

TMTL
Why Compromise?
Get the BEST Genset!
EASIER FINANCE AVAILABLE
EICHER ENGINES
M/s Shrikul Tractors, Jammu
9086010903

CHANAKYA IAS ACADEMY
Jammu is announcing its Late Evening Batch for IAS/KAS
Specially designed for college going/working professionals
Batch: 20th March & 10th April 2023
Timing: 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
For more information: 8715823063

PM reviews COVID situation

NEW DELHI, Mar 22: Amid a spike in influenza and COVID-19 cases in the country in the past two weeks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today chaired a high-level meeting and directed officials to enhance genome sequencing while also emphasizing on Covid-appropriate behaviour.

Modi chaired the meeting to assess the COVID-19 and influenza situation in the country in terms of preparedness of health

(Contd on page 4 Col 7)

Ramzan moon not sighted

NEW DELHI, Mar 22:

Muslims in India will begin fasting from Friday as the Ramzan moon was not sighted this evening, clerics said.

At a meeting of the Ruyat-e-Hilal Committee, Imarat-e-Sharaiyah-Hind held at 1, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg here, it was announced that the moon has not been sighted in Delhi or in any other part of the country, a statement from Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind said.

The committee's secretary

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Court sends

Irfan to 10-day NIA custody

NEW DELHI, Mar 22:

A court here today granted the National Investigation Agency (NIA) 10 days' custody of a person arrested by the agency from Srinagar in connection with an ongoing investigation into an NGO terror funding case.

Irfan Mehraj, a resident of Srinagar, is the first accused arrested following investigations into the NGO terror funding case.

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

BSF fires at Pak drone in Samba

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 22: A massive search operation was launched today after the Border Security Force (BSF) fired at a Pakistani drone along the International Border in Samba district.

The BSF troops manning the Chamliyal border post in Ramgarh sub-sector picked up a blinking red light in the air, believed to be a drone, from Pakistan around 2.30 am and fired over two dozen rounds to bring it down, the officials said.

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

Active Corona cases reach 7026

NEW DELHI, Mar 22:

India recorded 1,134 new Coronavirus cases, while the active cases increased to 7,026, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated today.

The death toll climbed to 5,30,813 with five deaths with one each reported by Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat and Maharashtra and one reconciled by Kerala, the data updated at 8 am stated.

The daily positivity was

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Union Bank of India
Good people to bank with
www.unionbankofindia.co.in

- VYOM Mobile App
- Union Muskaan Saving Account
- For infants to teenagers (all age groups till 18 years)
- Higher study loans at concessional ROI
- Future savings with Insurance

WEATHER

JAMMU:
Partly cloudy
TEMPERATURE
Max: 25.7 Degree C
Min: 13.1 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 80.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 52.0 per cent
Sunset on Thursday: 06:45 p.m.
Sunrise on Friday: 06:31 a.m.

SRINAGAR:
Generally cloudy
TEMPERATURE
Max: 19.3 Degree C
Min: 4.0 Degree C
RELATIVE HUMIDITY
RH-I (Morning): 69.0 per cent
RH-II (Evening): 45.0 per cent

LEH:
TEMPERATURE
Max: 8.8 Degree C
Min: -4.2 Degree C

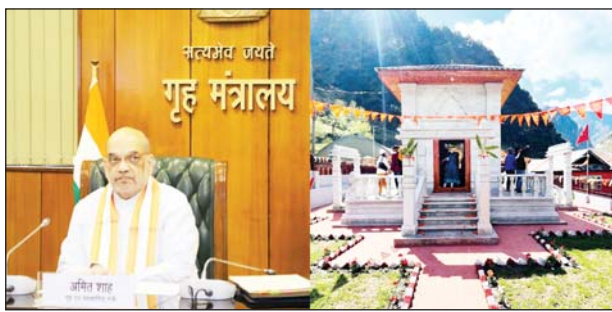
HM e -inaugurates Mata's temple at LoC, praises Sinha

Modi Govt will move forward to open Sharda Peeth in PoJK for pilgrims: Shah

Avtar Bhat

JAMMU, Mar 22: Maintaining that world famous Sharda Peeth shrine has been a historical centre of India's cultural, religious, educational heritage and civilization, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperatives, Amit Shah today declared that Government under the Prime Ministership of Narendra Modi will move forward to open Sharda Peeth in Pak occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) for devotees on the pattern of Kartarpur corridor in Punjab.

