

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Connectivity in J&K...

bridge projects inaugurated today will have a positive impact on the border tourism, creation of new employment opportunities, bringing economic prosperity in the society and enhancing quality of life in forward areas. These projects will improve operational capacity of the Indian Army and boost mobility and logistics support for the troops, he added.

The Lt Governor also lauded the important contribution of Border Roads Organisation to the socio-economic transformation and national integration in the border areas.

The road and bridges of J&K inaugurated today includes Mohura Baaz road; Tutmarigali Kaiyan Bowl road; Gurai Bridge, Bandipora-Gurez road; Garjun Bridge Tutmarigali Base to Top; Niru Nar; Dawar-Niru-Baraub-Chakwali-Kaobal Gali road; Bishnah-Kaulpur-Khojpur road; Basohli-Bani-Bhaderwah road; Gallhar-Sansari road; Swan bridge, Basohli-Bani-Bhaderwah road; Sanu bridge, Domel-Jindra-Khartaroad; Naigarh bridge, Dul-Gallhar road; Channani bridge, Domel-Jindra-Khartaroad; Nattoo bridge, Gallhar-Sansari road; Kogra Bridge, Domel-Jindra-Khartaroad; Biyalu bridge, Basohli-Bani-Bhaderwah road; Dersu bridge, Dhar -Udhampur road and Sewa-II bridge, Basohli-Bani-Bhaderwah road.

Hindus need to...

singling out mobile phones and over-the-top (OTT) streaming platforms as key contributors.

Bhagwat said firmness of personal and national character becomes the foundation of strength for the victory of auspiciousness and righteousness, whether the situation is favourable or not.

"Everyone feels Bharat has become stronger and more respected in the world with enhanced credibility in the last few years. A country becomes great due to the national character of its people. This year is important as RSS steps into its centenary year," he said.

Besides hopes and aspirations, challenges and problems also exist in India, he said.

"We should draw inspiration from personalities like Ahilyabai Holkar, Dayananda Saraswati, Birsa Munda and many more who devoted their lives to the country's welfare, dharma, culture and society," said the RSS chief.

The ongoing Hamas-Israel war is a cause for concern about how far the conflict will spread, he said.

Bhagwat expressed satisfaction that the recent assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir were held peacefully.

"Due to the people, government and administration, the country's image, power, fame and position on the world stage is growing. But sinister conspiracies have appeared to destabilise and disturb the country," he said.

RSS dedicated to...

organisational growth over the decades. RSS functionaries invariably occupy the position of general secretary (organisation) in the BJP's national and state units, ensuring that the party organisation works with ideological cohesion and discipline.

Over 70 pc...

the number of such legislators in the NC is six. An overall analysis of the educational qualifications of the new Assembly members reveals that four MLAs have not passed the Class-10 examination while nine are matriculates. For a dozen MLAs, Class 12 is the highest educational qualification.

There are 16 graduates and 32 graduates with professional degrees who are members of the first Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, while 12 members have completed post-graduate degrees. There are three doctorate degree holders and two diploma holders in the House as well.

The ADR data also reveals that nine of the 90 MLAs have criminal cases against them, with eight of them facing serious charges that carry a punishment of five or more years in jail.

Five of these MLAs belong to the NC, with four of them facing serious charges, while two BJP MLAs also face serious criminal charges. The other two belong to the People's Democratic Party (PDP) and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

The number of MLAs facing criminal cases has gone up this time. Only five MLAs had criminal cases against them in the 87-member Assembly of the erstwhile state, including two who were facing serious charges.

Interstate drug racket...

resulting in the detention of a local smuggler from Sopore for questioning.

Cooperation with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in New Delhi led to a raid at a warehouse in Noida's Sector 135, where a substantial quantity of Codeine was recovered, the spokesman said.

The key individuals behind the racket identified as Sachin Rana and Arun Rana, residents of Faridabad, have been identified, and efforts to apprehend them are ongoing, he said.

This operation has uncovered both the forward and backward linkages of the interstate drug network, with further arrests expected as the investigation continues, the spokesman added.

Jaishankar, 7 PMs...

as an observer while the deputy chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Foreign Ministers of Turkmenistan will participate as special guest.

Prime Minister Sharif will also hold important bilateral meetings with visiting heads of the delegations on the sidelines of the main meeting, the FO statement added.

MP Rashid, delegations...

several issues of public importance. Later, a delegation of Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry, led by its President Javid Ahmad Tenga met the Lt Governor at Raj Bhawan.

