

Kashmir: Where nature whispers through tranquil lakes and lush meadows



DEO Saloni Rai stresses to compliance
ECI's guidelines for counting of votes



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Shubh Navratri



Maa Chandraghanta
Goddess Chandraghanta is worshipped on the third day of Navratri.

This form of Goddess Parvati is peaceful and for welfare of her devotees. In this form Goddess Chandraghanta is ready for the war with all her weapons. It is believed that the sound of the moon-bell on her forehead expel all type of spirits away from her devotees.

Mantra
ॐ देवी चन्द्रघण्टायै नमः ॥
Om Devi Chandraghantayai Namah ॥

Inshorts

SFs kill 28 Naxalites in Bastar

DANTEWADA: In one of the biggest operations against Maoists in Chhattisgarh, security personnel killed 28 Naxalites in a fierce encounter in the Bastar region on Friday, a senior police official said.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai hailed the security forces for their operation and said the 'double engine' government (BJP government in the state and at the Centre) is determined to eliminate the menace.

The gunfight broke out at around 1 pm in the forest between Thulthuli and P11

ME, R-U imp for economy, energy: PM

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday made oblique reference to the widening conflicts in the Middle East and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, saying the two regions were crucial for the global economy and energy security.

His comments came amid fears of further escalation of conflict in the Middle East if Israel were to retaliate and attack Iran, potentially its nuclear and oil facilities. This, analysts fear, could fuel a surge in energy prices and draw the region into a wider conflict.

Speaking at the 3rd edition of the Kautilya P11

NC-Cong-PDP protest nomination of 5 MLAs before govt formation

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Asserting that any such move will be an assault on democracy and the fundamental principles of the Constitution, the Jammu and Kashmir Congress on Friday strongly opposed the nomination of five MLAs before the government formation in the union territory, even as its alliance partner National Conference also raised strong objections against the reported move, saying it was "unconstitutional and undemocratic".

The People's Democratic Party (PDP) also joined the two parties and called the move a direct affront to democracy.

9 years after Swaraj, Jaishankar set to visit Pak for SCO summit

NEW DELHI: In a major development, India on Friday announced that External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will travel to Pakistan to attend a conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in mid-October.

It will be for the first time in nearly nine years that India's external affairs minister will travel to Pakistan even as the ties between the two neighbours remained frosty over the Kashmir issue and cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan.

While the move is seen as exhibition of India's commitment to the SCO working for boosting regional security co-operation on the one hand, New Delhi's decision to send



EAM instead Prime Minister reaffirms its stand against Pakistan, responsible for terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan is hosting the SCO Council of Heads of Gov-

ernment (CHG) meeting on October 15 and 16.

The last Indian external affairs minister to visit Pakistan was Sushma Swaraj. She had travelled to Islamabad in December 2015 to attend a conference on Afghanistan.

The announcement on Jaishankar's visit was made by external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

"The external affairs minister will lead our delegation to Pakistan to participate in the SCO summit which will be held in Islamabad on October 15 and 16," he said at his weekly media briefing.

The spokesperson clarified that the external affairs minister is travelling P11

No clarity from GoI on meeting, Wangchuk takes fast route again

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk said he and other protesters from Ladakh would sit on an indefinite fast from Saturday since they have not received any response from the government over their demand of meeting the President, Prime Minister or the Union Home Minister.

Wangchuk was leading the 'Delhi Chalo Padyatra', which began from Leh a month ago. The 'padyatra' was organised by the Leh



Apex Body, which along with the Kargil Democratic Alliance, has been spearhead-

ing an agitation for the last four years for statehood for Ladakh and its inclusion in

the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

At a press conference here, the climate activist said they had written to the office of the President, Prime Minister and Home Minister seeking an appointment and were assured that they would be informed about the meeting by Friday 5 pm.

"We have not received any response from the government. So we will sit on an indefinite fast from tomorrow," Wangchuk said.

Ladakh MP Mohmad Haneefa and other P11

Dialogue, not polls, will resolve K-issue: Mirwaiz

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq Friday said that holding assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir would not solve the Kashmir issue and advocated for peaceful means of outreach and dialogue to address the matter.

The religious and separatist leader, who was allowed to offer Friday congregational prayers at the Jamia Masjid in the Nowhatta area of the city after over a month, claimed that he was put under house arrest and his movements were curtailed.

Delivering the sermon, he said election and "resolu-

tion of the Kashmir issue" were two different things.

"Civic elections in a Union Territory that Jammu and Kashmir was downgraded to in 2019 is limiting in giving any real power to its residents. In Jammu and Kashmir, it was rendered almost meaningless after further amendments were made to the Reorganisation Act, giving further sweeping executive powers to the lieutenant governor.

