

02 Two killed in mishaps, other falls to death

03 Govt to set up Science Museums across country: Dr Jitendra

03 RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat on 3-day visit to J&K from today

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Union Cabinet nod to ‘PM Poshan’ scheme roll-out

Committed to doing everything possible to fight malnutrition: Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairing Union Cabinet meeting at New Delhi.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the roll-out of the 'PM POSHAN in Schools' scheme that will provide hot cooked meal to students of elementary classes in government and government-aided schools across the country.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The existing mid-day meal scheme will be subsumed into the PM Poshan Shakti Nirman scheme with the addition of several new components in it, Union Minister for Information and

Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said after the meeting.

"The CCEA, chaired by Prime Minister, has approved the continuation of 'National Scheme for PM POSHAN in Schools' for the five years, from 2021-22 to 2025-26, with a financial outlay of Rs 54061.73 crores from the central government and Rs 31,733.17 crore from the state governments and union territory administrations," the government said in a statement.

The central government will also bear the additional cost of about Rs 45,000 crore on food grains.

"Therefore, the total scheme budget will amount to Rs 1,30,794.90 crore,"

the statement added.

The PM POSHAN scheme will cover all school children studying in classes 1-8 of government and government-aided schools.

"The scheme will cover about 11.80 crore children studying in 11.20 lakh schools across the country," the statement said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the roll-out of the scheme will play a crucial role in fighting malnutrition.

"We are committed to doing everything possible to fight the menace of malnutrition. Today's Cabinet decision on PM-POSHAN is a crucial one, benefitting the youth of India," he said.

Reacting to other Cabinet decisions, Modi said the doubling of the Rajkot-Kanals railway line will solve traffic problems and benefit the people of Saurashtra. The government on Wednesday approved the doubling of the Rajkot-Kanals railway line in Gujarat and the Nimach-Ratlam railway line in Madhya Pradesh. The doubling of the line in the Madhya Pradesh region will boost social and economic progress and tourism as well.

Admin Secys, DCs asked to submit weekly reports of public interactions, redressal of grievances

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant move, the administration of Jammu & Kashmir on Wednesday directed all Administrative Secretaries and Deputy Commissioners of the Union Territory to submit details of public interactions and grievances redressed by them on weekly basis to it for appraisal of Raj Bhawan.

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NIFT Srinagar campus to be completed by May 2022

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, on Wednesday chaired the meeting of the UT Level Advisory Committee of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Srinagar.

Administrative Secretaries of departments of Finance, Industries & Commerce, and Higher Education,

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“LG’s Mulaqaat”

Ensure quality disposal of every genuine public grievance: Sinha tells officers



LG Manoj Sinha holding 7th round of LG's Mulaqaat.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday directed the officers to ensure quality disposal of every genuine public grievance to make the system more effective, responsive, and vibrant.

"Government has brought transparency and accountability in the system through several reformative interventions. All the officials of the administration must ensure that the public grievances are redressed in the shortest possible time, the Lt Governor said while interacting with public through virtual mode during the 7th Round of "LG's Mulaqaat- Live Public Grievance Hearing" at Civil Secretariat.

The interaction proved beneficial for many people as several grievances were redressed on the spot by the Lt Governor.

During the two-hour-long programme, the Lt Governor

interacted with as many as 20 individuals selected randomly from all 20 districts of the UT, and took detailed information regarding the status of their grievances from the concerned DCs and other officers.

On the grievance of Danish Mattu from Srinagar, regarding the allotment of shops by SMC, the Lt Governor directed the Commissioner SMC to resolve the issue, fix responsibility for the unnecessary delay, and take appropriate

action against erring officials.

Manzoor Ahmad Wani from Pulwama while projecting his grievance regarding the commencement of work on a Stadium sanctioned for his village, informed with satisfaction that its work has been started a few days back after lodging the grievance on JK-IGRAMS.

Similarly, on the grievance of Vijay Kumar Sharma of Hiranagar, Kathua pertaining to the inclusion of left

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Fresh crisis in Cong as Azad, Sibal seek CWC meet amid defections, turmoil in party

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Beseet by troubles on multiple fronts within, the Congress faces the danger of imploding with party veterans Ghulam Nabi Azad and Kapil Sibal on Wednesday sharply questioning the decision-making process, saying there are "no monopolies", and demanded convening an urgent meeting of the CWC for a "dialogue".

A senior member of the 'Group of 23' who had written to Congress President Sonia Gandhi seeking an organisational overhaul, Sibal said the grouping is "not a Jee Huzur 23", and will continue to put forth

their views and repeat their demands. He also attacked the Congress leadership, wondering who in the party was taking decisions in the absence of a full-time president.

Amid a fresh bout of defections after Congress leader and former Goa chief minister Luizinho Faleiro joined West Bengal's ruling TMC on Wednesday, its former Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh met Home Minister Amit Shah here triggering speculation over his future political plans.

The Punjab unit of the Congress is in turmoil

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Union MoS Home begins 3-day visit of frontier Kupwara Distt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai on Wednesday reached the frontier district Kupwara for a three day visit as part of the Union Government's public outreach programme to Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory.

The Minister on reaching Kupwara laid foundation stone of Model Agriculture Farm at Khahipora-Zachaldara in Handwara Subdivision of Kupwara district and sowed snow peas in the farm. DIG Police North Kashmir, Sujit Kumar Singh, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara,



Union Minister, Nityanand Rai addressing a public gathering at Kupwara on Wednesday.

Imam Din and DDC Member Rajwar, Mir Suliman were present on the occasion.

