

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!
LG invites CM...

swearing-in ceremony. "Was pleased to receive the Principal Secretary to LG Manoj Sinha ji. He handed over a letter from the @OfficeOFGJandK inviting me to form the next government in J&K," Abdullah said in a post on X.

EAM Jaishankar set...

affairs minister is likely to attend a banquet reception hosted by Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to welcome the delegates from the SCO member nations, people familiar with the matter said.

Both sides have already ruled out any bilateral talks between Jaishankar and his Pakistan counterpart Ishaq Dar on the sidelines of the SCO heads of government summit.

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

It is learnt that Jaishankar will stay in Pakistan for less than 24 hours. Pakistan is hosting the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting on October 15 and 16.

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

In August, Pakistan invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the SCO summit.

Jaishankar's visit to Pakistan assumes significance as it is seen as a significant decision on New Delhi's part.

In his recent address at an event, Jaishankar said, "Like with any neighbour, India would certainly like to have good relations with Pakistan."

"But that cannot happen by overlooking cross-border terrorism and indulging in wishful thinking."

The decision to send the senior minister is seen as a display of India's commitment to the SCO.

The ties between India and Pakistan came under severe strain after India's warplanes pounded a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp in Balakot in Pakistan in February 2019 in response to the Pulwama terror attack.

The relations further deteriorated after India announced the withdrawal of special powers of Jammu and Kashmir and the bifurcation of the state into two union territories on August 5, 2019.

Pakistan downgraded diplomatic ties with India after New Delhi abrogated Article 370.

India has been maintaining that it desires normal neighbourly relations with Pakistan while insisting that the onus is on Islamabad to create an environment free of terror and hostility for such engagement. Pakistan's then foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari visited India in May 2023 to attend an in-person meeting of the foreign ministers of SCO nations in Goa. It was the first visit of a Pakistani foreign minister to India in almost 12 years.

GoC visits forward...

Army's 16 Corps Lieutenant General Navin Sachdeva visited Jhangar area to review the operational preparedness along the Line of Control, the White Knight Corps said in a post on X. He complimented the troops for their professionalism and dedication to face any challenge.

The officer also inaugurated 'Usman' community learning centre and career counselling hub at Jhangar and dedicated it to the local population.

SC refuses to...

won the election from Kulgam constituency. Several other independents and lone Aam Aadmi Party MLA has also extended support to the National Conference-Congress alliance.

J&K LSA felicitates...

Rabstan reflects his profound legal expertise and unwavering commitment towards delivering justice especially to the poor and marginalised sections of the society", said Amit Kumar.



Members of JKLSA felicitating Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan.

This prestigious appointment comes as a testament to the exceptional legal acumen and long-standing service rendered by Justice Tashi to the judiciary who on two previous occasions has also served as Acting Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, he added. He said that Chief Justice has played a pivotal role in furthering the cause of justice across the Union Territories," asserted Amit Kumar.

India withdraws high...

government's actions "endangered" the safety of Indian diplomats and other officials.

"We have no faith in the current Canadian government's commitment to ensure their security. Therefore, the government of India has decided to withdraw the high commissioner and other targeted diplomats and officials," the MEA said.

"It was also conveyed that India reserves the right to take further steps in response to the Trudeau government's support for extremism, violence and separatism against India," it said.

It is learnt that Verma and other officials will return from Canada in the next few days.

The relations between India and Canada came under severe strain following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September last year of a "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Nijjar.

He was gunned down in Surrey, British Columbia, in June last year. New Delhi had rejected Trudeau's charges as "absurd".

The Canadian charge d'affaires told reporters that his government has done what India has long been asking for.

"Canada has provided credible and irrefutable evidence of ties between agents of the Government of India and murderer of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil. Now it is time for India to live up to what it said it would do and look into those allegations," he said.

"It is in the interest of both our countries and peoples of our countries to get to the bottom of this, Canada stands ready to cooperate with India," he added.

Earlier in the day, the MEA said India reserves the right to take further steps in response to these "latest efforts of the Canadian government to concoct allegations against Indian diplomats".

"Since Prime Minister Trudeau made certain allegations in September 2023, the Canadian government has not shared a shred of evidence with the Government of India, despite many requests from our side," it said.

In its statement, the MEA also made a mention of what it called PM Trudeau's "naked interference" in Indian internal politics in December 2020, apparently recalling the Canadian leader's comments during the farmers' agitation.

On Canada's latest charges, the MEA said it "leaves little doubt that on the pretext of an investigation, there is a deliberate strategy of smearing India for political gains".

It said Prime Minister Trudeau's hostility to India has long been in evidence. In 2018, his visit to India, "which was aimed at currying favour with a vote bank, rebounded to his discomfort".

