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Transporters to observe 'Chakka Jam' today

e-Commerce platforms important enablers for StartUps, MSMEs: Dr Jitendra

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Rajouri Volleyball meet from Sept 13

Polls in J&K can be held 'anytime from now', Centre tells SC

Sets no time-frame for restoration of statehood

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Elections in Jammu and Kashmir can be held "anytime from now" as the work on updation of voters list is almost over, the Centre told the Supreme Court on Thursday but remained non-committal about setting a time-frame for restoration of statehood to the union territory (UT).

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, told a five-judge constitution bench headed by Justice Chandrachud that the UT status of Jammu and Kashmir is a "temporary thing" and it is for the Election Commission of India and the union territory's election commission to decide when the elections for panchayats, municipal bodies and the legislative assembly

"The central government is

ready to hold elections anytime from now... It is for the Election Commission of India and the Election Commission of the UT to J-K is concerned, Union take the call on which elec-

Surya Kant.

The solicitor general said as far as restoration of statehood to the union territory of Home Minister Amit Shah has already made statements



how. The updating process of the voters' list is almost complete and will be over in a month," he told the bench, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiy Khanna, BR Gavai and

in Parliament that it will be done in due course.

"The UT is a temporary thing in J-K. We are dealing with an extremely extraordinary situation. The exact time frame for restoration of

complete statehood in J-K cannot be given at the moment. It might take some time. Various steps are being taken to restore the status of the state in Jammu and Kashmir." Mehta said at the

The central government made the submissions in response to the apex court's August 29 observations on restoration of electoral democracy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Mehta, on the 13th day of hearing on a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 which accorded special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, said, "Peace does not merely come by policing."

He told the court about the various steps the Union government has taken for restoration of normalcy

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India's largest home-built nuclear plant starts operations at full capacity: Modi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India's first indigenously developed 700 MW nuclear power plant in Gujarat's Kakrapar has started operations at full capacity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday.

The reactor at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP) had started commercial operations on June 30 but was operating at 90 per cent of its capacity till now.

"India achieves another milestone. The first largest 700 MWe indigenous Kakrapar Nuclear Power Plant Unit-3 in Gujarat starts operations at full capacity. Congratulations to our scientists and engineers," Modi said on 'X', formerly known as Twitter.

The Nuclear Power Corporation Limited (NPCIL) is building two 700 MW pressurised heavy water reactors

Govt calls 'special session' of Parliament between Sep 18-22, keeps agenda under wraps

NEW DELHI: The govern-Thursday on announced a "special session" of Parliament for five days between September 18 and 22 but kept the agenda for it under wraps, triggering speculation.

"Special Session of Parliament (13th Session of 17th Lok Sabha and 261st Session of Rajya Sabha) is being called from 18th to 22nd September having five sittings. Amid Amrit Kaal, looking forward to having fruitful discussions and in Parliament," debate Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said on X.

It will be the first such special session under the nine years of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government which had convened a special joint sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha to mark the midnight GST rollout on June 30, 2017. fledged session of five days this time with both Houses meeting separately as they usually do during sessions.

Generally, three parliamentary sessions are held in a year- Budget, Monsoon and Winter sessions.

Sources said the "special session" could see parliamentary operations being shifted to the new Parliament building which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 28.

With the government not spelling out its agenda, speculation swirled that the government may push some showpiece bills in the run-up to some key state assembly polls followed by the allimportant Lok Sabha elec-

Sources, including in the ruling BJP, spoke of the possibility of bills on simultaneous general, state and local polls, something Modi has assiduously pushed, and reservation for women in directly elected legislatures like Lok Sabha and assemblies. Both are constitutional amendment bills and will require passage with the support of two-third members in both Houses

The recent historic success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission and India's goals for 'Amrit Kaal' may be part of the wider discussions during the special session, which will come a week after the G20 summit meeting scheduled for September 9-10.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh alleged that the announcement of the special session just three weeks after the end of the Monsoon session was aimed at managing "the news cycle" and countering the news about the ongoing meeting of INDIA parties in Mumbai and the latest revelations on Adani. The Monsoon session Parliament ended on

Eight terrorists absconding for decades arrested in Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Eight absconding terrorists have been arrested here during a special drive by the State Investigation Agency and the Criminal Investigation Department that have started looking for killers and terrorist associates hiding by blending in the society, a police official said on Thursday.

