

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Op Sindoor, eradication...

commemorate 150 years of the national song penned by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and first sung by Rabindranath Tagore in 1896.

In his 30-minute address, the prime minister touched upon several unique initiatives undertaken by citizens in different parts of the country, including efforts to revive mangroves in Gujarat, setting up of Garbage Cafes in Chhattisgarh and attempts to revive lakes in Bengaluru.

## Preparations for Darbar...

crore per year. However, the decision came up for sharp criticism from several quarters, including the Jammu business community and politicians, who said that the Darbar Move bound the two regions.

The NC had promised a revival of the practice in its poll manifesto. Officials said a facelift project is underway in and outside the civil secretariat and Raj Bhawan.

Many city roads, which suffered damage due to record rainfall in August, are being restored, and labourers are busy cleaning the pathways and painting the roadsides, they said.

Security has been tightened in and around the civil secretariat, Raj Bhawan, other key installations, and employees' accommodations.

Deployment of police and paramilitary forces has been strengthened in the city, as well as along the 270-km Jammu-Srinagar Highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country.

## Better court infra...

alike. It reminds us that the ideals of justice -- truth, fairness, and equality -- are timeless even as their institutional forms evolve," said Justice Kant.

Recalling his early days as a Judge in the Punjab and Haryana High Court, "Where the files were often stacked higher than the tables, the ceiling fans wobbled dangerously above, and the pages of the handwritten registers yellowed quickly with time", the judge said while justice depends on human integrity, it thrives on institutional support.

"A judiciary that functions in dignity guarantees citizens their fundamental right to justice. It ensures that justice is not an accident of geography but a promise fulfilled uniformly across the land," concluded the judge.

Speaking at the event, Union Minister of State for Law and Justice (independent charge) Arjun Ram Meghwal drew attention to the initiatives being taken by the central government. He said digitisation and expansion of infrastructure and transparency in judicial processes would make the judicial system more robust, transparent and accessible to people.

The event was attended by Supreme Court judge, Justice R Mahadevan; Madras High Court Chief Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava; Tamil Nadu Law Minister S Reghupathy; Justice R Suresh Kumar, senior most judge of the Madras High Court; Advocate General P S Raman, and Additional Solicitor General A R L Sundaresan.

Supreme Court judge Justice M M Sundresh participated virtually from Barcelona.

The heritage building was renovated at a cost of Rs 23.13 crore and it took three years for the work, which began on September 4, 2022, to be completed.

## J&K witnessing transformation...

uplift every deserving individual.

Sat Sharma emphasized that Mann Ki Baat has become a historic people's movement, strengthening the bond between citizens and leadership. He said that the Prime Minister's message reflects his vision of participatory governance and inclusive growth. "The people of J&K are fully aligned with his pro-people and development-oriented policies. The BJP will secure a decisive mandate in the upcoming Nagrota Bi-election," he added.

Ashok Koul called upon party workers to take the message of Mann Ki Baat to every household. He said that the party's strength lies in its booth-level organization. He asked the cadre to ensure that Modi Ji's message of development, unity, and self-reliance reaches every voter in Nagrota.

Sham Lal Sharma reiterated the party's commitment to accelerating developmental works across the Nagrota constituency. He said that the continuity of this development can only be ensured through the victory of BJP candidate Devyani Rana.

Bharat Bhushan said that under PM Modi, Jammu & Kashmir has entered a new era of opportunity. He called for a collective effort to take this mission to the grassroots level to empower the common citizen.

Ayodhya Gupta urged all workers to strengthen booth-level participation and ensure full voter mobilization. He said that every booth must become a centre of BJP's vision of development.

Devyani Rana, BJP's candidate for the Nagrota Bi-election, expressed her gratitude to the leadership and reaffirmed her commitment to serve the people with honesty and dedication. She said that the welfare policies and schemes of the Modi government have transformed the lives of the needy. She expressed her commitment to carry the vision of PM Modi to every corner of the Nagrota Constituency, ensuring the development and welfare of the needy.

# Garhmukteshwar fair to reflect devotion, discipline and cleanliness: Adityanath

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

HAPUR: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday reviewed the preparations for the annual Kartik Purnima fair at Garhmukteshwar in Hapur district and the Tigri fair in Amroha, directing officials to ensure that the events are conducted smoothly, safely, and with full coordination among departments.

After conducting an aerial survey of the grounds, the chief minister held a review meeting. Called the event a 'mini Kumbh', he mentioned that around 40 to 45 lakh devotees visit the Ganga ghats every year for the sacred bath and deepdan ritual. He stressed that all arrangements should be completed on time so that no devotee faces inconvenience.