Inaugurating Mata Sharda Devi Temple at Teetwal near LoC in Kupwara district of South Kashmir through video conferencing today, the Union Minister exuded his confidence that construction of Sharda temple at Teetwal will pave a way for opening of famous Sharda shrine which has been a seat of learning from times immemorial for devotees. He said the opening of Shrine at Teetwal will also lead to revival of ancient culture and civ-



Union Minister for Home and Cooperatives Amit Shah inaugurating Mata Sharda Devi temple via video conferencing at Teetwal in Kupwara on Wednesday. (UNI)

ization. Shah said with the annulling of Article 370, peace is being established in Jammu and Kashmir and Kashmir and

***Watch video on www.excelsionews.com**

Jammu region is once again returning to the old civilization and traditions, old culture and Ganga Jamuna Tehzeeb (civilization).

He said opening of the temple was beginning of the new dawn and quest for reviving the ancient Sharda culture.

and Kashmir, I will start my visit by bowing at the Mata Sharda Devi temple", he said.

Shah said it was the beginning of a new dawn which has been made possible by the blessings of Mata Sharda Devi and by the joint efforts of Sharda Samiti, people and civil society on both sides of Line of Control (LoC).

"I convey my best wishes and gratitude to Save Sharda Committee president, Ravinder Pandita for struggle over so many years which has now borne fruit. This step is not just the renovation of the temple but the beginning of the quest of revival of Sharda culture", he said.

Sharda Peeth was once considered the Centre of education in the Indian Sub Continent, he added.

Shah lauded Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha who also participated in the inauguration programme through video conferencing and said he (Manoj Sinha) implemented flagship schemes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the UT.

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

'Improve administrative outreach, public service delivery system'

Enhance budgetary allocations for Hill Councils of Ladakh: Parl Panel to MHA

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Mar 22: Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs has asked the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to enhance the budgetary allocations for the Leh Autonomous Hill Development Council and Kargil Autonomous Hill Development Council during the Financial Year 2023-24 for infrastructure development of the Union Territory of Ladakh. Moreover, the Parliamentary Panel has laid stress on improving administrative outreach and public service delivery system by creating additional administrative posts and units in the Union Territory.

***Explore establishment of more airports in UT**

In its report tabled in the Lok Sabha yesterday, the Standing Committee comprising of 31 Members of the Parliament has noted that for Leh Autonomous Hill Development Council, an amount of Rs 740.29 crore was allocated at Budget Estimates (BE) 2022-23. This allocation was enhanced to Rs 754.53 crore at Revised Estimates (RE) 2022-23 against which Rs 500.67 crore has been utilized till 31st January, 2023 (66.35% of RE). However, the allocation has been reduced to Rs 334.68 crore in Budget

Estimates 2023-24. For Kargil Autonomous Hill Development Council, an amount of Rs 742.14 crore was allocated at Budget Estimates 2022-23. This allocation was enhanced to Rs 756.37 crore at Revised Estimates 2022-23 against which Rs 568.55 crore has been utilized till 31st January, 2023 (75.16% of RE). However, the allocation has been reduced to Rs 333.32 crore in Budget Estimates 2023-24.

While seeking reasons for the curtailment, the Parliamentary Panel has recommended that the budgetary allocations may be enhanced for both the Hill Councils at Revised Estimates stage as devolution of financial power to the LAHDCs will help them in executing their developmental projects, adding "the expenditure of the two Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs) is good and therefore more funds may be granted to them".

"Considering the large area of the UT of Ladakh, there is a need to strengthen the administrative institutions and infrastructure along with the delegation of powers to the local administrative units as such administration should

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

GMCs of Udhampur, Handwara get LoI for 100 MBBS seats for academic session 2023-24

Govind Sharma

JAMMU, Mar 22: The Government Medical Colleges (GMCs) of Udhampur and Handwara are expected to start their 1st batch of 100 MBBS students from the ensuing academic session as Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB) of National Medical Commission (NMC) has issued Letter of Intent (LoI) for the same.

In two separate communiqués issued to Principals of GMC Udhampur and GMC Handwara, the MARB said their applications for starting of new Medical Colleges with annual intake of 100 MBBS students u/s 26 (1) (a) (b) and 28 (10) (2) and section 61 (2) of the NMC Act, 2019 for the academic year

2023-24 have been referred and their proposals to start academic session have been approved.