The Minister was informed that the 10 kanal farm, having project cost of Rs 50 lakh, shall benefit 8000 farm operating families of the area. The farm is being developed on scientific lines

for dissemination and demonstration of farm technology to the farming community with a sole aim of doubling the farmer's income by 2022, a slogan by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Minister also inspected various stalls established by Agriculture and its allied departments.

100 new COVID-19 cases in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir recorded 100 fresh COVID-19 cases on Wednesday, raising the tally to 3,29,320, even as no new fatality linked to the infection was reported from the Union Territory in the last 24 hours, officials said.

Seventy-six of the new cases were from the Jammu division and the remaining from the Kashmir division, the officials said. They said Srinagar district

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36 Tehsildars transferred

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Wednesday transferred 36 Tehsildars.

According to the order issued by Shaleen Kabra, Principal Secretary, Revenue Department, Gandeep Kumar, Tehsildar R S Pura, Jammu has been transferred and posted as Tehsildar Warwan, District Kishtwar; Akshay Rajan, Jr. JKAS, Tehsildar Warwan as Tehsildar Marheen, District Kathua; Gulshan Kumar, Tehsildar Marheen as Tehsildar Chiralla, District

Doda; Subuh Ahmad Shad, Jr. JKAS, Tehsildar Kahara as Tehsildar R S Pura; Ashfaq Hussain, Jr. JKAS, awaiting orders of posting, has been posted as Tehsildar Kahara, District Doda;

Raman Kumar Chalotra, Tehsildar Ghagwal has been transferred and posted as Tehsildar Rajpura, District Ramban; Oni Raj Sambria, Tehsildar Rajgarh as Tehsildar Ghagwal, District Samba; Inman Ahmed Bhat, Tehsildar Chanpora as Tehsildar Machil,

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IG of BSF Jammu frontier promoted to ADG BSF rank

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: N S Jamwal, the Inspector General of BSF, Jammu frontier, has been promoted to the rank of Additional Director General (ADG) and posted to the Western Command Chandigarh, a spokesperson for the border guarding force said on Wednesday.

Jamwal, who hails from Jammu, has an illustrious career spanning 37 years with expertise in

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Drug peddler sentenced to 10 yr RI by Ramban Court

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: A drug peddler was sentenced to 10 year rigorous imprisonment and fine of Rs 1 lakh by Sessions Court Ramban.

The convict Abid Ahmed Sofi of Khannabal, Anantnag District was involved in case FIR No.163/2017 under section 8/15 NDPS Act of Police Station Banihal.

As per police, the said case was registered in P/S Banihal on October 20, 2017 after a police party deputed at Railway Crossing T-Chowk arrested the convict with 50 to 60 KG poppy straw concealed by him in his Car bearing registration No PB09R/2705.

Accordingly, case FIR No.163/2017 under section 8/15 NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Banihal and investigation was taken up by Inspector Aijaz Ahmed Wani (the then SHO Police Station Banihal).

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 34.0°C Min: 24.7°C

Humidity

Max: 81 Min: 60

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 30.4°C Min: 15.6°C

Humidity

Max: 82 Min: 48

Sunset : 18:20 Hours

Sunrise : 06:25 Hours

Amid speculation over his future move, Amarinder meets Amit Shah; says discussed farmers' stir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Amid speculation over his future move after resigning as Punjab chief minister, Amarinder Singh met Union Home Minister Amit Shah at his residence here on Wednesday and said he discussed the prolonged farmers' stir with him.

After his meeting that lasted for about 45 minutes, Singh tweeted "met Union Home Minister Amit Shahji



in Delhi. Discussed the prolonged farmers' agitation against #FarmLaws & urged him to resolve the crisis urgently with the repeal of the laws & guarantee MSP, besides supporting Punjab in crop diversification.

#NoFarmersNoFood."

However, the politically significant meeting, which came days after Singh resigned as chief minister after accusing the Congress of humiliating him, raised speculation over his future plans ahead of the polls in Punjab with some political analysts viewing it as an indication that Singh may be seeking the support of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

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Padam Shree Sourav Ganguly, Balwant Thakur-Tale of 2 illegal land allotments

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The judgement of acting Chief Justice, Rajesh Bindal led Division Bench of Calcutta High Court to quash allotment of plot by the West Bengal government to former acclaimed cricketer of India, Sourav Ganguly has brought in limelight the blatant misuse of authority by the Board of Directors of Jammu Development Authority by throwing to winds the process of law while favoring well known regional Theater Director Balwant Thakur with allotment of 4.37 and subsequently another 6.3 Kanals prime JDA land worth 30 crores free of cost.

Both the beneficiaries are Padam Shree awardees. For construction of world class cricket institution, the BCCI Chief Sourav Ganguly owned Ganguly Education and Welfare Society was allotted 2.5 acre land in 2011 at New

Town area of Kolkotta city by the Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation with 50 % concession.

In case of Balwant Thakur, the then Deputy Chief Minister in BJP-PDP led coalition government in erstwhile J&K state, Prof. Nirmal Singh following the footsteps of past NC-Cong regimes had approved allotment of prime land free of cost in his capacity as Chairman of BoDs of JDA in its 74th meeting.

The judgement in case of Ganguly is an eye opener and the LG Manoj Sinha led administration in UT of J&K while adding some real meaning to its agenda of 'Good Governance' must cancel the land allotted to Natrang Group in most arbitrary manner without adopting due course of law, procedures and norms,

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ON
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UNDER
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