Maa Kushmanda

Maa Kushmanda is the fourth

incarnation of Maa Durga and

worshiped on fourth Navratra.

Maa Kushmanda is said to be creator

of the universe. Her presence is

'Surya Manda' by virtue of which

rays of light enlighten the universe

She has eight hands and hence,

also called 'Maa Ashtbhuja.

In her seven hands, she has

Kamandal, Bow, Lotus, Amrit

Kalash, Chakra and Gadha,

Eighth hand has string of beads having all the 'Sidhis' and 'Nidhis'

Lion is the ride of Maa Kushmanda:

"Om Hreeng Kleeng

Bhagwati Kushmande Mum

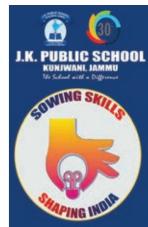
Sarvam Kaamnaay Pooray Pooray Thaa Thaa Swaha"

ॐ ह्वीं क्लीं भगवती

हूष्मांडे मम सर्वम् कामनाय

पूरय पूरय ठा ठो स्वाहा





Colonial laws have now been replaced with new criminal laws: Special Secretary Home

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/2025-27

Jammu Rural Police recovers 40 missing mobile phones, hands over to rightful owners

JU inaugurates Inter-Collegiate Gatka (Men & Women) Tournament

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

vacant since the expiration of

the term of the sitting mem-

bers due to the non-availabil-

ity of the required electorate

to conduct the elections at

the time of occurrence of the

After the constitution of

Assembly of UT of Jammu

and Kashmir, there is a

required electorate to con-

duct the Biennial Elections,

The counting of votes will

take place in the evening of

October 24, an hour after

National Conference leader

and provincial secretary

Sheikh Bashir said, "Better

late than never. The elections

to the Rajva Sabha were due

much earlier in Jammu and

Kashmir. It is a welcome step

now." The Congress pointed

out that the Rajya Sabha

polling concludes.

election has been

Meanwhile,

Legislative

Senior

Navratri: Over 32,000 devotees paid obeisance

State

vacancies

Elections for 4 J&K Rajya Sabha seats on October 24: EC

Political parties welcome announcement STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Biennial elections to fill four Rajya Sabha seats from Jammu and Kashmir, which have been lying vacant since 2021, will be held on October 24, the Election Commission

Separately, Rajya Sabha bypoll to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of AAP member from Punjab Sanjeev Arora will also be held on October 24.

said on Wednesday.

He had resigned following his election to the Punjab assembly. His Rajya Sabha term was to otherwise end on April 9, 2028.

The Rajya Sabha elections for the four Jammu and Kashmir seats are being held nearly a year after the assembly polls were held in the union territory.

MLAs elect Rajya Sabha members of their respective

The union territory has

Upper House of Parliament since February 15, 2021, the day when Ghulam Nabi Azad and Nazir Ahmed Laway finished their term.

Two other members, Fayaz Ahmed Mir and Shamsheer Singh Manhas, had completed their term on February 10, the same year.

While announcing the schedule, the EC said that the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir (with legislature) and Ladakh (without legislature).

According to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, four sitting members of the Rajya Sabha representing the existing State of Jammu and Kashmir will be deemed to have been elected to fill the seats allocated to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

CBSE to conduct Class 10, 12 exams from Feb 17 STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Central Secondary Education (CBSE) will con duct Class 10 and 12 board exams from February 17 vear, officials announced on Wednesday.

The board announced a tentative datesheet for the crucial exams.

This is the first time that board exams for Class 10 will be conducted twice in an academic session.

"While the first edition will be conducted from February 17 to March 6, 2026, the second edition is scheduled from May 15 to June 1," CBSE Examination Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj said.

The Class 12 board exams will be conducted from February 17 to April 9, 2026, he said.

"As a general guideline, evaluation of answer scripts will commence approximately 10 days after the conduct of each subject's examination and will be completed within 12 days. For instance,

Four killed, 59 injured as violent clashes grip Leh; curfew imposed

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

STATE TIMES NEWS

Vol. 30 Issue 265 • Jammu • Thursday • September 25, 2025 • Pages 12 • ₹ 3.00

LEH: The statehood for Ladakh movement descended into violence, arson and street clashes here on Wednesday, leaving four people dead and at least 59 injured, including 22 police personnel, officials said.