"The present proposal has been approved on the basis of an undertaking given by the Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir vide letter number HD/Plan/5/2022-02 dated 21st March, 2023 that all the infrastructure facilities, teaching and non-teaching faculties will be provided in the Medical College by the Government of J&K as per NMC norms," read the NMC communiqué addressed to the Principal, GMC Udhampur. A similar communiqué was also issued to the Principal GMC Handwara.

The MARB sought undertakings/essential documents

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Won't contest elections till Art 370 restored: Mehbooba

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Mar 22: People's Democratic Party (PDP) chief and former Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti today said that she won't contest Assembly election till Article 370 is restored.

"I am never going to fight Assembly elections as long as Article 370 is restored. It's more of an emotional issue for me," the former Chief Minister said.

"Whenever I took an oath, it was under two Constitutions- the Constitution of India and the Constitution of J&K - with two flags at the same time. It's more of an emotional issue for me," she said.

Mehbooba welcomed the opening of the Sharda Devi

Temple near the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district. The former Chief Minister hoped for resumption of cross-LoC trade. "This is very good. We have always been saying that we need to engage, reconcile and resolve things. The opening of Sharda temple is a very good

thing. It is something that the Kashmiri Pandits were looking forward to, they really wanted it to be opened," she added.

The PDP chief hoped that the opening of the temple will not be restricted to pilgrimage, but "it will go beyond that". "I also hope that the business which was conducted on Muzaffarabad Road and Rawalakot road, that also is

resumed," she said. Mehbooba accused Government of harassing small time businessmen and contractors by blacklisting them.

"On the one hand, Mehul Choksi, who has fled with thousands of crores, has had the red alert notice issued in his name withdrawn by the CBI, and the issue of Adani, who has allegedly acquired thousands of crores, also remains unresolved. On the other hand, small-time businessmen in Jammu and Kashmir, including contractors, are facing harassment and blacklisting. The question arises, what is the Government trying to achieve in Jammu and Kashmir with such actions," she said.

"The Government is invest-

(Contd on page 4 Col 5)

'Tunnel will alleviate traffic congestion on NH'

Reliable connectivity to Kashmir-bound traffic in all weather conditions: Gadkari

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Mar 22: Union Minister of Road, Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said today that the Central Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi remained committed to facilitate efficient and seamless mobility in remote hilly regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

Gadkari said this while tweeting pictures of T5 tunnel spanning 870 meters which has been developed at Panthyal on Ramban-Banihal section of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and was thrown open for traffic last week.

"In Jammu and Kashmir, a two-lane T5 tunnel spanning 870 meters has been developed at Panthyal as a component of Ramban-Banihal section of National Highway-44. #PragatiKaHighway #GatiShakti," Gadkari said in a tweet on opening of the tunnel.

He said this development (opening of T5 tunnel) is expected to significantly alleviate traffic congestion on National Highway and circumvent the hazardous shooting stone loca-

***Centre committed to seamless mobility**



A picture of the tunnel tweeted by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday.

This will also provide reliable connectivity to traffic bound for Kashmir under all weather conditions, the Union Road, Transport and Highways Minister said.

"With Prime Minister

Narendra Modi at the helm, we remain steadfastly dedicated to facilitating efficient and seamless mobility in the rugged and remote hilly regions," Gadkari said through another tweet. He

(Contd on page 4 Col 1)

'Sports got major boost after 2014'

Foundation laid for youth to prove skills in J&K during last 3 yrs: LG

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Mar 22: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said today that it took long time to give respect and place to the sportspersons they deserved and during last three years in Jammu and Kashmir the administration has laid foundation for success of youth and give them opportunity to prove their skills.

He said this while felicitating and interacting with players participating in 84th National and Inter State Table Tennis championship at Gymnasium Hall at University of Jammu today.

"It was unfortunate that country had to take long time to give respect and place to the sportspersons they deserved," Sinha said. He added that no society can



LG Manoj Sinha addressing sportspersons in Jammu on Wednesday.

develop without a true icon. "After 2014, sports got a major boost in the country," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said with the Prime

Minister's help during last three years the Jammu and Kashmir administration has succeeded in laying good foundation for youth

(Contd on page 4 Col 3)

Amul
The Taste of India

THE SPECIAL INGREDIENT FOR A REFRESHING, CREAMY CUP EVERY TIME.

Make every cup of tea delicious with Amul T-Special Dairy Whitener. Enjoy the delightful creaminess, now in a new football edition pack!

Amul T-Special
DISSOLVES INSTANTLY
PREMIUM DAIRY WHITENER
High Fat Dairy Whitener

Rich, Creamy tea Right consistency Affordable price