"Yet the kind of disempowerment and dispossession that we have witnessed since August 2019, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have some hope that it may give them some relief and say in their daily P11

DASH हित JAN हित VISHWA हित



Rooted in Humanity, Merit & Reform, JSP is fresh air in stagnant political landscape

SHIVANG SATYA GUPTA

Prashant Kishor's decision to float his own political party, the Jan Suraj Party (JSP), feels like a breath of fresh air in an increasingly suffocating political landscape. The launch of JSP, which coincided with Gandhi Jayanti—a day dedicated to one of India's greatest advocates for truth and equality—symbolizes a hope for a new kind of politics.

Kishor's reputation precedes him: he's the mastermind behind some of the most successful political campaigns in recent Indian history. But now, as he moves from being the man behind the curtain to a man in the arena, one can't help but wonder—can he really deliver on the promises he has set forth? Can Jan Suraj reshape Indian politics, and if so, how far will it go?

The answers aren't simple, but the very fact that Kishor is even attempting such a bold experiment is, in itself, reason for cautious optimism. Indian politics, for decades, has been dominated by the same

caste dynamics, communal rhetoric, and patronage-driven structures.

The majority of parties thrive on identity politics, exploiting societal divides for electoral gains while the real issues—education, employment, economic justice—remain on the backburner. Jan Suraj aims to disrupt this pattern, and if Kishor stays true to his word, we could witness something genuinely transformative.

One of the first things that strike me about JSP is its 'Human First' ideology. This isn't just another hollow slogan; it's a direct rejection of the very foundations on which many political parties are built. In a system where divisions along caste, religion, and ethnicity run deep, Kishor's emphasis on human-centric politics feels revolutionary.

He speaks of drawing inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi and B.R. Ambedkar, two figures who sought to elevate humanity above the fractures of identity. By focusing on merit and talent instead of communal or caste-based reservations, JSP offers a politics of inclusion rather than ex-

clusion. The selection of Manoj Bharti, an Indian Foreign Service officer and an IIT alumnus, as the working president of JSP is a testament to this. Kishor's decision to choose Bharti based on his competence, rather than simply his identity as a Dalit, is a refreshing departure from the usual political playbook.

"He is here not because he is a Dalit. He has been selected because he is even better than Prashant Kishor and happens to be a Dalit. One can see such talented people from different social groups holding key party positions in the future," Kishor said.

This appointment shows that Kishor wants to create a political space where meritocracy is valued, while also ensuring representation for marginalized groups. His reliance on people like Bharti—more of a technocrat than just a bureaucrat—is a testimony. This could be a game-changer in a country where caste-based politics often overshadows genuine talent.

But it's not just the ideology P11

BASELESS: NC puts to rest all rumours of alliance with BJP

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The National Conference (NC) on Friday said it was not in touch with any political party other than INDIA bloc constituents for government formation in Jammu and Kashmir.

The party's clarification came amid speculation that it was engaged in backchannel deliberations with the BJP for government formation in the union territory.

"The JKNC categorically denies the unfounded rumours of back channel talks with any party outside the INDIA Bloc. Those sensing their impending defeat have resorted to spreading such baseless accusations," the NC said in a statement.

A post on X by former Srinagar mayor Junaid Azim Mattu late on Thursday night claiming that "NC-BJP negotiations have clearly commenced" fanned the speculation.

"NC leadership is now speaking to authorised representatives from the

BJP and an unofficial mediator is "mediating". Initial groundwork includes the creation of a "larger interest" fig-leaf to justify the betrayal in Kashmir," Mattu said.

He claimed NC president Farooq Abdullah met a BJP representative in Pahalgam.

"Which BJP representative did Dr. Farooq Abdullah meet at Pahalgam not once but twice? What negotiations are being held in Pahalgam? What happened to all the stentorian rhetoric of BJP being forbidden and prohibited? The more that things change, the more they remain the same," he added.

The NC urged the public "who have placed their trust in us" to disregard these false claims and not be swayed by rumour-mongering.

NC sources said Abdullah was in Pahalgam for a golf tournament.

The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections were held in three phases on September 18, September 25 and October 1. The counting of votes will take place on October 8. P11

BJP summons key leaders to Delhi ahead of Oct 8 counting

JAMMU: Ahead of the vote counting on October 8, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has scheduled an important meeting in the national capital to strategise the formation of the next government in Jammu & Kashmir.

Credible sources informed that the BJP central leadership has summoned around a dozen top leaders of its J&K unit for a crucial meeting in Delhi on Saturday, to be chaired by party national president and Union Minister J P Nadda.

Attendees will include BJP's election in-charge and Union Minister G. Krishna Reddy, Ram Madhav, J&K Prabhari Tarun Chugh, Seh Prabhari Ashish Sood, J&K BJP President Ravinder Raina, Working President Sat Sharma and four General Secretaries of the J&K BJP: Ashok Koul (General Secretary Organisation), Dr Devender Manyal, Sunil Sharma and Vibodh Gupta. Two former Deputy Chief Ministers, Kavinder Gupta P11

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