"His Cabinet has included individuals who have openly associated with an extremist and separatist agenda regarding India," the MEA said.

"His naked interference in Indian internal politics in December 2020 showed how far he was willing to go in this regard," it said.

"That his Government was dependent on a political party, whose leader openly espouses a separatist ideology vis-a-vis India, only aggravated matters," it said.

"Under criticism for turning a blind eye to foreign interference in Canadian politics, his government has deliberately brought in India in an attempt to mitigate the damage," the MEA said.

It said this latest development targeting Indian diplomats is now the next step in that direction.

"It is no coincidence that it takes place as Prime Minister Trudeau is to depose before a commission on foreign interference," it said.

"It also serves the anti-India separatist agenda that the Trudeau Government has constantly pandered to for narrow political gains," it said.

"To that end, the Trudeau government has consciously provided space to violent extremists and terrorists to harass, threaten and intimidate Indian diplomats and community leaders in Canada. This has included death threats to them and to Indian leaders," the MEA said.

"All these activities have been justified in the name of freedom of speech. Some individuals who have entered Canada illegally have been fast-tracked for citizenship.

"Multiple extradition requests from the Government of India in respect of terrorists and organized crime leaders living in Canada have been disregarded," it added.

The MEA said High Commissioner Verma is India's senior most serving diplomat with a distinguished career spanning 36 years.

"He has been Ambassador in Japan and Sudan, while also serving in Italy, Turkiye, Vietnam and China. The aspersions cast on him by the Government of Canada are ludicrous and deserve to be treated with contempt," it said.

"The government of India has taken cognizance of the activities of the Canadian High Commission in India that serve the political agenda of the current regime," it said.

Last week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Trudeau had a "brief exchange" on the sidelines of the East Asia summit in Laos.

Tarun Chugh criticises...

His party failed to secure a single seat in Haryana and faced losses in Goa and Jammu & Kashmir; managing to retain only one seat," Chugh stated. This performance, he argues, reflects a broader dissatisfaction with Kejriwal's governance.

Chugh also directed his ire toward the Congress Party, which he believes is in a state of turmoil, lacking effective responses to Prime Minister Modi's initiatives designed to uplift the poor. "The Congress Party's struggles highlight a troubling trend in their political strategy," he noted, pointing out that their inability to adapt to current issues further erodes their credibility among voters.

In stark contrast to the criticisms aimed at Kejriwal and Congress, Chugh praised the Maharashtra government for its robust approach to law and order. He remarked, "The Maharashtra government is demonstrating a strong commitment to maintaining public safety and order. They are acting with urgency and sensitivity to ensure that no guilty parties are spared." Chugh underscored that upholding law and order is the top priority for the state government, and their proactive measures are already yielding positive results.

The swift actions taken by the Maharashtra government serve as a testament to their dedication to governance, reassuring the public that they will not tolerate any wrongdoing. Chugh's statements reflect a broader narrative within the BJP, positioning the party as a force of stability and accountability in contrast to the perceived failures of their opponents.

As the political landscape continues to evolve, the actions and strategies of these parties will be closely scrutinized by the electorate, making the upcoming elections crucial for all involved.

Hunt against drugs...

recovering cocaine worth Rs 5,000 crore.

"The hunt against drugs & narco trade will continue with no laxity," he wrote on X.

In a joint operation, the Delhi Police and the Gujarat Police on Sunday seized 518 kilogram of cocaine worth Rs 5,000 crore at Ankleshwar in Gujarat. With this, drugs worth Rs 13,000 crore were seized by the law enforcement agencies within a fortnight in Delhi and Gujarat.

SC's expansion about...

requirements of judges, lawyers and citizens. The CJJ said while the original structure will remain intact, the subsequent additions to the complex will make way for the new state-of-the-art facilities.

Elaborating on the expansion, he said the new structure, spread over 86,500 square metres of built-up area, will be constructed in two phases and the first phase, being initiated today (October 14), will be completed within 29 months.

"It will approximately cover 38,250 square metres and consist of two base-ments and a five-storeyed building," he said.

According to the CJJ, upon completion of phase two, which will span an additional 48,250 square metres over three and four-storeyed blocks, the Supreme Court will have an additional 29 courtrooms, new judges chambers and dedicated spaces for lawyers and their own registry staff.

He said these additions reflect the commitment of judiciary to remain dynamic, relevant and responsive to the increased complexity of cases that it faces today.

"We are not just adding space. We are expanding our capabilities to deliver justice in a timely and dignified manner," he added.

These buildings were stated to be environmentally conscious.

"It is pivotal that the apex structure of our justice system embodies the spirit of sustainability and eco-centrism in our structures. The expansion building of the Supreme Court will be fully accessible, incorporating features that are friendly to individuals with physical disabilities," he said.

