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



killed, 2 injured after tree falls on tent **STATE TIMES NEWS**

Father, daughter

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 $_{
m in}$ 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.

flying in Jammu: From rooftops to reminiscence

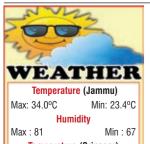
RAJ DALUJA JAMMU: There was a time when

DCO intercepts illegal consignment of Tapentadol tablets STATE TIMES NEWS

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JAMMU: In a major crackdown on the illegal trafficking of pharmaceutical drugs, 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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Max: 29.5°C Min: 20.0°C Max: 62 Min: 44 Sunset: 19:25 Hours

Sunrise: 05:48 Hours

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

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 gaveeeee 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

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

from Pacca 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 Pacca Danga and Purani Mandi was hub of kites of different

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

Jammu.

designs. People from Punjab and

other parts of country used to

bring their kites for sale in

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.



fully 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 tri umphant cry: "Ooooo gayeee Aaaa!" It was a community affair bonding, laughter, and joy stitched

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 awarenes 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

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

children and eager shopkeepers.

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