"This year's fair will be organised as a 'mini Kumbh' and will become a symbol of faith, discipline, and cleanliness," Adityanath said, directing that utmost priority be given to traffic, safety, sanitation, health, drinking water, and lighting arrangements.

Emphasising the need for foolproof security, the chief minister called for the deployment of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) at the Ganga ghats, with continuous CCTV and drone surveillance. Rescue boats and helpline centres should also be in place, he said.

Adityanath further instructed officials to ensure a complete ban on single-use plastic and to link the fair to the message of cleanliness and environmental protection.

Additionally, he ordered the installation of adequate chequer plates at ghats, the



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## VHP stages protest over religious conversion in Kathua, FIR lodged

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Activists of Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Sunday staged a protest over alleged religious conversion by Christian missionaries in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The protest by agitated VHP members comes days after a police sub-inspector and seven special police officers were suspended for their alleged failure to stop an attack by some hooligans on a vehicle carrying preachers at Juthana in Rajbaga police station area despite being present at the scene.

One of the main accused, a history sheetee, was arrested by police in connection with the incident. On Sunday, a group of VHP activists staged a peaceful protest in Kathua

town, demanding action against the Christian missionaries allegedly involved in converting people in remote villages.

"We are getting information that missionaries are converting Hindus by offering inducements. We do not have any objection to their worship in church but we will not tolerate any attempt to convert Hindus," Mohinder Paul, who was leading the protest, said. The case was registered under different sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita including section 299, which deals with deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings by insulting a religion or religious beliefs, and section 351(2) that criminalises acts of intimidation, they said.

## Vehicle loaded with illegal Khair billets seized

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Acting on specific intelligence, the Jammu Forest Range team seized a Mahindra Scorpio (registration number JK14A-7380) for transporting Khair billets illegally in the Jammu Range area late Saturday night.

The operation was carried out under the supervision of Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Jammu, Sh. Anurag Arya, and led by Range Officer Kailash Choudhary. The joint team, comprising Forest Department officials and personnel from the Gharota Police Station, intercepted the vehicle and discovered it was loaded with Khair wood billets being moved without valid documentation, in violation of the Indian Forest Act (IFA). Officials confirmed that confiscation proceedings have been initiated against the offenders, and both the vehicle and the seized timber have been placed under official custody pending further legal action.

Reaffirming the department's zero-tolerance stance on forest crimes, DFO Anurag Arya stated that strict enforcement



# Administrative Secy Sanjit concludes three-day tour of Nubra Sub-Division

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NUBRA: Sanjit Rodrigues, Administrative Secretary, Tourism & Culture, Housing & Urban Development Department, UT Ladakh, concluded his three-day tour of Nubra Sub-Division with a visit to Digger village to assess the requirements for further development of tourism infrastructure in the region.

During the final day of his tour, the Administrative Secretary visited Zong Khar enroute to Hunder Dok, where he inspected the three ancient rock-cut statues of Maitreya Buddha and patiently heard the concerns of local stakeholders regarding their protection and preservation.

He further inspected the Tourist Facilitation Centre, Viewpoint, and Parking Area at Hunder, and advised the concerned department and village representatives to maintain the natural beauty



and sanctity of the Sand Dune area by avoiding the construction of compound walls or any structures that could disturb the natural landscape. He also reviewed the under-construction camel shed and directed that it be built using eco-friendly materials to ensure sustainability.

At Diskit, Shri Rodrigues visited the Tourist Reception Centre to review its facilities and functioning. Later, at Digger village, he paid a visit to the Maitreya Buddha statue, where local residents

requested him to declare their village as a heritage village.

During the tour, the Administrative Secretary was accompanied by Padma Angmo (JKAS), Assistant Director Tourism Leh, Khadim Hussain, Deputy Director Archives, Archaeology and Museums UT Ladakh, Lobzang Yountan Executive Engineer PWD Diskit, Imran Khan, Executive Engineer Leh Development Authority, and Habibullah, Naib Tehsildar Khatok.

# True empowerment lies in health of citizens: Rajnath

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GHAZIABAD: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said the government dedicated to uplifting the poor and underprivileged and India's true empowerment lies in the health of its citizens.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of Yashoda Medicity, a private hospital, at Indirapuram in Ghaziabad, Singh said the government's goal was to make India a developed nation by 2047 and a healthy populace is paramount for it.

"We are moving towards the India our ancestors envisioned; a strong and healthy nation," he said.

"Every step, every policy, and every effort of our government is dedicated to uplifting the poor, the underprivileged, and the rural population. We believe that India's true empowerment lies in the health of its citizens," the defence minis-



ter said.

Singh said Yashoda Medicity has earned recognition as a leading robotics surgery training centre in South Asia. This milestone will redefine medical education and technical research.

