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Rajya Sabha passes Bill to reserve 33 pc seats for women in Lok Sabha, Assemblies

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Parliament approved a bill for reserving one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women with the Rajya Sabha unanimously clearing it on Thursday. All 214 MPs present in the House voted in favour of it.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi thanked the MPs for supporting the legislation. Just before the House took up voting on the bill, Modi said a constructive approach of all political parties to this bill will reinvigorate the Nari Shakti.

Once more women assume leadership roles and join the nation-building process, he said, adding they will become a guarantee of the country's bright future.

The Constitution (128th Amendment) Bill -- Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam -- was moved in Rajya Sabha by Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal.

The bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. It was the first bill taken up by Parliament after its proceedings during a special session moved to the new building.

According to the bill, it will come into

Defining moment for nation: Modi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday lauded the parliamentary's approval to the women's reservation bill as a defining moment in the nation's democratic journey.

Parliament approved the bill for reserving one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women with the Rajya Sabha unanimously clearing it on Thursday. All 214 MPs present in the Upper House voted in favour of it.



effect after the delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies which will be carried out after the completion of the

next population census. At present, women make up for nearly half of India's 95 crore registered

voters but account for only 15 per cent of lawmakers in Parliament and 10 per cent in the state assemblies.

"This is not merely a legislation; it is a tribute to the countless women who have made our nation. India has been enriched by their resilience and contributions," Modi posted on X as the Rajya Sabha unanimously passed the bill a day after its approval by the Lok Sabha.

"A defining moment in our nation's democratic journey! Congratulations to 140 crore Indians. I thank all the Rajya Sabha MPs who voted for the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam. Such unanimous support is indeed gladdening," Modi said.

With the passage of the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' in Parliament, an era of stronger representation and empowerment for the women of India has been ushered in, he said.

"As we celebrate today, we are reminded of the strength, courage, and indomitable spirit of all the women of our nation. This historic step is a commitment to ensuring their voices are heard even more effectively," Modi said.



Full Dress Rehearsal of Air Show in Jammu.

NITI Aayog team lauds UT Admin for DNB programme implementation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Achieving accolades in implementation of ambitious healthcare initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir, the Health and Medical Education

Department of the UT has received high appreciation from NITI Aayog for successful implementation of Diplomate of National Board (DNB) Program in District Hospitals.

"The DNB programme has significantly improved the standard of healthcare services in various hospitals of J&K", stated Dr. Vinod Kumar Paul, member

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ANTF arrests border resident with 3.5 kg heroin



SSP ANTF Raj Kumar briefing media in Jammu on Thursday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A border resident was arrested along with 3.5 kg of heroin worth about Rs 7 crores in the summer capital, a senior officer of Anti-

Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) said here on Thursday.

Zaheer Ahmad, a resident of north Kashmir's

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Ready to discuss issue with full courage: Rajnath on issue of border standoff with China

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday said he has the courage to discuss in the Lok Sabha the issue of the border standoff between Indian and Chinese militaries.

While initiating a discussion on the success of the Chandrayaan-3 mission and other achievements in the space sector in the House, Singh referred to the country's border security and the role of science in protecting the nation's frontier.

At this, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury



referred to the border standoff with China.

The defence minister responded that he has the courage to discuss the issue.

World's largest Cedar tree found in Doda: Officials

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADERWAL: A Cedar tree, having 54 feet trunk and 35 feet breast diameter, was found in Chanti Bala in the Bhalessa forest range in Jammu and Kashmir Doda district, which forest officials' claim is the world's largest and perhaps the oldest Cedar tree.

The officials want the location of the Cedar tree to be declared as a heritage site, while the Panchayat Raj Institution (PRI) members demanded that the location be brought under a tourism map. Believed to be centuries old, the mammoth tree located on the eastern

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India-Canada row escalates; New Delhi temporarily suspends issuance of visas to Canadian citizens

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday announced temporarily suspending issuance of visas to Canadian citizens in view of 'security threats' faced by its high commission and consulates in Canada, amid an escalating diplomatic row over Ottawa's allegations relating to the killing of a Khalistani separatist on Canadian soil.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagehi said the decision will include Canadian visa applicants in third countries even as he said Canada must act against the pro-Khalistani

elements operating from its territory.

He said all categories of visas have been suspended.

India is temporarily unable to process visa applications from Canada because of the "security threats" faced by our high commission and consulates in Canada, Bagehi said at a media briefing.

"You are aware of the security threats being faced by our high commission and consulates in Canada. It has disrupted their normal functioning. Accordingly, our high commission and consulates are temporarily

unable to process visa applications," he said.