1st priority for...

The Communist Party of India (Marxist), the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and several Independent legislators have extended support to the coalition.

Asked if restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood would also be a priority for the new government, the NC chief said it is already on the agenda.

"We are already requesting that statehood must be restored so that the state can work and we can get on with our job," he added.

Abdullah said Dussehra celebrates the victory of truth over falsehood.

"The biggest message from this is that lies get defeated and the truth wins. You yourself saw how lies were burning and truth was rising. This was their lesson and Lord Ram had also said the same," the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said.

The veteran leader said this was the first time that the organisers of the Dussehra event invited him.

"I was a Member of Parliament for the last five years but they did not remember me. But today, when they remembered me, I came and it felt very good. I used to watch this in my father's time. Our Hindu brothers also used to participate in it. We miss them a lot and I pray to God that the void is filled next year," he said. The former Chief Minister

battled for the return of Kashmiri Pandits to the valley.

"I hope our brothers and sisters who left Kashmir return and take care of their homes. The time has come for their return and they should return sooner," he said.

Asked if the new regime in the Union Territory would take any step for their return, Abdullah said there would be a government initiative as the NC not only thinks about Kashmiri Pandits, but also about the people of Jammu.

"We have to treat them (the people of Jammu) well, so that they also feel that the NC government is not their enemy. We want to take everyone together," he added.

Abdullah said his party's government will empower everyone, whether they are Dogras, Punjabis or Kashmiris, and there will be no discrimination against any resident of Jammu and Kashmir. Asked if the leaders of the INDIA bloc will be invited for the oath-taking ceremony, the former Union minister answered in the affirmative.

"We have already invited everyone, they just have to be told about the date," he added. Replying to a question on Baramulla MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid alias Engineer Rashid's meeting with the LG regarding the release of political prisoners, Abdullah said, "He should get himself released first and then talk about political prisoners."

Dussehra celebrated with...

Ravana, Kumbhkarna and Meghnath at Dussehra Grounds in Gandhi Nagar. The chariot carrying Lord Rama's character and others was taken out from Luxmi Narayan temple to



different parts of Gandhi Nagar before entering famous Dussehra Ground.

Meanwhile, Dussehra, the festival marked the triumph of good over evil, was celebrated with great religious fervour in Srinagar, officials said.

In the summer capital, the Vijay Dashmi (Dussehra) was successfully held at the Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium, Srinagar.

Organized by the Kashmiri Pandit Sangarsh Samiti, an organization which primarily addresses the concerns of resident Kashmiri Pandits who stayed back in the Valley, the festival brought together diverse communities from across the region to witness the symbolic burning of effigies of Ravana, Meghnath, and Kumbhkaran.

National Conference President Farooq Abdullah also attended Dussehra celebrations at Srinagar's Stadium.

Abdullah appealed to Kashmiri Pandits to come back home.

"I hope that our brothers and sisters who have left from here come back home. Now the time has come, they should return to their homes," Abdullah told reporters. "We do not think only about Kashmiri Pandits, but we also think about the people of Jammu, we should treat them well, they should also feel that the National Conference government is not their enemy. We are Indians and we want to take everyone along."

This one-of-a-kind event in the entire Kashmir Valley drew large crowds, including dignitaries, government officials, and officers from the local administration, all of whom joined the festivities in a spirit of unity, KPSS said.

The KPSS also extended its deepest gratitude to Puneet Balan and the Puneet Balan Group for their generous support in making this event a grand success for the second consecutive year.

Building on the resounding success of last year's Dussehra celebration, this year's festival further strengthened the message of communal harmony.

Dussehra was celebrated with great enthusiasm and religious fervour on Saturday evening at the sports stadium, Udhampur. Thousands of people participated in the celebrations where the effigies of Ravana, Kumbhkarna and Meghnatha were consigned to flames marking the victory of truth over evil.

CRPF personnel as well as the Dog Squad were deployed to avoid any untoward incident during the celebration.

Meanwhile, a Bandara was also organised in Shiv Shakti mandir, Sector -2, Gangyal. The mandir committee has organised Bajans and kirtans along with Prasad during the Navratras. Chairman of Mandir committee Dev Raj Sharma thanked the devotees and committee members who participated in the Navratri Poojas.

Passengers of accident hit express train left for Darbhanga by special train, says railway

STATE TIMES NEWS
CHENNAI: Passengers of the Darbhanga Bagmati express that met with an accident at Kavaraipettai near here late last night have left for Darbhanga by a special train on Saturday, the southern railway said.