The CJJ further said, "We are cultivating a culture of upholding the law and enhancing the efficiency of the judiciary".

These facilities, he said, will be equipped with state-of-the-art technology and infrastructure, allowing seamless case management, accessibility and incorporation of modern tools to support the work of the court.

"As we move forward with this expansion, we are not just adding brick and mortar to an existing structure. We are contributing to the lasting legacy of the Supreme Court of India," Justice Chandrachud said.

He said this expansion, much like the Constitution itself, was designed to serve as a living, breathing entity, adapting to the needs of the society while holding firm to its core values of justice, liberty and equality.

Justice Sanjiv Khanna termed it as a "happy and a momentous occasion" highlighting it as a manifestation of a collective vision for a stronger, more accessible and efficient justice system for citizens.

"As we stand here today, let us not only admire the beauty of the structure but also reflect on the immense responsibility it carries. It is in these chambers that decisions have been taken and will be taken that shape the destiny of this country," he said.

He said it was about creating an ecosystem where justice can be delivered swiftly, fairly, without bias and a high cost.

Khel Khatam ! Ab...

The Kashmir Hill State. In the very same amendment, Jammu from Banihal including Chenab Valley up to Ravi be named The Jammu State!

This would solve many problems once for all. At least the elected representatives of the Bhartiya Janata Party can seriously strive towards this goal without fear or favour, taking up the cause vociferously before the Centre and the HighCommand.

But do the existing powers at the Centre have the ability; and more important; willingness to do so?

Well, it's only they can tell!

Five Accounts Officers...

the office of Chief Electoral Officer J&K, has been posted as Accounts Officer Legal Metrology Services J&K.

Spanish Ambassador visits SPS museum

SRINAGAR: Spanish ambassador, Juan Antonio, on Monday visited SPS museum and appreciated the uniquely crafted diverse artefacts housed there.

Juan Antonio appreciated the varied artefacts saying that the museum is a huge repository of historical and cultural legacy of the region which has been reflected through varied powerful art forms. He described the whole collection as a rare exhibition of exceptional cultural heritage of the region which can fascinate everyone.

He assured that all possibilities would be explored to further boost cultural cooperation among Spain and India in days to come. "2026 is going to be very important year for the culture of India and Spain in reciprocal ways," he added.

Advocating for further strengthening of cultural ties, he said that efforts would be made to propagate and promote culture of Kashmir in Spain.

Juan Antonio, while lauding fast growing tourism sector in Kashmir, said that there is ample scope for increasing the cooperation in tourism industry and share our experiences in rural tourism development.

Second CBP for Finance and Planning & Monitoring Officials under CITaG inaugurated at IIM Jammu



Officials of IIM Jammu after the programme in Jammu on Monday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, inaugurated the second Capacity Building Program (CBP) for officials from the Planning and Monitoring Department and the Finance Department of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir. The inaugural ceremony was held at the Vivekananda Classroom, Jagti, on October 14, 2024. The training program is organized from October 14 to 16, 2024 and is being coordinated by the Executive Education and Consultancy department for the Centre for Innovation and Transformation in Governance (CITaG) at IIM Jammu.

The program under the Centre for Innovation and Transformation in Governance (CITaG), is a visionary initiative of the Planning Development & Monitoring Department, Government of J&K. This center integrates the State Institute of Transformation, NITI Aayog, GoI, the PPP Cell funded by the Department of Economic Affairs, GoI, and the Future Ready Governance initiative of the J&K Government. IIM Jammu serves as the Nodal Knowledge Partner and implementing body for

CITaG, guiding its mission to bring transformational change to the region.

The program commenced with a traditional lamp lighting ceremony at Vivekananda Hall, symbolizing knowledge and wisdom. Dignitaries and participants were welcomed by Dr. Anuja Akhouri, Program Director, IIM Jammu, who provided an overview of the program's objectives and the diverse topics to be covered over the next three days. She emphasized the importance of the program in contributing to the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, urging everyone to actively participate in this collective effort. Following her address, a brief video showcased the accomplishments and initiatives of IIM Jammu, reflecting its role in fostering excellence in education and governance.

Dr. Pratik Maheshwari, Co-Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy (EE&C), IIM Jammu introduced the institute's broad range of executive learning programs. He highlighted the value of continuous learning for public officials through a collaborative approach.

Dr. Rashmi Ranjan Parida, Program Director, IIM Jammu, shared his past experiences in Odisha with the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) and his work in the Red Corridor, underscoring that

governance is a mutual learning process. He emphasized that officials, with their vast data and practical insights, have much to offer; while also receiving new knowledge through such training programs. He provided a comprehensive overview of IIM Jammu, noting that the institute has grown from 49 students to 1,180 students. He also discussed the various academic programs offered, reaffirming IIM Jammu's dedication to delivering world-class education.

