

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! NC-led alliance...

support of the parties to the LG.
"Shri Omar Abdullah, Vice President, Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan today. He handed over a letter from the Party President Dr. Farooq Abdullah stating that Shri Omar Abdullah has been elected as Leader of the Legislature Party of JKNC. Letters of support from INC, CPI(M), AAP and independent members were also handed over to the Lieutenant Governor," the spokesperson said.
Abdullah indicated that the swearing-in ceremony is likely to take place on Wednesday, saying the transition process may take some time as the Union Territory is at present under the central rule.
"This is not a situation where one elected government is replacing another. We are currently under central rule as a union territory, and the LG must prepare and send documents to the Rashtrapati Bhavan. These documents will then go to the Home Ministry for processing before returning.
"We have been informed that this could take at least 2-3 days, but I hope the oath ceremony can be held on Wednesday if this process is expedited," Abdullah added.
He said that some of the independents who have been elected have joined the National Conference and "now it is my duty to stand with them and ensure all round development in their areas".
Earlier in the day, Congress legislators convened and authorised the party's high command in New Delhi to select the leader of its legislature party.
After the meeting, JKPC president Tariq Karra said the party unanimously authorised the central leadership to make the final decision regarding the CLP leader.
This would be the first government of Jammu and Kashmir after the state was divided into two union territories on August 5, 2019. The special status of the erstwhile state was also revoked on the date by withdrawing Article 370.

51 first-time...

Democratic Party (PDP) and the lone Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA are first timers in the Assembly.

Prominent among the first-time MLAs are PDP youth president Waheed Para, a businessman, AAP MLA from Doda Mehraj Malik and the NC's Mushtaq Ahmad Guroo, who defeated Apni Party president and former minister Altaf Bukhari.

Several newly-elected MLAs have been members of the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha or the Legislative Council in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. Among them is former high court judge and NC leader Hasnain Masoodi, who was a member of the Lok Sabha from 2019 to 2024. Masoodi was elected to the Assembly from Pampore.

PDP leader Mir Mohammad Fayaz, who won the electoral contest from Kupwara, was a member of the Rajya Sabha from 2015 to 2021. The 47-year-old had lost the 2014 Assembly polls by a slender margin of 151 votes.

NC leaders Bashir Ahmad Veeri (Srigufwara-Bijbehara), Saifuddin Bhat (Khansahib), Javid Ahmad Mirchal (Karnah), Surinder Kumar Choudhary (Nowshera) and Showkat Hussain Ganie (Zainapora) have in the past been members of the Legislative Council.

From the BJP, Vikram Randhawa, who won the Bahu seat in Jammu, was a member of the Upper House of the legislature in the past.

The Upper House of the Jammu and Kashmir legislature was abolished following the reorganisation of the erstwhile state into two Union territories.

Cong MLAs leave...

Karra said the Congress has extended the support to the NC for government formation and the letter of support will be given to the NC leadership on Friday only.

Asked why the decision was left to the party high command, Karra said there were no differences on the choice of the CLP leader, but "there is a precedent in the INC (Indian National Congress) to do that... this is nothing abnormal for the INC".

To a question whether the party has any demands for supporting the NC, the JKPC chief said they have not made any demands and the party wants to keep the spirit of the INDIA bloc intact "for a bigger cause of the betterment of people".

Asked about the NC enjoying a majority on its own with the support of Independents, Karra said the spirit of the alliance is much higher than the numbers game.

"The spirit is different. It is pan-India spirit. It is not confined to J&K.
"It has utility for the entire India. This is not an issue of ministerial berths. It is for our fight against the BJP," he said.

To a query whether the party accepts NC leader Omar Abdullah, who has been elected as the legislature party leader of his party, as the chief ministerial face of the alliance, Karra said, "When the NC has elected its leader, why should we comment? He is acceptable to us. It is their choice."

Around 150 terrorists...

adding there are inputs about possible infiltration attempts along the LoC.