The Train No.12578 Mysuru - Darbhanga Bagmati Express collided with a stationary goods train at around 8.30 pm on October 11 and the passengers were transported by buses to Ponneri and then to Chennai Central by two

EMU specials, the railway said.

"After all the passengers arrived, they were boarded onto the passenger special towards Darbhanga, via Arakkonam, Renigunta and Gudur," a release here said.

The passengers were provided with food packets and water and the special train left at 4.45 am, it said.

"It was not supposed to stop here (Kavaraipettai station), so it was to pass through it. After leaving Chennai, green signals were given for this train. The driver

was following the signals correctly, but the train should have taken the main line. Instead, it took the loop line at the switch, which is where the error occurred," R N Singh, General Manager of Southern Railway, said.

The reasons for this were a matter of investigation. Seven to eight people have suffered injuries, and there are no casualties, Singh told reporters.

Meanwhile, the southern railway has rescheduled all trains passing through this section.

Eight Bangladeshis held for illegal stay in Karnataka

STATE TIMES NEWS
KARNATAKA: Eight Bangladeshi nationals who were staying illegally in Udipi district here were apprehended, police said on Saturday.

They were residing in Hoode village in the district for the past three years without valid passports or visas.

According to Udipi Superintendent of Police Arun K, the arrest came after one of the accused, identified as Mohammed Maniq, attempted to flee to

Dubai from Mangaluru airport using a fake passport. Suspicion from immigration officials led to his arrest at Bajpe airport in the neighbouring Dakshina Kannada district, he said.

"Upon interrogation, Maniq revealed that seven other Bangladeshi nationals were staying with him illegally in Hoode village."

The information was relayed to the Udipi police, who subsequently conducted a raid in the area.

Police detained the seven individuals on Friday and

initiated a detailed inquiry into their illegal stay. During the investigation, it was discovered that the accused possessed fake Aadhaar cards.

SP Arun stated that an investigation is underway to determine how the accused obtained these fraudulent Aadhaar cards and how they managed to cross the border into India from Bangladesh.

The eight Bangladeshi nationals are currently in police custody and are expected to be produced before a local court.

Samson ton powers India to 133-run win, 3-0 T20I series sweep against Bangladesh

STATE TIMES NEWS
HYDERABAD: Sanju Samson's ebullient maiden T20 International hundred dotted India's resounding 133-run victory and 3-0 series sweep over a listless Bangladesh here on Saturday.

Once India broomed away records like rotten twigs while posting 297 for 6 after electing to bat, it was always a case of eventual margin of win and Bangladesh never really offered a meaningful fight, ending up at 164/7 in the third and final T20I.

Pacer Mayank Yadav (2/32) and leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi (3/30) led the hosts' bowling effort.

Samson (111, 47 balls, 11x4, 8x6), who hammered the second fastest T20I century by an Indian after Rohit Sharma (35 balls), and skipper Suryakumar Yadav (75, 35 balls, 8x4, 5x6), biffed 173 runs during an electrifying second wicket stand, propelling the hosts past several records.

The total was second in the all-time list of the highest T20I team totals behind Nepal's 314 and ahead of Afghanistan's 278/3, and also India's highest in the shortest format.

They were purely amazing stats even taking into account a barren pitch and lighting quick outfield.

But beyond that cold realm of numbers, Samson's innings was touched by his esoteric genius, the ingredient that makes him compelling and frustrating in



equal measure.

But the Kerala right-hander chose to display his captivating side on the field on a clement Hyderabad night and Bangladesh withered quickly.

Samson needed a big effort after lukewarm outings in the first two matches in Gwalior and New Delhi and, oh boy, did he make it count here! Samson's brand-new purpose found an immediate on-field expression as he pummelled pacer Taskin Ahmed for four consecutive fours -- two cover drives and as many flicks -- in the second over of the innings.

It was the perfect teaser for the blockbuster action that unfolded in the next 10.3 overs. The rapid start also helped India move past the early dismissal of opener Abhishek Sharma (4), falling to a poorly-timed pull off slinger quick Tanzim Hasan.

Suryakumar was a mere spectator once Samson slipped into top gear with an

array of mind-spinning shots. That could be the biggest tribute for the 29-year-old's knock.

It is quite tough to put Suryakumar to shade in T20Is but Samson did that with a knock of rare brilliance as India raced to 82 for 1 in Power Play and 152 for 1 after 10 overs.

