

03 CS, Secy MoRTH review road sector projects under PMDP in J&K

10 Archery trials on Sept 17

10 JK Public School Panjtirthi conducts virtual celebration of joy and experience of parenthood

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‘One Gram Panchayat-One DIGI-Pay Sakhi’ launched First Women Industrial Estate in J&K to come up at Udhampur: Sinha



LG Manoj Sinha speaking at the launch ceremony of Mission 'One Gram Panchayat-One DIGI-Pay Sakhi' in J&K.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday announced that a first of its kind Women Industrial Estate will come up at Udhampur Industrial Estate for further strengthening the Women Entrepreneurs Ecosystem in J&K.

Launching Mission 'One Gram Panchayat-One DIGI-Pay Sakhi' in the UT, here at

J&K Entrepreneurship Development Institute, Pampore, aiming at promoting door to door digital banking and financial services in remote areas, Lieutenant Governor said that with increasing female literacy rate; providing access to quality education; encouraging more and more women to become entrepreneurs, and providing financial support for the upliftment of women,

the UT is leading by an example in terms of women empowerment.

Initially, the DIGI-Pay facility will be provided in 2000 remote villages of the UT and in the first phase, 80 women from Self Help Groups from across the Jammu and Kashmir Division have been selected as DIGI-Pay Sakhis.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor distributed 80

Aadhaar Enabled Payment Systems (AEPs) among the DIGI-Pay Sakhis under JKRLM. He also inaugurated a week-long training program for Krishi Sakhis and Pashu Sakhis on sustainable agriculture and livestock management.

Terming Nari Shakti's social and economic independence as the bedrock of any nation's progress, the Lt Governor said that the J&K government has started a mass movement for the socio-economic upliftment of women across the UT.

"These three new initiatives of Digi-Pay, Krishi, and Pashu Sakhi, besides several other programs of women empowerment such as Hausla, Tejaswini, UMEED, Rise Together will further accelerate efforts of J&K government in Empowering Women and making them

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

GST Council may consider bringing petrol, diesel under GST on Sept 17

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The GST Council might on Friday consider taxing petrol, diesel and other petroleum products under the single national GST regime, a move that may require huge compromises by both central and state governments on the revenues they collect from taxing these products.

The Council, which comprises central and state finance ministers, in its meeting scheduled in Lucknow on Friday, is also likely to consider extending the time for duty relief on COVID-19 essentials, according to sources in the know of the development.

GST is being thought to be a solution for the problem of near-record high petrol and diesel rates in the country, as it would end the cascading effect of tax on tax (state VAT being levied not just on the cost of production but also on the excise duty charged by the Centre on

such output).

In June, the Kerala High Court, based on a writ petition, had asked the GST Council to decide on bringing petrol and diesel within the goods and services tax (GST) ambit.

The sources said bringing petrol and diesel within GST would be placed before the Council for discussion in the light of the court asking the Council to do so.

When a national GST subsumed central taxes such as excise duty and state levies like VAT on July 1, 2017, five petroleum goods petrol, diesel, ATF, natural gas and crude oil were kept out of its purview for the time being.

This is because both central and state government finances relied heavily on taxes on these products.

Since GST is a consumption-based tax, bringing petro products under the regime would have mean states where these products are sold get the revenue and

not ones that currently derive the most benefit out of them because of they being the production centre.

Simply put, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar with their huge population and a resultant high consumption would get more revenues at the cost of states like Gujarat.

With central excise and state VAT making up for almost half of the retail selling price of petrol and diesel currently, levying GST on them would mean charging a peak rate of 28 per cent plus a fixed surcharge going by the principal of the new levy being equal to the old taxes.

Tax experts said bringing petro products under GST will be a tough call for both the Centre and states as both will stand to lose. The BJP-ruled states like Gujarat will be a loser even if a product like natural gas is brought under GST as it gets a lot of revenue from taxing the local production and import of the fuel (LNG).

The Centre will also lose as the majority of the Rs 32.80 per litre excise duty on petrol and Rs 31.80 on diesel is made up of cesses, which it does not share with the states. Under GST, all revenues will be split 50:50 between the Centre and the states.

The GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in its September 17 meeting could also discuss the modalities of continuation of compensation cess beyond June 2022.