Participants were encouraged to share their expectations and goals for the program. Dr. Bijoy Rakshit, Program Director, IIM Jammu, expressed gratitude to all attendees and organizers in his vote of thanks. The inaugural ceremony culminated with the National Anthem, followed by a visit to the Nalanda Library, a group photo session, and high tea.

The Centre for Innovation and Transformation in Governance (CITaG) at IIM Jammu is a pioneering initiative that seeks to drive positive change and innovation in governance. By focusing on capacity building, promoting public-private partnerships, and developing future-ready governance frameworks, CITaG aims to elevate Jammu & Kashmir to the level of the best-performing states and UTs in India.

Ghodi Wala Baba felicitates Randhawa for his victory in Assembly polls

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and MLA Bahu Constituency, Vikram Randhawa received a warm and enthusiastic welcome from people across all sections of society, celebrating his remarkable victory in the recently concluded Assembly polls from the Bahu constituency.

In a special ceremony held today at the Ashram, Ghodi Wala Baba Ji felicitated Vikram Randhawa and bestowed his blessings upon the newly elected MLA.

Expressing his gratitude, Vikram Randhawa thanked the people for their unwavering support and trust throughout the election campaign. He acknowledged that the love and encouragement from the residents of Bahu played a crucial role in his victory.

MLA Randhawa lauded the role of saints and spiritual leaders in society, recognizing their significant contributions to fostering unity, peace, and moral values. He



MLA Bahu Constituency, Vikram Randhawa during visit to Ashram of Ghodi Wala Baba.

emphasized that the guidance and blessings of saints like Ghodi Wala Baba Ji are essential in preserving cultural heritage and strengthening social harmony.

During the event, Randhawa praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, crediting his vision and leadership for fostering a wave of development across the nation, which inspired him and strengthened his resolve to work diligently for the people of his constituency. He assured everyone present that he would continue to serve with even more dedication and commitment, striving

to address the issues faced by the residents and contributing to the progress and prosperity of Bahu.

Vikram Randhawa assured everyone that he would serve the people of Bahu constituency with greater dedication and commitment. He reaffirmed his pledge to address local issues, prioritize development, and ensure the well-being of all residents. With the blessings of Ghodi Wala Baba Ji and the support of the people, he embarks on a new journey to deliver on his promises and lead Bahu towards a brighter future.

Three dozen houses, mosque damaged in devastating fire

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: In an unfortunate incident, nearly 50 houses and a mosque (Jamia Masjid) have been damaged after a devastating fire broke out in Marwah area in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Monday.

According to reports, devastating fire in Malwaran area of far-flung Marwah village of Warwan sub-division in Kishtwar district of J&K engulfed entire locality within a short span of time.

The devastating fire has destroyed 50 houses and 1 Jamia Masjid so far, reports said.

They said the fire is spreading to further houses in the village as its intensity seems uncontrollable. Despite efforts of dousing, the flames have been pressed into service but they didn't yield any result. The Fire & Emergency Unit stationed in Kokernag was informed instantly who as per reports have rushed several fire tenders to the scene. The fire tenders are yet to reach to the spot for rescue when this report was being filed.

Notably the area is 100-km away from Anantnag via Margan Top, and 170-km away from Kishtwar via Sinthan Top. The Warwan and Marwah valleys have no direct connectivity to Kishtwar district headquarter, so fire tenders from Kokernag take time to reach the spot.

SDM Marwah said that the fire incident happened at mulwarwan, tehsil warwan of dist

kishtwar and as per initial reports 50 houses are involved in the said fire incident. "Under Red Cross 5 lacs immediate relief has been released by Deputy commissioner for the affected families. Logistic arrangements being made by distt administration," SDM added, saying that to control the fire spreaded four fire tenders vehicles are on the way from Kokernag Anantnag towards incident site.

Meanwhile DC Kishtwar Rajesh Shavan while confirming the incident said that as per initial report, 35 houses comprising of nearly 60 families are involved in the fire, however Fire tenders from Anantnag has reached the spot and as of now, the fire is under control.

"So far there are no reports as regards any loss or injury to life in the fire incident," he informed.

"A team headed by Tehsildar has also reached the spot to access the loss and as per rules all possible help will be extended to the effected families," DC added, saying that relief under Red Cross has been dispatched to the area as immediate help. According to reports, Relief Material provided to Malwar Warwan Kishtwar Fire Victim as Per Direction Given By Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Rajesh Kumar Shavan includes Mattres 40, Bedsheet 40, Pillow 40, Bucket 40, Jug 48, Soap Case 40, Water Cooler 40, Blanket 40, Glass 150, Kitchen Set 25 and Tent 35.