Criminal Assisted by Investigation Department inputs, State Investigation Agency (SIA) detectives working quietly for months have apprehended the eight terrorists want-Terrorist and

Delhi HC directs Omar Abdullah to pay Rs 1.5L monthly maintenance to estranged wife

STATE TIMES NEWS

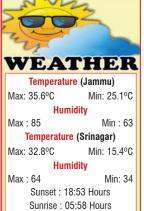
NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Thursday directed former Jammu Kashmir chief minister and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah to pay Rs 1.5 lakh to his estranged wife every month as interim maintenance

It also directed him to pay Rs 60.000 each for the education of his two sons every

The court's order came on petitions by Payal Abdullah and the couple's sons against 2018 lower court orders granting them interim maintenance of Rs 75,000 and Rs 25,000, respectively, till the boys attained the age of

Justice Subramonium Prasad observed that the former Jammu & Kashmir chief minister has the financial capacity to provide a "decent standard of living to his wife and children" and that he ought not to abdicate his duties as a father.

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(Prevention) Act cases after about three decades, the offi-

cial said. In pursuance of its larger objective and the mandate of achieving "zero terrorism" in Jammu and Kashmir, SIA has initiated a special drive to trace and produce before the court concerned all absconders in terrorismrelated cases

The official said of the total 734 absconders, including 417 in Kashmir and 317 in Jammu, wanted in 327 TADA and the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) cases, SIA has so far verified and identified 369 absconders --

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BJP National

General Secretary Tarun

Chugh on Thursday

demanded that Congress

leader Rahul Gandhi should

make public the party-to

party understanding that he

has struck with the Chinese

In a statement, Chugh said

it was an open secret now

that under the aegis of Rahul

Gandhi the Congress struck

an understanding with the

Chinese ruling party. It was

borne by the fact that during

the Doklam crisis Rahul

Gandhi had a breakfast

ruling party.

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Petition challenging contract to Aptech for SI, JE exams

HC restrains SSB for selection process till final decision by Govt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court on Thursday issued directions to the Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB) not to proceed with the selection process till the final decision is taken by the Government.

The directions came while disposing of a petition, filed two such examinations are Junior Engineer (civil), Jal Shakti Department and Sub Inspector Department) to which all the

petitioners have responded to and applied. Justice Moksha Khajuria

on behalf of the petitioners Vinkal Sharma and others, claiming to be the aspirants, who have responded to the advertisement for various examinations to be conduct-

Chugh asks Rahul to make public party-to-party

understanding with China

diplomats in Delhi. Instead

of helping the nation over-

come the Doklam crisis

Rahul Gandhi was cutting

bread with the Chinese

authorities which was so dis-

ed by the JKSSB and the (Home

Kazmi, after hearing Rohit Matoo for the petitioners, whereas AAG Amit Gupta for the UT also directed the Chief Secretary hall take a decision on the basis of the report/recommendations by the Review made Committee within a period of

Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi observed that though, the instant petition is only based on allegations and apprehensions but the appointments to public posts should be made strictly in consonance with Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution of India. A fair and reasonable process is a fundamental requirement of equality of opportunity. As on date, no prejudice has been caused to the petitioners but they have an apprehension of adverse consequences from the selection process conducted by the respondents. The grievance

Monsoon expected to revive in September: IMD

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: After subdued rainfall resulted in India experiencing the driest August since 1901, the Southwest Monsoon is expected to revive over the weekend bringing rain to central and southern parts of the country, the weather office said on Thursday.

Addressing a press confervirtually, India Meteorological Department General Director Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said September was likely to witness normal rainfall in the range of 91-109 per cent of the long period average of

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of the petitioners has already been taken note of by the Government by constituting the Review Committee to look into the conduct of JKSSB and M/S Aptech Ltd., in order to build confidence of the aspirants. The Review Committee should have submitted the report by now, which could have either washed away the apprehensions of the petitioners or enhanced faith in the respon-

Court further observed that Apex Court in 'Sachin Kumar and others vs.

