

BLUE MOON
Banquets • Conventions

THE BANQUET WITH A DIFFERENCE

National Highway, Near Thandi Khul, Jammu
Contact: 9086035550, 9086035551

03 Why no Non-Functional Grade promotions for Engineering Gazetted Services in UT of J&K and like?

05 Lifestyle changes must to lower heart disease risk: Dr Sushil Sharma

09 Bovine smuggling bids foiled; 175 animals rescued, 23 smugglers arrested

FIFTH NAVRATRA

Maa Skandmata

Fifth incarnation of Goddess Durga is called 'Maa Skandmata', Mother of Lord Skand (also known as Kartikeya) who headed 'Devatas' in fight against 'Danavas'. On this Navratra heart comes in 'Vishudh Chakra'. Maa Skandmata has four arms with Bhagwan Skand in her lap, holding him with one hand with other in the blessing mode. Skandmata fulfills all the desires and guides door of heaven to worshipper. Mantra to be recited nine times on this Navratra is :-

"Om Aing Hareeng Kleeng Chaang Bhagwati Skand Matai Lakshmi Roopini Dhan Vridhim Kuru Kuru Swaha"

ॐ ऐं ह्रीं क्लीं चां भगवती स्कंदमातायै लक्ष्मी रूपिणी धन वृद्धिं कुरु कुरु स्वाहा

After blasts, security tightened in Jammu region

Anti-Pak protests rock Jammu, Udhampur against twin blasts

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Security forces accompanied by sniffer dogs carried out an extensive search of the inter-state bus terminal here after suspected terrorists triggered a blast in a parked bus in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district early Thursday, officials said.

A high alert has been sounded in the Jammu region after the blast. Earlier, a similar explosion took place in Udhampur but there was no casualty, police said.

Loudspeaker-fitted police vehicles made announcements in Katra and Ramnagar towns asking pilgrims, locals and commuters to keep an eye on suspected objects and persons.

The special operations group (SOG) of J-K Police armed with sniffer dogs carried out searches and a sanitisation operation in the bus stand area of Jammu city,



Security forces carrying out security check in Jammu on Thursday.

the officials said.

Security was beefed up at the bus stand and vehicles coming into the city were being searched at various checkpoints, they said.

In Katra town, the base camp of Mata Vaishno Devi cave shrine located in Trikuta hills, security was tightened to ensure a smooth yatra during Navratra. Thousands of pilgrims arrive in the holy town daily from various parts of the country to pay obeisance at the cave

shrine. In the Ramnagar area of Udhampur district, where the blast took place, police swung into action and carried out searches of buses and other public transport vehicles.

Similar searches were carried out in Kathua, Samba and Reasi districts, the officials said.

In Rajouri, where Union Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to address a rally on October 4, a

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New CDS to take charge today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Lt Gen Anil Chauhan (retired) will assume charge as India's new Chief of Defence Staff on Friday that is expected to bring the focus back on the implementation of the ambitious theatreisation drive to bring synergy among the three services.

A decorated Army officer, 61-year-old Chauhan will also function as Secretary in the Department of

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AGH terrorist arrested in Srinagar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: A terrorist of Ansar Gazwat-ul-Hind (AGH) outfit was on Thursday arrested with arms and ammunition from Palpora area here, police said.

"One categorised terrorist of AGH terror outfit namely Junaid Ahmad Parry of Nawakadal arrested by a joint team of Srinagar Police and 24 RR from Palpora, Srinagar," Srinagar

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Post Afghanistan, foreign terrorist numbers up in J&K: CRPF DG

Overall numbers below 200

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: An uptick has been noticed in the number of foreign terrorists operating in Jammu and Kashmir post the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan but the overall strength of militants in the valley is low and can be capped below 200, outgoing CRPF DG Kuldeep Singh said on Thursday.

He said all the security forces operating in Kashmir are working in a coordinated manner and terrorist incidents have gone down post the abrogation of Article 370 from the erstwhile state in 2019.

The CRPF director general, during a press conference, was asked about the killing of locals and Kashmiri Pandits by unknown and unseen terrorists to which he said that it was a "challenge" but all the forces were effectively tackling it.

