Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

Voter's belief in Multiparty Democratic System is weakening with MPs/MLAs frequently shifting loyalties

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

Four SHOs among seven officers transferred

Website: www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

Jammu Tawi Golf Course to host PGTI from Oct 4

One Nation, One Election

Govt notifies 8-member Kovind panel; Amit Shah, Azad among members

NEW DELHI: The government on Saturday notified an eight-member high-level committee to examine and make recommendations at the earliest on the issue of holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha, state assemblies, municipalities and panchayats.

The committee will be headed by former president Ram Nath Kovind and will have Home Minister Amit Shah, Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, former leader of the opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad and former finance commission chairman N K Singh as members.

The notification said the panel will commence functioning immediately and make recommendations "at the earliest", but did not specify a timeframe to sub-



mit the report.

The decision to have a committee under former president Kovind had on Friday caught opposition bloc INDIA, holding their conclave in Mumbai, by surprise and further raised the political heat.

The opposition alliance had slammed the decision as a "threat" to the country's federal structure.

The high-level committee will also have former Lok

Sabha Secrettary General Subhash C Kashyap, senior advocate Harish Salve and former Chief Vigilance Commissioner Sanjay

Kothari as members. Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal will attend the meetings of the committee as a special invitee, while Law Secretary Niten Chandra will be the secretary to the panel.

The committee will examine and recommend specific Representation of the People Act and any other laws and rules which would require amendments for the purpose of holding simultaneous elec-

It has also been tasked to suggest a framework for synchronisation of elections and 'specifically suggest the phases and timeframe within which simultaneous elections may be held if they cannot be held in one go...

It will also examine and recommend if the amendments to the Constitution would require ratification by the

Certain amendments to the Constitution require ratification by at least 50 per cent of the state assemblies.

The bill which sought to create a National Judicial Appointments Commission was ratified by over

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Army Chief visits forward areas along LoC in Rajouri

12 DySPs transferred, three promoted

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dilbag Singh, Director General of Police, J&K on Saturday 12 Deputy Superintendents of Police (DySPs) with immediate

As per PHQ order, DySP Ahmad, SDPO Banihal has been transferred and posted as DySP DAR Srinagar; Owais Ahmad Wani, DySP Hqrs Srinagar as CIO Kulgam; Mehraj Ud Din

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Man found dead at paddy field

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A man was found dead at a paddy field in Pulwama district, officials said on Saturday.

The victim was identified as Karan Singh (75), a resident of Kangloora. His body was found lying in the paddy fields of Kangloora Tral, in the south Kashmir district, late Friday night, they said. No external injuries were found on the body, the

India is front-ranking scientific power today: LG Interacts with BHU Alumni at Hyderabad



LG Manoj Sinha along with BHU Alumni at Hyderabad on Saturday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

HYDERABAD: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said that India is a front-ranking scientific power today, adding that the country has benefitted immensely from Mahamana Pt Madan Mohan Malviya's multi-dimensional vision.

"Mahamana's effort to

build a strong edifice of science and technology had opened up opportunities to explore new frontiers of scientific knowledge," the Lt Governor said while interacting with the Banaras Hindu University-BHU Alumni at Hyderabad and paying tributes to Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya.

He recalled the significant contribution of Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya in bringing scientific and industrial revolution in the country and said: "Mahamana laid the foundation of the knowledge society and played a key role in taking the benefits of

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

NIA arrests 2 for harbouring terrorists involved in civilian killings in Rajouri

12 days.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested two persons for allegedly harbouring terrorists who had killed seven innocent civilians in Dhangri village of Rajouri district early this year.

Nisar Ahmed alias 'Haji Mushtaq Nisar' and Hussain, both of whom are presently lodged in Central Jail Kot Bhalwal (Jammu) in another case, were formally arrested by the NIA on Thursday, the central agency said in a statement here.

It said they were produced before the Special NIA Court, Jammu on Friday and

Woman arrested for duping man

by posing as cop

SRINAGAR: A woman has

been arrested in Baramulla

district for allegedly duping

people on the pretext of a job

offer by posing as a police

officer, officials said on

The complainant, Wasif

Hassan, a resident of the

Kunzer area of the north

Kashmir district, reported to

the police on Friday that

while he was travelling on a

bus, he was approached by a

woman who claimed she was

The woman identified her-

self as Ashia, and claimed to

be a sub-inspector, they

"She assured the com-

plainant that she had the

authority to secure a position

for him as a constable in J-K

Police. Lured by the promise

of a job opportunity, Hasan gave her Rs 10,000," a police

The accused later re-con-

tacted Hasan and asked him

for more money to expedite the delivery of his appoint-

spokesperson said.

a cop, the police said.

