

IN BRIEF

LG, CM greet people on Navreh, Ugadi

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has conveyed his greetings to the people on the eve of Navreh, Chaitra Sukladi, Ugadi, Gudi Padava and Cheti Chand. In a message, the Lieutenant Governor has said, "On the auspicious occasion of Navreh, Chaitra Sukladi, Ugadi, Gudi Padava and Cheti Chand, I extend my greetings and good wishes to all. These festivals, observed throughout the nation, herald the dawn of the New Year and embody the profound renewal of faith and hope. May these festivals bring prosperity, peace and happiness in everyone's life and also promote the spirit of oneness and harmony." Meanwhile, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today extended his warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Chaitra Navratri. In a message, the Chief Minister said that Navratri marks the beginning of the New Year and P11

Efforts on to project Jammu on spiritual tourism map: LG

Sinha joins Shri Raghunath Ji's Aarti



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday called upon the people to organise daily or weekly evening aartis in the towns and villages nestled along the riverbanks of Jammu Division in collaboration with the local communities. "I urge people to organise daily or weekly evening Aartis in towns and villages set-

led along the riverbanks in Jammu Division. Light kindled by Aarti's lamps will awaken the society towards our profound rich culture and connect young generation with timeless verses of our holy scriptures," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor attended Shri Raghunath Ji's Jammu Aarti organised by 'Shri Raghunath Ji Ki Jammu Aarti Sanstha'. He expressed his gratitude to the organisers and observed that this unique Jammu Aarti performed by devoted men and women today, embodies India's timeless reverence for Nari Shakti and Ardhnarishtar, while invoking divine blessings upon every living soul. "I strongly believe the evening Aarti is the discipline of the soul. It is a conscious and awakened effort to in-

spire the society to look at the source of our existence and be grateful," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor also stated that every flame that rises in the Aarti is an offering of absolute devotion, every prayer is a dialogue with the infinite and every moment spent is a step towards inner journey. "In this rapidly changing world, amid the relentless pace of life, we need a meditative moment to remind ourselves about the greatest treasure that exists within us. I believe that Jammu Aarti provides an opportunity to every section of society to rediscover this priceless inner wealth," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor observed that efforts P11

No full stop in politics: Modi bids farewell to RS MPs, hails bigwigs

PM lauds Cabinet's decisions on industrial growth

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday lauded the contribution of 59 members retiring from the Rajya Sabha between April and July, calling Parliament "an open university" and urging outgoing legislators to remain active in national life.



Addressing the Upper House on the occasion of the biennial farewell, Modi said such moments naturally dissolve partisan divides. "When an occasion such as this arises -- naturally and spontaneously -- we rise above partisan differences, and a shared sentiment emerges within us all," he said. To members who do not plan to return, the Prime Minister offered reassurance. "In politics, there is no such thing as a full stop. The future awaits you as well, and your experience and contributions will forever remain an enduring part of our national life," he said. Modi reserved special praise for three senior leaders -- former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, Leader of Op-

position Mallikarjun Kharge, and NCP chief Sharad Pawar -- calling them stalwarts who have spent more than half their lives in parliamentary proceedings. "The manner in which they continue to attend the House with such dedication -- a spirit from which all new parliamentarians ought to learn --" is truly exemplary," he said. "Such a long tenure is no small feat -- it is a matter of immense significance." The Prime Minister also paid tribute to outgoing Deputy Chairman Harivansh, describing him as "gentle and soft-spoken" yet "a man of rigorous action, constantly working for the betterment of every corner of India." He noted that Harivansh had continued to travel across the country even during recess, engaging the youth on national issues. "Even when the House is not in session, he travels to various corners of the country to interact with the youth, working tirelessly to foster a sense of national consciousness among them," Modi said. In a lighter vein, the Prime Minister P11

Centre gets 1 Cr grievances in five years

NEW DELHI: Over 1 crore public grievances have been received in the last five years, the Lok Sabha was informed on Wednesday. These grievances were received on the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), which allows citizens to raise complaints online. As many as 1,11,89,384 public grievances were received between 2021 and February 2026, Union Minister of State for Personnel Dr Jitendra Singh said in a written reply. Of these, 20,00,590 grievances were received in 2021, 19,18,238 in P11

Weapon recovered amid searches after suspicious movement in Rajouri, Doda

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Security forces have conducted search operations at different locations in Rajouri, Doda and Poonch districts following reports of movement of suspected terrorists, leading to the recovery of a country-made weapon, officials said on Wednesday. The illegal 'topidar' (gun) along with six cartridges was recovered from the house of Shoket Ali at village Samaie in Gandoh tehsil of Doda, a police spokesman said. He said a joint search operation by police and army was carried out in the village



on the directions of Doda Senior Superintendent of Police Sandeep Mehta. Ali failed to produce a valid licence for the weapon and accordingly, a case under relevant sections of the Arms Act was registered at Gandoh police station for further investigation, the spokesman said. According to the officials, a combing operation was launched at P11