"This is a challenge... After Afghanistan, this challenge



has grown in many forms and you can see it... Also like the number of foreign terrorists goes up and sometimes down. However, the total number of terrorists in J&K is less now... It is under 200 now as compared to the earlier times when it used to be 230-240," Singh said.

The Taliban took over the reins of Afghanistan in August last year.

The officer, from the 1986 batch of the Indian Police

Service (IPS) of West Bengal cadre, had taken charge as the CRPF DG last year in March. He will retire from service on Friday.

He said there is a "great threat" of 'sticky bombs' when it comes to the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir but all the forces deployed there rose to it and ensured an incident-free Amarnath Yatra that concluded in August.

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NIA opposes before Delhi HC Aasiya Andrabi's plea

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has opposed in the Delhi High Court the plea of a Kashmiri woman separatist leader challenging the attachment of her mother-in-law's house, saying the property was utilised for terror activities and even for celebrating Pakistan Day.

The agency, in its reply, claimed that the attached house was used as the office of proscribed terrorist organisation Dukhtar-e-Millat (DEM) by Aasiya Andrabi, and anti-India speeches were made and pro-Pakistani slogans were chanted at the

meetings held there.

NIA said that besides the distribution of insurrectionary material, the Pakistani flag was also unfurled on its premises to profess Kashmir as part of Pakistan and India as an aggressor.

Andrabi, who was chief of the banned outfit Dukhtar-e-Millat (Daughters of Nation), had approached the high court in August against a trial court order which refused to interfere with the attachment of the house by NIA.

NIA responded that the house, which was used

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SI recruitment scam: Court grants seven-day remand of three accused

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: CJM Jammu Amarjeet Singh Langeh has granted seven days police remand of Rakesh Kumar, son of Sham Lal, resident of Mawa Brahmana, Pail Tehsil Akhnoor; Kewal Krishan alias Vicky, son of Tarsem Lal, resident of Village Choudharia, Tehsil Khour and Ashwani Kumar, son of Mela Ram, resident of village Kachhri, Tehsil Khour. 3-day police remand was also granted of Yatin Yadav, son of Des Raj, resident of 753, Sector-3, Rewari and Anil Kumar, son of Om Parkash, resident of village Lahroda, Post Office

Dharsoon, Tehsil Narnaul, District Mahendergarh, Haryana, in much publicized JKP SI paper leak scam.

CJM Jammu Amarjeet Singh Langeh observed that accused namely Rakesh Kumar, Kewal Krishan and

Two others sent on 3-day remand

Ashwani Kumar were arrested on 23.09.2022. Police remand of six days in respect of accused seems to have been given/granted vide order dated 24.09.2022 till date. "Offence under section 420 of IPC is non-bailable in nature. Investigation is at initial stage and further custodial interro-

gation therefore is warranted on facts. Accordingly accused are further remanded to police custody for a period of seven (07) days from today till 05.10.2022. On expiry of aforesaid remanded period, accused be produced before

competent forum for further orders," the Court observed.

CJM Jammu further observed that accused namely Yatin Yadav and Anil Kumar seem to have been remanded to police custody on 20.09.2022 for a period of ten days. According to investigating officer, since case in hand

involves criminal conspiracy amongst accused operating across several states in India, on facts therefore further police custody of accused for four days in connection with investigation is needed. "Looking at investigation carried out thus far and considering stage of investigation, a case for grant of further police remand in respect of accused is made out by Investigating Agency. Accordingly, accused are remanded to further police custody for a period of three (3) days from today till 01.10.2022," the Court directed.

Govt orders blocking 67 porn websites

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The government has ordered internet companies to block 67 pornographic websites following court orders and for violating the new IT rules that were issued in 2021.

In an email sent to internet service providers, the Department of Telecom (DoT) has asked them to block 63 websites based on the order of a Pune court, and block 4 websites based on the order of the Uttarakhand High Court and directions issued by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY).

"MeitY in compliance of the said (Uttarakhand High court) order read along with rule 3(2)(b) of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, and in view of certain obscene material available in the below mentioned website that tarnish the image of modesty

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Will continue peaceful fight for statehood to J&K: Azad



Former CM Ghulam Nabi Azad addressing his party workers at Srinagar.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Days after launching the Democratic Azad Party (DAP) in Jammu, former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Ghulam Nabi Azad on Thursday held a meeting with selected party leaders from all 10 districts of Kashmir region.