Saturday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Army Chief Gen

were sent to NIA custody for Five persons were killed when terrorists fired indisthe Line of Control (LoC) in criminately on members of Rajouri sector and reviewed operational preparedness the minority community at Dhangri village on January and security situation, Army officials said. Two more persons were

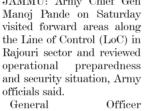
killed and several others injured when an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), which was left behind by the terrorists before fleeing the village, exploded. During the course of investigations, the statement said,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

a team of NIA officials

camped for quite some time

in the hilly terrain



Commanding-in-Chief, northern command Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi along with other senior officers received the chief of army staff (COAS) and briefed him about the operational preparedness, the officials said. "General Manoj Pande,

by Commanders on ground about the operational preparedness and prevailing

Additional General Information (ADGPI) of the

Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande during visit to forward area along LoC in Rajouri sector on Saturday.

operational readiness & effective domination of Line of Control," they said.

The COAS appreciated the

"The COAS during his motivational interaction with the troops exhorted them for their continued professionalism and steadfastness in meeting the operational challenges," they said on X. The ADGPI also shared

several pictures of the Army chief's visit to the Rajouri

Meanwhile, the northern army commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi visited forward areas in Poonch district and

■ STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Two more terror-

ists, absconding for over 30 years, were arrested by the Special Investigation Agency from Doda district, officials said on Saturday.

The accused have been as Firdous Ahmad Wani of Ghat village and Khurshid Ahmad Malik of Bharat village. The duo, both trained in Pakistan, were wanted by police for their active involvement in militancy in their home district in 1990s, they

With the latest arrests, a total of 10 terrorists absconding for decades have ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 been held in Jammu region

Azad seeks LG administration's intervention

since August 31. Most of those arrested are residents of Doda district.

SIA arrests 2 more terrorists absconding

for over 30 years in Doda

According to officials, the Special Investigation Agency (SIA), in pursuance of its larger objective and mandate of achieving "zero terrorism' in Jammu and Kashmir, has initiated a special drive to trace and produce before the court all absconders of terrorism related cases for facing the trial under law.

Out of total 734 absconders, including 417 in Kashmir and 317 in Jammu, who are wanted in 327 Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention)

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Chugh welcomes One Nation, One **Election initiative of Modi Govt**

#COAS visited and reviewed

the forward areas in Rajouri

Sector. #COAS was briefed

CHANDIGARH: National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Saturday welcomed the move by Narendra Modi government to constitute a high-level committee to chalk out a strategy for conducting simultaneous polls as per the one nation, one election' concept.

Chugh said the new initiative of the Central government was an urgent requirement as the present system takes a heavy toll on resources and finances for organising elections sepa-

'Opposition in panic; has no development agenda'

Chugh on Saturday said that the so-called INDIA conclave is a fake get-together party which has no development agenda and only believes in aiming shots at Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Chugh said the group will soon collapse as there are more than a dozen PM candidates in it and their only target is to disturb the Modi government which has delivered number **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

Combining the assembly and parliamentary elections would help to save time, money and official duty

CHANDIGARH: BJP National General Secretary Tarun



hours of the Election Commission and the bureaucracy. He said all the

landmine blast

STATE TIMES NEWS POONCH: An army porter was injured in an accidental landmine explosion near Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district on Saturday, officials said. Mukhtiar Ahmad Mir, a resident of Gagrian village, was riding a horse when he accidentally triggered the landmine at Mauli Dhokh in Sawjian sector, they said. Mir was shifted to the sub-district hospital Mandi for treatment, while his injured horse was being treated by veterinary doctors. As part of an anti-infiltration obstacle system, the forward areas are dotted with land mines that sometimes get washed away by rains, resulting in such acci-

in redressal of Jammu issues

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Expressing his concern over the issues concerning to people of Jammu, be it Sarore Toll Plaza, poor electricity supply or installation of smart meters, Democratic Chairman Progressive Azad Party and former Chief Minister of J&K Ghulam Nabi Azad on Saturday urged the LG administration to redress the grievances as soon as possi-

"I am upset and disturbed over the sufferings of people in Jammu and seek early redressal from LG adminis-

issues of Sarore toll plaza, smart meters and poor electricity supply," Azad said.