As the sun set on what is arguably the worst day of violence since 1989 in the cold desert region, climate activist Sonam Wangchuk called off his fortnight-long hunger strike to press for statehood and extension of the Sixth Schedule to Ladakh, while authorities clamped curfew in the Leh

ofGroups youths, indulging in arson and vandalism, targeted the headquarters of the BJP and the Hill Council and set ablaze vehicles. Police and paramilitary forces, deployed in strength across the town, lobbed teargas shells to bring the situation under control,



With at least six of those injured in a critical condition, there are fears the death toll could go up.

Government sources said the Centre has always been ready for talks and was considering advancing the October 6 meeting of the High Powered Committee with agitating groups ABL and KDA to September 25-26. In fact, center has been always ready for the talks and on earlier occasion also talks were proposed on 25th July which did not receive positive response. But

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

LG Kavinder strongly

condemns violence; appeals for Peace & Unity

The Lieutenan Kavinder Gupta, has strong ly condemned the unfortunate incident in Leh town that led to the loss of live and injuries to several civil ans and security personnel. In a handout issued here today, the Lt Governor expressed deep grief over the tragic deaths and conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

Police carries out multiple raids in connection with fraudulent land compensation case

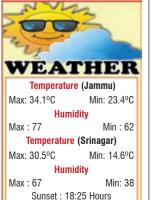
STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Economic Offences Wing of the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday carried out multiple raids at several places in the valley in connection with a fraudulent land compensation case, an official said.

According to a police spokesperson, the case was registered following a complaint alleging that compensation for land falling under the transmission line in the villages of Watrad, Dalabal, and Kachwari in Khansahib tehsil of Budgam district had been fraudulently released in favour of non-existent people, while genuine landown-

Pahalgam attack: OGW arrested for providing logistical support to terrorists STATĖ TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Police on Wednesday arrested an OGW from South Kashmir who had provided logistical support to terrorists responsible for the April 22 Pahalgham terror attack, officials said here. "Based on an intelligence lead, Srinagar police arrested an Over Ground Worker from South Kashmir's Kulgam district. He was identified as Mohd Yousuf Katari (26)," an official said. The officials said that he had a role in providing logistical support to the terrorists involved in the Pahalgam attack who were later killed during Operation Mahadev. In the July 29 encounter, the Army's elite para commandos had gunned down the three terrorists on the outskirts of Srinagar. They included Sulieman alias Asif, who is believed to be the mastermind of the April 22 Pahalgam attack in which 26 people, mainly tourists, were killed. The other two were identified as Jibran and Hamza Afghani. Jibran was involved in the Sonamarg Tunnel attack in



Sunrise: 06:20 Hours

October 2024.

ers were deprived.

He said the investigations revealed that compensation running into crores of rupees was fraudulently withdrawn in the names of bogus people through fake bank accounts by employees of M/s Unitac Transmission Limited, in connivance with land brokers and certain bank officials.

involvement Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, Bilal Ahmad Mir, Ranjit Singh Samaliya Kumar (employees of M/s Unitac Transmission Limited), along with others,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Over 32,000 devotees have paid obeisance at the cave shrine of Mata Vaishnodevi since the beginning of Navratri on Monday, officials said.

Security has been stepped up at the shrine which has been decorated with flowers and lights for the Navratri festi-"The yatra is going on smoothly with

12,000 to 13,000 pilgrims paying obeisance at the temple every day. So far, over 32,000 pilgrims have registered for darshan till today," a Shrine Board official told PTI.

The Board has deployed volunteers to guide pilgrims, and ensure smooth movement along the 13-km yatra route, the official said.

Additional facilities, including drink-



ing water points, medical aid stations, also been put in place to ensure a safe ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Ladakh mob violence motivated by 'provocative statements' of Wangchuk: Govt

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Wednesday alleged that the mob violence in Ladakh was guided by the "provocative statements" of activist Sonam Wangchuk, and certain "politically motivated" individuals were not happy with the progress made in the ongoing talks between the representatives of the government and Ladakhi

In a statement, the Union Home Ministry said barring a few unfortunate incidents that happened early on Wednesday, the situation was brought under control by 4 PM and asked everyone not

to circulate old and provocative videos in the media and social media. "The Government stands

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

committed to the aspiration of the people of Ladakh by providing adequate constitutional safeguards," the statement said. The home ministry said the

hunger strike was started by Sonam Wangchuk on September 10, pressing the demand for Ladakh's inclusion in the Sixth schedule and statehood.

"It is well known that the Government of India has been actively engaged with the Apex Body Leh

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

CJ announces Comprehensive Action Plan for speedy disposal of cases

Outlines multi-pronged strategy to ensure swift, effective adjudication of matters

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: In a significant

move aimed at strengthening the justice delivery sys tem, Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on Wednesday Comprehensive Action

Plan for disposal of cases. The initiative focuses on timely resolution of pending cases, reduction of backlog, and enhancement of judicial efficiency.