This is the first time in 20 months that the GST Council will have a physical meeting. The last such meeting was on December 18, 2019, before the COVID-19-induced lockdowns.

When the GST was introduced on July 1, 2017, amalgamating over a dozen central and state levies, five commodities crude oil, natural gas, petrol, diesel, and aviation turbine fuel

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Delhi Police busts Pak-organised terror module; 2 terrorists among 6 arrested

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police's Special Cell on Tuesday busted a Pakistan-organised terror module with the arrest of six men, including two Pak-ISI trained terrorists, officials said.

The terrorists were allegedly planning several blasts across the country during the upcoming festivals, police said.

The accused, identified as Jaan Mohammad Shaikh (47) alias 'Sameer', Osama (22), Moolchand (47), Zeeshan Qamar (28), Mohd Abu Bakar (23) and Mohd Amir Javed (31), were arrested following raids in

Delhi and parts of Uttar Pradesh, they said.

Among the arrested, Osama and Qamar, are Pakistan-trained terror operatives working under the instructions of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). They were tasked to conduct the reconnaissance of different suitable locations in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh for placing IEDs, police said.

"The arrest of the four accused has exposed the nexus of the Pakistan's ISI-sponsored and trained terror modules with underworld operatives and averted a slew of serial blasts and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

NC leader murder case: Delhi Police detains Jammu resident

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police Crime Branch on Tuesday detained a Jammu resident in connection with the murder of former Jammu and Kashmir MLC Trilochan Singh Wazir in the national capital, according to a national news agency.

According to sources in Delhi police, Jammu resident Rajendra Chaudhary has been detained because, on the day of the crime, Chaudhary's electronic location is shown to be on the place of crime.

"The Crime Branch has

detained a man, named Rajendra Chaudhary, who is a resident of Jammu. The police are questioning Chaudhary because. During the investigation, the location of Chaudhary was tracked to the place of crime on the day of the murder," said the sources.

They added that the day Wazir came to Delhi, Chaudhary was the one who brought his luggage from Jammu.



FOLLOW-UP

Meanwhile, on Sunday, Crime Branch started the verification of a viral handwritten note, a photo of which was posted on the Facebook account of Harmeet Singh, an accused of Harmeet Singh, an accused in the murder of Wazir.

According to the police, Singh has allegedly confessed to the crime in the post which went viral on social media.

Delhi Police Crime Branch said that it is verifying that whether the note was uploaded from Singh's Facebook account or a new

account was created for this in his name. Delhi Police also interrogated the family of another accused in the case, Harpreet Singh, in Jammu.

On Friday, the FIR registered by Delhi Police in connection with Wazir's murder was transferred to the crime branch. As per the neighbours of the absconding accused Harpreet Singh, he was operating a new channel named 'Sadda Haq' from the apartment.

Earlier, on Friday, the Delhi Police had launched a search operation to nab suspects-- Harpreet

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Grenade attack in Pulwama, four civilians injured



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: At least four civilians were injured in a grenade attack by militants on security forces in Pulwama district on Tuesday, officials said.

The ultras lobbed the grenade towards a vehicle of security forces at Pulwama chowk this afternoon but the grenade exploded on the roadside. The injured

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

13 persons detained in Srinagar for not wearing mask

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In wake of surge in daily cases of Covid-19 in few areas of Srinagar district, the District Administration on the Directions of Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad have heightened their efforts to make sure Covid-19 SoPs and guidelines are strictly followed throughout the district.

Accordingly, Magisterial flying squads constituted by the District Administration conducted inspection of various checkpoints at different locations of Srinagar including Bemina, Batamalo, Lal Chowk and other adjoining areas during which 13 persons were detained for not wearing masks and violating the Covid-19 guidelines imposed throughout Srinagar.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner/ District Magistrate,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 34.3°C Min: 24.3°C

Humidity

Max: 71 Min: 58

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 30.0°C Min: 15.4°C

Humidity

Max: 80 Min: 43

Sunset : 18:40 Hours

Sunrise : 06:16 Hours

PM Modi holds 'Chintan Shivir' with council of ministers, says simplicity way of life

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday chaired a meeting with the Union Council of Ministers, which was termed as 'Chintan Shivir', and stressed that simplicity is the way of life, sources said.