Bagehi said the situation will be reviewed regularly.

"The issue is not about travel to India. Those who have valid visas and documents like OCI (Overseas Citizenship of India) cards are free to travel to India," he said.

"The issue is the incitement of violence, the inaction by the Canadian authorities, creation of an environment that disrupts the functioning of our high commission and consulates. That's making us temporarily stop the

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DySP arrested on corruption charges

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) was arrested in Srinagar following a warrant from a local court, officials said on Thursday.

Shaikh Adil was arrested by officers from Novgam police station on Wednesday, they said.

The officer was booked under various provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act and the Indian Penal Code, including sections 193 (giving false evidence) and 201 (destruction of evidence).

The officer was recently placed under suspension.

Taking serious note of the offences against Adil, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been constituted under an officer of the rank of superintendent of police (SP).

"In view of the larger ramifications in this case, a Special Investigation Team headed by SP South City has been constituted for investigation of this case," the police said.

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 34.4°C Min: 24.1°C

Humidity
Max: 78 Min: 59

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 29.3°C Min: 15.3°C

Humidity
Max: 69 Min: 39

Sunset : 18:25 Hours
Sunrise : 06:12 Hours

Man arrested for 'promoting' terror activities on social media

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A man was arrested in Pulwama district for allegedly inciting the general public and promoting terror activities on social media, police said on Thursday.

"In order to maintain peace and tranquillity, police in Pulwama have taken commendable action against anti-national activities by arresting a social media user who was inciting the general public and promoting terror activities," a police spokesperson said.

It has come to light that an individual was running a

fake social media account with the name "Pulwama News" and was involved in uploading videos and pictures of terrorists killed in the Kokernag encounter, the spokesperson said.

Two militants and four security forces personnel, including a colonel, a major and a deputy superintendent of police were killed in the gunfight which went on for seven days in Gadore forest area of Kokernag in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

"This account was created to promote the activities of the terrorists and spread fear among the general public,

which posed a severe threat to the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the country," the spokesperson said.

Accordingly, a case was registered and an investigation was initiated, he added.

During the course of the investigation, the accused identified as Ashiq Ahmed Khan, a resident of Niloora Khan Mohalla, was arrested for carrying out such unlawful activities. The investigation of the case is going on, the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson urged the public to remain vigilant and cooperate with the

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CS reviews measures for prevention of Dengue, status Smart City Project in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday took review of the preventive measures being taken by the Health Department and Municipal bodies against the spread of Dengue disease in Jammu division.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, H&UDD; Secretary, Health & Medical Education; Commissioner, JMC; Deputy Commissioner, Jammu; Director Health, Jammu; Principal, GMC, Jammu; besides others concerned officers.

He was apprised about the current status of dengue cases in the division by Bhupinder Kumar, Secretary, H&ME wherein the Secretary stated that till date around 1295 people had tested positive for dengue with 1 reported death and 428 patients undergoing treatment at various health facilities.



CS A K Mehta chairing a meeting in Jammu on Thursday.

Also, it was apprised that even though the situation was not worri-

hotspots with more around 11140 samples tested for mosquito borne

Separate Competitions to be organized between Jammu, Srinagar Smart Cities & rest of 18 districts for selection of the best clean, aesthetic, citizen centric city/district

some at the moment, the health department is fully prepared and maintaining a strict vigil for any

disease till date and that the Helpline 108 (toll-free) was active in providing medical advice to any callers.

Later, the Chief Secretary reviewed the progress on ongoing works under the Smart City Project in Jammu. He was

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Defaulting borrowers cannot thwart auction process of mortgaged properties by repaying dues any time: SC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A defaulting borrower cannot be allowed to thwart the auction of his mortgaged properties by creditor financial institutions by repaying dues "any time", the Supreme Court ruled on Thursday.

The top court held that such a borrower cannot seek redemption of his mortgaged property if he fails to repay the dues to financial institutions before publication of auction notice under a law governing recovery of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs).

Highlighting the sanctity of the auction process, a bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justice JB Pardiwala said, "It is the duty of the courts to zealously protect the sanctity of any auction conducted. The

courts ought to be loath in interfering with auctions, otherwise it would frustrate the very object and purpose behind auctions and deter public confidence and participation in the same."

It was dealing with a provision of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act).

Section 13 (8) of the Act provides that a borrower can claim back his mortgaged property from FIs "at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction or inviting quotations or tender from public or private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the secured assets" on payment of entire dues.

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