Asked about the volatile West Asia situation having any impact in the Valley, the IG BSF said while the security forces do not have specific inputs on terrorists trying to take advantage of the crises "we keep these international developments in our analysis and factor them into our operational plans".

On a question about narco-terrorism, Yadav said narcotics comes in from across the LoC and is a good source for terror financing.

"There are some villages along the LoC, some vulnerable patches like Tangdhar and Keran sectors, but we have deployed mobile bunkers and women troopers as well because there were inputs that they might use some women as couriers, to stop the inflow of narcotics. There has been a huge impact and we have been successful in bringing it down to a large extent," he added.

The BSF officer said the forces strive to ensure that soldiers are trained not only in traditional aspects of border management such as weapon handling, firing, field craft and tactics and endurance activities, but also in the latest technology.

"With the evolving nature of technology, we have integrated various types of surveillance equipment into border management. Given the growing issue of drones, we are incorporating training on how to effectively use new technology for better border security.

"Additionally, we are utilising the Government of India's platform, iGOT, which offers various types of training that we provide to our trainees," he said.

GoC visits forward...

unwavering commitment and dedication towards counter-terrorism operations, the White Knight Corps said on X. On Thursday and Wednesday, the GoC visited forward areas of Rajouri and Akhnoor to review security situation and operational preparedness of troops.

Armed forces should...

The nation is proud of its army and the government is committed to facilitate the force in their forward movement, "on the road to reforms and capability modernisation", he added.

During the event, the Indian Army's apex leadership comprehensively deliberated upon all aspects of existing security scenarios, situation along the borders and in the hinterland and challenges for the present security apparatus, the defence ministry said in a statement.

Singh was scheduled to address this gathering of commanders in person. But, due to bad weather at Gangtok, he addressed them via a weblink from an Army location at Sukhna.

Sources said he is likely to go to Gangtok from Darjeeling Saturday morning.

Singh reassured the faith of the entire nation in the Indian Army, as one of the most trusted and inspiring organisations in the country.

He highlighted the significant role being played by the Indian Army in "guarding our borders and fighting terrorism apart from providing assistance to the civil administration in every need of the hour". On the current situation along the northern borders, the defence minister "expressed full confidence in the Army for any contingency", though the ongoing talks for peaceful resolution "will continue at all levels," the statement quoted the minister as saying.

The Indian and Chinese militaries have been locked in a standoff since May 2020 and a full resolution of the border row has not yet been achieved though the two sides have disengaged from a number of friction points.

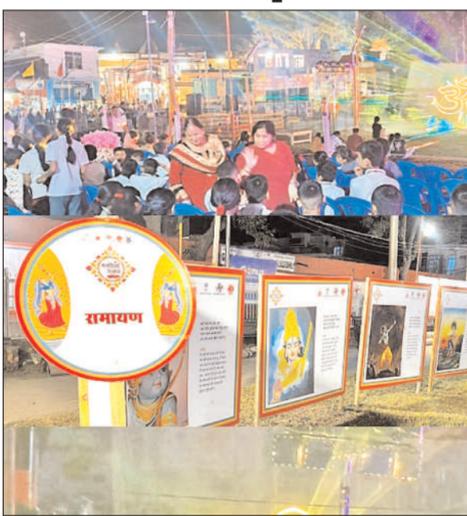
Several rounds of military and diplomatic talks have taken place between India and China, with New Delhi maintaining that peace and tranquillity along the LAC is essential for normalisation of bilateral ties. The ties between the two countries nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades. Singh in his address also referred to the situation along the western border.

He complimented the Indian Army's response to cross-border terrorism, however, the proxy war by the adversary continues, the statement said. "I compliment the excellent synergy between the CAPE, police forces and the army in tackling the menace of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. The synergised operations in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are contributing to increased stability and peace in the region which was also evident in the recently conducted elections in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, and for this I again compliment the Indian Army," he said.



LG Manoj Sinha during visit to Mata Vaishno Devi shrine on Friday.