SMVD shrine decked up; security tightened for Chaitra Navratras

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KATRA: An elaborate security net has been cast over the trek leading to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop the Trikuta hills for the Chaitra Navratras, an official said on Wednesday. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) CEO Sachin Kumar Vaishya said the entire shrine area, including the Bhawan and surrounding premises, has been decorated with flowers ahead of the nine-day festival. A heavy influx of pilgrims is expected to visit the shrine during the period, which ends on Ram Navami. "The Shrine Board has made extensive P11



Attack on NC Chief: JKP seeks evidences

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police has issued a public notice seeking information, video recordings, and photographs from people who attended a marriage function where an assassination attempt was made on National Conference president Farooq Abdullah here. Police on Sunday constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the recent incident of firing at Abdullah at a wedding function in the Greater Kailash area here on Wednesday. P11

Oil tanker Jag Laadki reaches India from conflict-hit region

NEW DELHI: Indian-flagged oil tanker Jag Laadki has reached Mundra port in Gujarat after sailing safely from Fujairah in the UAE, despite an attack on the terminal, taking the total number of vessels transiting the conflict-hit zone to four. The tanker, with 80,886 tonne of crude oil sourced from the UAE, departed from Fujairah Port following the incident and completed its voyage to Mundra Port on Wednesday, according to shipping sources. Jag Laadki is the second vessel from the war zone to have reached Adani group's Mundra port. Previously, LPG tanker Shivalik reached the port on Monday. Adani's Mundra port provided the safe berthing of the vessel and maritime coordination in safeguarding vital energy lifelines of India, they said. All 22 Indian seafarers onboard are reported safe. Originally, there were 28 Indian-flagged vessels in the Strait of Hormuz when the war in West Asia broke out following US-Israel attacks on Iran. Of these, 24 were on the west side of the strait and 4 on the east side. In the last one week, two vessels P11

2.6L people returned from West Asia: MEA

NEW DELHI: Amid the escalating West Asia conflict, the government on Wednesday said around 2.6 lakh people have returned from the region to India since February 28. At an inter-ministerial briefing here on the West Asia situation, P11

Higher reaches receive fresh snow as wet spell persists across Valley



SRINAGAR: A few areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir received fresh snowfall, while rain lashed most parts of the Valley on Wednesday, leading to a drop in temperature, officials said. Reports of fresh snowfall were received from Pir Ki Gali along the Mughal Road in Shopian district, and from Sonamarg, even as most mountains in the Valley remained covered by layers of snow. The higher reaches of the Valley have been receiving intermittent snow since Sunday. The plains, including Srinagar, were lashed by rain, which continued till the last reports came in on Wednesday, the officials said. The wet weather has brought down the temperature across the Valley, with Srinagar recording a maximum of 14.9 degrees Celsius on Tuesday, more than one degree lower than the normal, the officials P11

Railways deploy Scouts & Guides for crowd control

JAMMU: Special teams of Scouts and Guides have been deployed at key railway stations under the Jammu division to ensure smooth passenger movement and effective crowd management during the Navratri festival, officials said on Wednesday. Anticipating a heavy influx of devotees visiting the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, the division has implemented comprehensive security and passenger amenity measures to handle overcrowding at stations, they said. Major stations, including Jammu Tawi and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, witness a surge in passenger traffic during the festival, the officials said. So, trained Scouts and Guides have been stationed at these locations to assist pilgrims and maintain order, they said. Their responsibilities include regulating queues at platforms and entry and exit gates, guiding passengers to correct platforms and trains, assisting elderly persons, women and persons with disabilities, and preventing overcrowding in specific areas to ensure unobstructed movement, they said. The volunteers are also coordinating with the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) to respond to medical P11

Cabinet clears Rs 33,660 Cr BHAVYA scheme to accelerate industrial devp

NEW DELHI: In order to boost manufacturing, the government on Wednesday approved Rs 33,660 crore Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA) to develop 100 plug-and-play industrial parks across the country. The scheme aims to develop world-class industrial infrastructure, unlocking manufacturing potential and driving India's growth story, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said while briefing reporters on Cabinet decisions. The Cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the BHAVYA scheme, which is expected to generate about 15 lakh direct jobs. Addressing a media briefing here, Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Amardeep Singh Bhatia informed that the BHAVYA scheme will have a duration of six years, from FY27 to 2031-32, with 50 parks to be developed in the first phase and the central government funding of up to Rs 1 crore per acre. Under the scheme, industrial parks ranging from 100 to 1,000 acres will be taken up for the development with financial support of up to Rs 1 crore per acre. These parks will have core infrastructure like internal roads, underground utilities, drainage, common treatment facilities, ICT and administrative systems. Besides, there would be value-added infrastructure like ready-built factory sheds, built-to-suit units, testing labs, warehousing and social infrastructure, including houses for workers and other amenities. Moreover, he said, support for external infrastructure will also be provided up to 25 per cent of the project cost, ensuring seamless connectivity and integration with existing networks. Project selection will be undertaken P11

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