At the meeting, presentations were made by Union Ministers Mansukh Mandaviya and Dharmendra Pradhan on efficiency and time management. Four more such "Chintan Shivirs" will be held for further improving governance, they said.

According to sources, four



more such sessions will be held where different Union ministers will give presentations.

Both the ministers shared good practices on time man-

agement, efficiency, root cause analysis of problems and selection of personal staff. Good practices about some basic issues such as dealing with people, promptly responding to letters were also shared in their presentations.

At the meeting, Modi asked the ministers to learn from the best practices of their colleagues. Recalling late Union Minister Manohar Parrikar, the prime minister said that simplicity is a way of life.

Stating that sharing is caring, Modi spoke about Tiffin Meetings during his

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

J&K reports 150 new COVID cases, Ladakh 4

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR/LEH: Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday reported 150 new COVID cases, 38 from Jammu division and 112 from Kashmir division, thus taking the total number of positive cases in Jammu and Kashmir to 327140.

Moreover, 72 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 25 from Jammu Division and 47 from Kashmir Division.

Besides this, 74.62 per cent of the population above the age of 18 years has been vaccinated across Jammu

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

India voices disappointment over 'unwarranted remarks' by UN HR chief on Kashmir

■ AGENCY

UNITED NATIONS/GENEVA: India on Tuesday expressed disappointment over "unwarranted remarks" made by the UN human rights chief on Jammu and Kashmir, saying her comments do not reflect the ground reality and any shortcomings must be addressed in an impartial manner and anchored in non-interference in a country's internal affairs.

"We take note of references to India in the oral update by the High Commissioner and express our disappointment

over her unwarranted remarks on the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, which do not reflect the ground reality," Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs Reenat Sandhu said on Tuesday while delivering India's statement under the General Debate on Oral Update of the High Commissioner at the 48th Session of the Human Rights Council.

Sandhu said India's approach to global promotion and protection of human rights is based on "our own experience as a pluralistic

and inclusive society and vibrant democracy."

She said India believes that promotion and protection of human rights are best pursued through dialogue, consultation and cooperation among States and through provision of technical assistance and capacity building.

"Any shortcomings in upholding human rights must be addressed in a transparent and impartial manner, anchored in respect for national sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs of States," she said.

UN high commissioner

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Not going to reopen decision on grant of reservation in promotion to SCs, STs: SC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court Tuesday said it would not reopen its decision on granting reservation

in promotions to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) as it was for the states to decide how they implement it.

Taking up various pleas pertaining to alleged hurdles in granting reservation in promotions to SCs and STs in various states, a three-judge bench headed by Justice Nageswara Rao directed the Advocate on Records of state governments to identify issues pecu-

liar to them and submit those within two weeks.

"We are making it very clear that we are not going to reopen Nagraj or Jarnail

Singh (cases) because the idea was only to decide these cases in accordance with the law laid down by the court," said the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Khanna and B R Gavai.

The top court noted that in its earlier order, the state governments were directed to finalise the issues which are peculiar to them so

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



High level US Delegation led by Biden Government's top functionary, Deputy Secretary of Energy, David M. Turk, calling on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, at New Delhi on Tuesday.

revamping their strategic partnership to focus on clean energy sectors, such as biofuels and Green Hydrogen.

Dr Jitendra Singh informed the delegation that in the next ten years, India will produce more than three times nuclear power and it is expect-

ed to reach 22,480 MW by the year 2031, from the current 6780 MW as more nuclear power plants are also planned in future.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pathbreaking decision to allow Joint Ventures in Nuclear Energy sector, the Minister

pointed out that Gamma irradiation technology for food preservation has already been shared with other players and presently 26 Gamma Radiation Processing Plants are operational in the country in private, semi government and government sector for irradiation of various products. The Minister also underlined the proposal for establishing a Research Reactor in PPP mode for production of medical isotopes to promote welfare of humanity through affordable treatment for cancer and other diseases.

US Deputy Secretary of Energy, David M. Turk assured Dr Jitendra Singh that America will deepen its collaboration with India in Nuclear Energy as there is a lot of complementarity there. Mr Turk also promised deeper engagement with India in the Green Hydrogen sector as recently announced

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9