Basohli Utsav: Mega Laser Show Mesmerizes Spectators on second day



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: Basohli Utsav, the cultural extravaganza celebrating the vibrant heritage of the region, continued to charm audiences with its diverse events.

A major highlight of the second day was the Mega Laser Show, organized by the District Administration of Kathua, which captivated the crowds gathered at Ramelela Ground.

The Laser Show, which was a key attraction, illuminated the night sky, showcasing spectacular visuals intertwined with short films based on religious stories.

The stunning display left the audience in awe, adding a modern touch to the traditional celebrations and creating a memorable experience for all attendees.

NC leader congratulates Omar, hopes new Govt will fulfill aspirations of J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Pankaj Kohli, a senior leader of the National Conference (NC), has extended his heartfelt congratulations to Omar Abdullah, lauding his leadership and expressing optimism for the future of Jammu and Kashmir. Kohli highlighted the significance of the new government's role in addressing the long-standing issues faced by the region's citizens. He emphasized the importance of inclusive development, peace, and stability in Jammu and Kashmir.

Kohli further remarked that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have high hopes from the new administration, trusting that it will work diligently to bring about progress and prosperity. He voiced confidence in Omar Abdullah's ability to steer the government toward fulfilling the aspirations of all communities, focusing on

education, infrastructure, and employment opportunities.

Kohli urged the government to prioritize restoring normalcy and ensuring the equitable distribution of resources for all regions of the state. The National Conference leader concluded by calling for unity and cooperation among political stakeholders to overcome the challenges facing the Union Territory, ensuring that the voices of Jammu and Kashmir's people are heard and their dreams realized.



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Army organises pre recruitment training session

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHADERWAH: In view of upcoming recruitment in Army, Rashtriya Rifles organised a pre recruitment Programme at Bhaderwah to aware aspirants about the importance points to clear the physical and written tests.

The registration for the session was started in the morning at Army camp in Sarna Bhaderwah and continued till evening.

The aspirants were given basic knowledge about Physical and ground tests, beside will be given important knowledge about written tests.

Large number of aspiring



Youth participating in training.

youths participated in the training session and appreciated the Army for such great initiative.

21C Rashtriya Rifles unit based at Bhaderwah while addressing the candidates, urged upon them to be confi-

demic and artistic competitions such as essay writing, painting, storytelling, and Sanskrit Shloka recitation were held.

These competitions saw participation from over 50 students, with the top performers in each category being honored with awards.

The evening at Ramelela Ground was further enhanced by vibrant performances of traditional Dogri Geetru and Sithania, songs typically sung during Dogri weddings, which delighted the audience and added a cultural flair to the festivities. In addition to the performances and sports, 20 stalls were set up in Purthu by various departments, self-help groups, and NGOs, showcasing local crafts and services. The stalls featured live demonstrations of Pashmina shawl making, handicrafts, Basohli painting workshops, and exhibits of manuscripts, archives, and banking services, providing visitors with opportunities for shopping and cultural engagement.

The second day of Basohli Utsav 2.0 also featured a series of events, including sports competitions for under-17 girls in Purthu, with games like Santolia and Tug of War inaugurated by Chief Guest Director ACB Shakti Pathak. Students from various schools participated in the contests, showcasing their skills and sportsmanship. Throughout the day, ac-

Delegation of Dogra Law College visits High Court, meets Chief Justice

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation from Dogra Law College, led by Adv. Gambhir Dev Singh Charak, Member Trustee, Dogra Educational Trust, Dr. Dharamveer Sharma, Dean, Dogra Group of Colleges, and Dr. Jay Parkash Shrivastava, Principal Dogra Law College along with staff members and office bearers of student's council visited the High Court at Jammu to extend their heartfelt congratulations to Justice Tashi Rabstan on resuming the charge of Chief Justice of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

During their visit, the delegation expressed their admiration and appreciation for Honourable Chief Justice distinguished legal career and his contributions to the judiciary. They conveyed their best wishes for his new role and responsibilities, emphasizing the positive

Div Com Jammu inaugurates 7 days Gandhi Shilp Bazaar at Jammu Haat



Div Com Jammu Ramesh Kumar inaugurating exhibition.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar on Friday inaugurated Gandhi Shilp Bazaar, a 7 day exhibition of exquisite Handicraft and Handloom products at Jammu Haat, Dogra Chowk, here.