No bowler was spared during the batting extravaganza that was based on the single-minded and simple philosophy of naked aggression.

It was so glaring in the 10th over when leg-spinner Rishad Hossain came to bowl. Hossain erred in line and length and Samson creamed him for five consecutive sixes, including a 105-meter monster.

But the most stunning shot in Samson's innings was a six off the backfoot off pacer Mustafizur Rahman.

Waiting deep inside the crease, Samson judged the slower ball to perfection, and whacked it over extra cover for a maximum, eliciting a

Rajnath performs 'Shastra Puja' at Army's 33 Corps HQ on Dussehra

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday performed "Shastra Puja" (worship of weapons) on the occasion of Vijaydashami at the headquarters of an Army corps in West Bengal.

Vijaydashami marks the end of Navratra and is celebrated as the festival of Dussehra.

"On the occasion of Vijaydashami in India, there has been a long-standing tradition of weapon worship. Today, I performed 'Shastra Puja' at the 33 Corps headquarters in Sukna, Darjeeling," Singh posted on X in Hindi.

Singh also shared photographs. Army chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi, senior officers and jawans were also present on the occasion.

Singh was scheduled to address the Army Commanders Conference in Gangtok on Friday in person. But due to bad weather in the Sikkim capital, he addressed them through video conference from the Army location in Sukna.

dejected shrug and shake of head from the experienced bowler.

Soon, he brought up his hundred off 40 balls with a boundary off off-spinner Mahedi Hasan and celebrated with a roar and punch before getting melted into a tight embrace by his captain.

Suryakumar reminded the gallery of his presence, smashing Tanzim for three fours and a six while reaching his fifty in 23 balls.

But both the batters fell in the space of adding 10 runs. Samson was jettisoned by Mustafizur's well-directed bouncer and Suryakumar became Mahmudullah's last T20I victim, giving a simple catch to Rishad in deep.

But by then India had reached 206 for three in the 15th over.

That itself was a daunting total but Hardik Pandya (47, 18 balls, 4x4, 4x6) and Riyan Parag (34, 13 balls, 1x4, 4x6) flogged the dead horse to milk a further 70 runs for the fourth wicket as India raced to a massive total. Once Mayank ousted Pervez Hossain in the first ball of Bangladesh innings, they struggled for momentum in the always futile chase of 298.

The tourists did not have the resources even to attempt a powerful chase as knocks by Towhid Hridoy (63 not out, 42 balls, 5x4, 3x6) and Litton Das (42, 25 balls, 8x4) remained distant specks in the match's scoresheet.

NCP leader Baba Siddiqui shot dead in Mumbai, two held

STATE TIMES NEWS
MUMBAI: NCP leader and former Maharashtra minister Baba Siddiqui died in hospital after being shot by three men in Mumbai's Bandra East area on Saturday night, officials said.

Two persons were arrested immediately after the incident that took place outside his MLA son Zeeshan Siddiqui's office near Colgate ground in Nirmal Nagar, they added.

In a condolence message on X, deputy Chief Minister and Nationalist Congress Party chief Ajit Pawar described the attack as extremely unfortunate and condemnable.

"I was shocked on learning that he died in this incident," Pawar said, adding that he had lost a good friend and colleague. "We have lost a leader who fought for the minority community and championed secularism," he said, adding that a thorough probe would be conducted into the attack.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde earlier said Mumbai police commissioner Vivek Phansalkar had told him

that two alleged shooters have been taken into custody.

One of them is from Uttar Pradesh and the other from Haryana, while a



third accused fled from the spot, the CM told TV channels.

Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, who also holds the home portfolio, arrived at Lilavati Hospital where Siddiqui was admitted.

Siddiqui, a three time-former MLA, had recently joined the NCP after quitting the Congress.

Leaders cutting across party lines

condoled the death of Siddiqui, with some from opposition parties expressing concern at the law and order situation in Maharashtra.

"The firing incident is unfortunate, condemnable and painful. I am shocked to learn about his death," Siddiqui's party president and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar said.

A thorough probe will be done and strict action will be taken against the guilty, he added.

NCP working president Praful Patel, a close friend of Siddiqui, said he was at a loss of words.

Congress-turned-BJP leader Ashok Chavan said he had worked with Siddiqui when both were in the grand old party, adding the news was shocking. In a post on X, Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala said he was deeply shocked at the death of a "dear friend from my Youth Congress days".

NCP (SP) leader Sharad Pawar said it was worrying how the law and order situation had deteriorated in Maharashtra.