Recognizing the growing concern over case pendency Justice has outlined a multipronged strategy to ensure

and delayed justice, the Chief



swift and effective adjudication of matters, especially those that have been pending

Chief Justice of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, while launching Phase IV &

emphasized the importance of judicial efficiency in strengthening public trust. He said that the Justice delayed is justice denied, and this Action Plan reflects the unwavering commitment to timely and accessible justice for all the citizens of Jammu &

Kashmir and Ladakh. Following the successful completion of Phases

Five army personnel injured in road mishap

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MENDHAR/POONCH: Five Army personnel were injured when their vehicle overturned in border district of Poonch on Wednesday, officials said.

The soldiers, posted in Balnoi area near the Line of Control, were heading home on leave in a cab when the accident occurred at Ghani village of Mankoke sector around 7.15 am, the officials

They said the Army personnel suffered minor injuries in the accident and were shifted to Sub-

Case; next hearing on Oct 14

JAMMU: In a significant development, the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Jammu on Wednesday admitted the Habeas Corpus Petition filed by MLA Doda (East) Mehraj Malik, challenging his preventive detention under the J&K Public Safety Act, 1978.

Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, while hearing the plea, issued post-admission notices to the Secretary Principal District Magistrate Doda, SSP

Doda, and Superintendent District Jail Kathua.

HC issues notice in Mehraj Malik

The notices were accepted in Court by Sr. AAG Monika Kohli, who was granted time to file the government's response by or before October 14, 2025.

Appearing $_{
m for}$ detenue, Sr. Advocate Rahul Pant assisted by Advocates S.S. Ahmed, Appu Singh Slathia, M. Zulkarnain Chowdhary, and Joginder Singh Thakur argued that the case be treated with urgency as Malik is an elected representative, whose detention hampers his ability to discharge public duties.

The petition seeks quashment of Detention Order No. 05 of 2025 dated September 8, issued by the District Magistrate, Doda, and also claims Rs 5 crore compensation for alleged curtailment of personal liberty. Allegations of "personal bias" against the District Magistrate have also been raised.

The matter, described as one of "wide public importance", will come up for hearing further October 14, 2025.

Pak should focus on economy instead of harbouring terrorists: India

STATE TIMES NEWS GENEVA: India has said

Pakistan should focus on building its economy and improving its human rights record instead of harbouring terrorists and bombing its own people, in an apparent reference to the killing of 24 people in an explosion in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa this

Kshitij Tyagi, Counsellor at India's Permanent Mission in Geneva, also slammed the Pakistan delegation at the UN for abusing the forum with baseless and provocative statements against India.

"A delegation that epitomises the antithesis of this approach continues to abuse this forum with baseless and provocative statements against India," Tyagi said on Tuesday while speaking at

the 60th regular session of the UNHRC here. Referring to Pakistan-occu-

pied Kashmir, Tyagi asked

Pakistan to vacate Indian

territory "under their illegal occupation." "Instead of coveting our territory, they would do well to vacate the Indian territory under their illegal occupation," he added.

Without specifically namthe Khvber Pakhtunkhwa incident, Tyagi said Pakistan should instead focus on building its economy and improving its human rights record once it finds time from harbouring

terrorists and bombing their own people. "Focus on rescuing an economy on life support, a polity muzzled by military

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Sinha interacts with Officers attending NDC Course India will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail, will strike precisely at terror hideouts: LG



LG Manoj Sinha meeting delegation of Senior Officers from Indian Armed Forces, Civil Services and friendly foreign countries, currently attending the course at the National Defence College on Wednesday.

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: Lieutenant

Governor, Manoj Sinha interacted with a delegation of Senior Officers from the Indian Armed Forces, Civil Services and friendly foreign countries, currently attend-

ing the course at the National Defence College. During the interaction, the

Lieutenant Governor said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Operation Sindoor, marked one of India's boldest

military responses in recent history and the balanced strategic restraint with assertive action has drawn a new red line against terror-

"If there is a terrorist attack on India in the future,

it will be seen as an act of war and a fitting reply will be given. India has also made it clear that it will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail and it will strike precisely and decisively at the terrorist hide-Lieutenant outs.

Governor said.

Talking about development of border areas in J&K UT, the Lieutenant Governor said that Prime Minister gave a vision of treating villages of forward areas

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