The DPAP has received a big boost as members of minority Christian community joined the party in presence of Ghulam Nabi Azad

According to a party statement, scores of members of Christian community led by John Paul Gill joined DPAP and expressed their support to the party for being fair to the minority community as the party embraces all segments of society.

Apart from members of Christian community, several

other youth leaders and social activists including AK Sharma of Khour constituen-

cy also joined the party.

Welcoming them, Azad affirmed that he believes in inclusive politics and his decade of political career was reflective of no discrimination on the basis of religion,

Earlier, DPAP Chairman chaired a meeting of Jammu Central Zone and directed the party leaders to formulate the Block as well as Panchavat Committees within the next three weeks. Azad also explained the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Aditya-L1 launched successfully; proceeds towards Sun: ISRO

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRIHARIKOTA: The Aditva-L1 spacecraft onboard a PSLV rocket on Saturday successfully got separated and would be proceeding on its journey towards the Sun on a 125-day voyage, ISRO said on Saturday.

ISRO chief S Somanath said the spacecraft was injected in the "pre-

"Aditya L1 spacecraft has been injected in an elliptical orbit of 235 by 19,500 km which is intended, very precisely by the PSLV," he said.

"From now on Aditya L1 will go on a long journey for 125 days," towards the Sun, he said from the Mission Control Center here, flanked by Union Minister Jitendra Singh, Project Director Nigar Shaji and Mission Director Biju.

Shaji said the spacecraft was injected into the orbit flawlessly by the PSLV "as always," and that the solar panels are deployed. "Aditya L1 has started 125 days of long journey to the Sun," she said



Union Minister Singh, described today's achievement as a "sunshine moment," and thanked Prime port to the space sector.

Minister Narendra Modi for the sup-The Sun is a giant sphere of gas and Aditya-L1 would study its outer

atmosphere. Aditya-L1 will neither

land on the Sun nor approach it any

It is expected to travel for about 125 days to reach the Halo orbit around the Lagrangian Point L1, which is considered closest to the sun. Aditya-L1, weighing about 1,480.7 kg, is the first space-based observato-

ry class to study the Sun. The objectives of the Aditya-L1

mission includes study of the coronal heating, solar wind acceleration, Coronal Mass Ejections (CME), dynamics of solar atmosphere and temperature anisotropy.

Following Saturday's launch the Aditya-L1 stays in Earth-bound orbits for 16 days, during which it undergoes five maneuvers to gain the necessary velocity for its journey towards the Sun.

Subsequently, the spacecraft undergoes a Trans-Lagrangian 1 insertion manoeuvre, marking the beginning of its 110-day trajectory to the destination around its destination.

Upon arrival at the L1, another manoeuvre binds Aditya-L1 to an orbit around the point, which is a balanced gravitational location between the Earth and the Sun.

The spacecraft spends its whole mission life of five years orbiting around L1 in an irregularly shaped orbit in a plane roughly perpendicular to the line joining the Earth and the Sun, ISRO **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

Kashmir's post-pandemic popularity as travel destination on surge: HAI report

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Unveiling a "Vision 2047" document, the Hotel Association of India (HAI) presented a 25-year roadmap of the future of the hospitality and tourism industry in Kashmir and said its postpandemic popularity as a travel destination has

increased. "The report highlights the rising appeal of Kashmir as a travel destination, especially for adventure tourism, in the aftermath of the pandemic," HAI said in a statement

This recognition Kashmir's allure coincides with an increase in tourist numbers, which is bolstered by an increased support from the Centre and the Jammu and Kashmir administration, it said

Last year, approximately 18 million tourists visited J&K and G20 related events and this year's Miss World programme have positioned the UT as a prominent contender in event tourism, it

"The recent G20 meeting hosted in the Union territory not only gave a boost to regional tourism but also showcased the area's potential as a destination for MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Exhibitions) and wedding tourism," the HAI added.

KB Kachru, Vice President HAI, Kashmir's rich history, culture, and natural beauty as the reason for the recent improvement in tourism. The HAI report also

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