The event has been organised by the Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, Handicrafts Service Centre, Jammu. 50 artisans and weavers from various parts of India are exhibiting their craftsmanship by displaying their products for sale in Jammu Haat from 11th to 17th of this month.

While speaking on the occasion, Divisional Commissioner applauded the efforts of the department and stressed that such type of events should be organised regularly for providing marketing platform to the artisans and weavers.

He added that the handicrafts fosters creativity and reflects expression and aesthetic beauty of an artist.

Ambika Sambyal, Assistant Director, Handicrafts Service Centre, Jammu apprised the Div Com that the Exhibition presents different crafts from different regions spanning from bamboo, Jute, Dry Flower and Sital Patti from North East, Embroideries and Madhubani painting from Bihar and West Bengal, Kasuti Sarees from South India, Gujarati embroideries and patch work, Banarsi sarees, Stone Carving, Rugs and Durries, Zari Zardosi from Uttar Pradesh, Woodware and Art Metal Ware from Rajasthan, Phulkari, wood inlay and jutties from Punjab, Kullu Shawls to crafts like terracota, candle, hand block printing etc from various other states.

The vote of thanks was presented by Anirudh Kapil, Assistant Director, IISC Jammu while the programme was conducted by Disha.

Other dignitaries present in the inaugural session of the marketing event include Ruchika Gupta, Chairperson, FICCI Flo (JKL) and Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Suraj Prakash Rakwal.



impact his leadership will have on the administration of justice in the region.

Gambhir Dev Singh Charak, on behalf of the Dogra Educational Trust, remarked, "It is a moment of great pride for all of us to have such a distinguished and accomplished legal luminary at the helm of the judiciary in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. We are confident that Chief Justice Rabstan's tenure will be marked by fairness, integrity, and judicial excellence."

Dr. Dharamveer Sharma, Dean of the Dogra Group of Colleges and Dr. Jay Parkash Shrivastava,

Principal Dogra Law College, echoed similar sentiments, underscoring the importance of Chief Justice, Tashi Rabstan's appointment for the legal fraternity and society at large.

The students of Dogra Law College were especially inspired by the meeting, which provided them with an opportunity to witness the workings of the judiciary up close and gain valuable insights from the esteemed Chief Justice.

The meeting concluded with the blessings from the Chief Justice for the bright future of the students of the Dogra Law College.

Amway India strengthens efforts to safeguard consumer wellbeing, support its distributors

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Amway India reaffirmed its commitment to consumer and distributor welfare by launching a comprehensive awareness campaign against unauthorized sales of its products.

This initiative aims to educate stakeholders about the risks associated with unofficial channels, enhance supply chain monitoring, and implement strict measures against offenders.

Unauthorized selling poses significant risks to consumers, as it often leads to counterfeit products that bypass Amway's stringent quality controls. To combat this, Amway enforces a Zero Tolerance Policy against unauthorized sales, including potential suspension or termination of distributors involved in such practices. Products are exclusively available through Amway distributors and its official website (www.amway.in), with labels stating, "Sold only through Amway Direct Selling Partners" to ensure authenticity. To further support its distributors, Amway provides resources for accurate information sharing and conducts educational campaigns about the dangers of unauthorized sales. Additionally, Amway has enhanced its delivery net-

work, covering over 17,000 pin codes with an average



delivery time of just 1.6 days. This focus on efficient delivery not only boosts customer satisfaction but also diminishes the allure of unauthorized selling, reinforcing Amway's commitment to quality and consumer safety.

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