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All individuals above 5 years of age to be made aware about digital initiatives in J&K: CS



Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta chairing a meeting of Deputy Commissioners at New Delhi on Thursday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DELHI: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday directed the Deputy Commissioners to raise

awareness amongst all the people above 5 years of age about the digital initiatives in J&K. Dr Mehta was speaking in a function

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Discharge of Tawi river water to Niki Tawi creates havoc during monsoon HC directs Govt to file response in 2 weeks on Tawi river diversion

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In the much publi-Public Interest Litigation (PIL No.31/ 2018) filed by Inhabitants of Villages Barjala and Khandwal through Gurdev Singh resident of Khandwal and Ghulam Nabi Sheikh resident of Barjala highlighting the devastation caused by flash floods during monsoon every year in and around 45 Villages in Niki Tawi area due to more than 95% of the discharge of river Tawi in the Niki Tawi from Fourth Bridge of River Tawi, a Division Bench of the High

(through Virtual Mode) comprising its Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice M.A. Chowdhary directed Sr. AAG S.S. Nanda appearing for the Irrigation and Flood Control Department of J&K Government to file a response within 02 weeks to the fresh Miscellaneous Application No.5009/2023 filed by the petitioners seeking appropriate directions to the Irrigation and Flood Control Department of J&K Government to divert the discharge of river Tawi from Fourth Bridge (Bhagwati Nagar) to Badi Tawi as more

than 95% of the discharge of river Tawi has been diverted to Niki Tawi which is creating havoc every year during monsoon thereby destroying/wasting the proprietary land of inhabitants of more than 45 Villages in the said area and absolutely there is no discharge of river Tawi in Badi Tawi where the land mafia in connivance with Irrigation and Flood Control Department have encroached the river bed and with a result the entire damage is done in Niki Tawi area.

When this matter came up

Amarnath Yatra concludes, over 4.4 lakh pilgrims offer prayers at cave shrine

Chugh said there seemed to

have been an understanding

of Rahul Gandhi with the

Chinese Communist party,

which has anti-national

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The 62-day annual Amarnath Yatra concluded on Thursday with more than 4.4 lakh pilgrims offering prayers at the cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas this year.

Officials said a total of 4,45,338 devotees paid obeisance to the naturally formed ice 'Shivling' during the pilgrimage which commenced on July 1 through Baltal and Pahalgam

They said 48 people, including pilgrims and service providers, died during the course of the yatra this year and 62 suffered injuries. The deaths were due to weather-related incidents or natural causes, they added.

The number of pilgrims who undertook the yatra this year was higher than last year's 3.65 lakh.

The yatra this year remained peaceful and incident-free, the officials ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



Sadhus and devotees led by Mahant Deepindra Giri performing prayers at holy cave

Rs. 67 lakh fraud for jobs in Army, MES **CB** chargesheets accused impersonating as Army Colonel, 4 others

STATE TIMES NEWS

Offences Wing - Crime

Branch Jammu chargesheeted five culprits in case FIR 28/2019 registered 420,467,468,471,170,171,1 20-B /RPC P/S Crime Branch Jammu for inducing and duping unemployed youth with the promise to appoint them in Indian Army and Military Engineering Services (MES) and duping them of their hard earned money, amounting to Rs. 67

Lakh The Charge-sheet was produced in the Court of law for determination against the five accused after allegations of cheating and criminal conspiracy involving

peculiar modus operandi

established against

The accused include Kulbinder Singh alias Vicky, son of Karnail Singh, resident of village Deharan Tehsil Bhalwal District Jammu; Sunil Singh alias Ricky, son of Karnail Singh, resident of village Deharan Tehsil Bhalwal District Jammu; Vishal Bhagat, son of Subash Chander, resident of Lale-da-Bagh Lower Barnai, Jammu; Prem Paul, son of Gharu Ram, resident of HariaChak Tehsil Marheen District Kathua and Bindiya Bahu, wife of Kulbinder Singh, resident of village Deharan Teshil Bhalwal District Jammu at present H.No.01 near Shark Gym Jaggi Darbar

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