The meeting, conducted was attended by top DAP leaders including former ministers, legislators and DDC members.

Azad exhorted the party leaders to amplify their efforts to reach out to wider sections of society across the Kashmir valley.

While interacting with the party leaders, he said "We have to strive for an atmosphere, where basic needs of our people including development and other issues are addressed. On the other hand, the party has to keep up its peaceful and constitutional fight for the restoration of statehood, land and job rights. People are looking towards us to protect J&K's social, political and cultural individuality as ever before. To achieve this goal, the party's moves have to be marked by collectivism and better coordination at all levels".

The DAP meeting deliberated on the current political situation and measures to strengthen the party at the grass-roots level. It was decided that the DAP will launch a public outreach programme to strengthen the party at the constituency level. Former Ministers Taj Mohi-ud-din,

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Ex-J&K Panthers Party Chief Balwant Singh joins BJP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Balwant Singh Mankotia, a former president of the Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party, joined the BJP here Thursday.

He joined the party in the presence of Union ministers Jitendra Singh and Rajeev Chandrasekhar, and BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh and Pradesh BJP President Ravinder Raina.

After leaving the JKNPP, Mankotia, a two-time MLA, had initially joined the Aam Aadmi Party but was recently removed.



Senior leader Balant Singh Mankotia after joining BJP in presence of Union Minister Jitendra Singh, BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh, Pradesh BJP President Ravinder Raina at New Delhi.

Welcoming him in the BJP, Chugh said Mankotia is join-

ing the party as he is

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 32.6°C Min: 22.8°C

Humidity

Max: 87 Min: 64

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 27.5°C Min: 14.4°C

Humidity

Max: 75 Min: 35

Sunset : 18:21 Hours

Sunrise : 06:24 Hours

SC says non-cisgender women may also require access to safe termination of pregnancy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday said women, other than cisgender women, may also require access to safe medical termination of pregnancies, while expanding the scope of the MTP Act to include unmarried women with 20-24 weeks pregnancy for abortion.

Cisgender is a term for describing people whose sense of personal identity and gender is the same as their birth sex.

The top court in its landmark decision expanded the scope of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act and the corresponding rules to include unmarried women for abortion between 20-24 weeks of

pregnancy, saying limiting the provision to cover only married women will render it discriminatory and violative of Article 14 of the Constitution.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, AS Bopanna and JB Pardiwala said the statutory right of a woman to undergo termination of pregnancy under the MTP Act is relatable to the constitutional right to make reproductive choices under Article 21 (The right to protection of life and personal liberty) of

the Constitution.

"Before we embark upon a discussion on the law and its application, it must be mentioned that we use the term "woman" in this judgment as

including persons other than cisgender women who may require access to safe medical termination of their pregnancies," Justice Chandrachud said, while writing the 75-page verdict on behalf of the bench.

The top court's verdict came on an appeal of a



woman from the North East challenging the Delhi High Court order denying her permission to abort her pregnancy out of a consensual relationship after her partner refused to marry and left her.

The court said depriving women of autonomy not only over their bodies but also over their lives would be an affront to their dignity.

"The right to choose for oneself be it as significant as choosing the course of one's life or as mundane as one's day-to-day activities - forms a part of the right to dignity. It is this right which would be under attack if women were forced to continue with unwanted pregnancies," the bench said.

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J&K Bank
Serving To Empower

The Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited
Corporate Headquarters
Srinagar, J&K, 190001

ATTENTION PLEASE

As per new guidelines from Department of Financial Services (Ministry of Finance), any citizen who is or has been an income-tax payer, shall not be eligible to join Atal Pension Yojana (APY) from 1st October, 2022. In case a subscriber joining APY, on or after 1st October 2022, is subsequently found to have been an Income-Tax payer on or before the date of application, the APY account shall be closed and the accumulated amount till date would be given to him/her.

Notably, the new guidelines will not be applicable to the existing APY subscribers/Income-Tax Payers and to prospective subscribers/Income-Tax Payers who will be joining APY till 30th September, 2022. Further, any citizen subscribing APY on or after 1st October, 2022, who is not an Income-Tax Payer on the date of application and subsequently becomes Income-Tax payer; his/her APY account will not be closed.

DIP/J-3116-P/22

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