The minister said behind every great success lies a story of deep personal struggle. The inspiration for Yashoda Medicity, he said, came from chairman Dr PN Arora's personal loss when he witnessed his mother's suffering due to cancer in 1986.

"This pain gave birth to this institution, which today stands as a symbol of trust and care for the last person in the community," he said.

Commending the hospital's social commitment, Singh said, "Just as Yashoda Medicity has fulfilled its responsibility towards society, we, too, are committed to the welfare of every citizen, especially the most vulnerable."

He said under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India's healthcare

## INS Sutlej completes joint hydrographic survey in Mauritius

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: INS Sutlej has successfully completed a joint hydrographic survey with the Mauritius Hydrographic Service, covering an area of nearly 35,000 square nautical miles, the Indian Navy said on Sunday.

The initiative will significantly contribute to marine charting, coastal regulation, resource management, and long-term environmental planning, thereby supporting Mauritius' Blue Economy goals, a Navy spokesperson said.

The survey was conducted in close coordination with national agencies under the existing MoU between India and Mauritius.

As part of the mission's capacity-building efforts, six personnel from various Mauritian ministries embarked on board INS Sutlej for hands-on training in modern hydrographic techniques, the Navy said.

In addition, INS Sutlej ear-

ried out joint Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveillance and anti-piracy patrols with the the Mauritius National Coast Guard, strengthening regional maritime security, the spokesperson said.

At a ceremony held on board INS Sutlej, the fair-sheet of the completed survey was formally handed over to Mauritian authorities in the presence of Shakeel Ahmed Yousuf Abdul Razack Mohamed, Minister of Housing and Lands, Mauritius, and Anurag Srivastava, High Commissioner of India to Mauritius, the statement said.

The deployment marks the 18th joint hydrographic mission between India and Mauritius -- "a testament to the enduring maritime partnership and shared commitment to safe navigation, sustainable ocean management, and regional cooperation", the Navy said.

system has been completely transformed. "Once a cause of concern for the poor, good healthcare has now become their right."

The defence minister emphasised that no Indian should lose hope due to an illness.

"Under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, 10 crore families have been provided with an annual health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh each. Recently, all senior citizens aged 70 and above have also been included in the scheme, ensuring that the government stands by them as protectors during their most delicate years," he said.

Singh further said affordable medicines are now accessible to people through Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras, benefiting every village across the country. He underlined that the government is building a strong healthcare infrastructure, pointing out that the number of medical colleges

has grown from 387 in 2014 to 800 today, while MBBS seats have more than doubled from 50,000 to over 1.2 lakh.

"It has also been decided to establish 22 new AIIMS hospitals. Of these, 12 are already fully functional, while the rest are nearing completion. Once operational, these institutions will further strengthen our healthcare network," he added.

Expressing satisfaction with the progress made by Yashoda Group, the minister said he was confident that the institution would set new benchmarks of innovation not just in India but across South Asia.

He thanked President Droupadi Murmu who inaugurated the hospital.

The inauguration ceremony was also attended by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, Union Minister Anupriya Patel, and other dignitaries.

# India to host four-day Asia Pacific aircraft accident investigators meet from Oct 28

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: India will host the Asia-Pacific region's aircraft accident investigators' meeting for the first time in the national capital from October 28-31.

Around 90 aircraft accident investigators are expected to participate in the Asia Pacific Accident Investigation Group (APAC-AIG), an official release said on Sunday.

The meeting will be hosted by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) on behalf of the Civil Aviation Ministry.

Representatives of ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) member states in the Asia Pacific region, along with various international organisations, participate in the meeting that is held annually.

"India will be hosting the APAC-AIG meeting for the first time. There will be participation of approximately

90 representatives from aircraft accident investigation authorities of Asia Pacific countries, as well as from the ICAO," the release said.

The meeting is generally hosted by any one of the ICAO member states in the APAC region.

Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu will inaugurate the event on October 28.

Various aspects of aircraft accident investigations, including the processes and reporting, will be discussed at the meeting.

The group's meetings aim to promote the sharing of expertise, experience, and information among accident/incident investigation authorities.

Also, they work to develop and strengthen cooperation among themselves to improve the capability for accident/incident investigation in the Asia-Pacific region, the release said.

On October 28 and 29, a workshop will discuss topics related to aircraft accident investigations, with participation from AAIB, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) officials, and international participants.

"The representatives from ICAO member states in the Asia Pacific region and AAIB officials will hold discussions on October 30 and 31," the release said.

AAIB is responsible for classifying safety occurrences involving aircraft operating in Indian airspace as accidents, serious incidents, or incidents.

It conducts detailed investigations into accidents and proposes measures to improve safety.

Currently, AAIB is handling around 25 aircraft accident investigations, including the fatal Air India plane crash that killed 260 people on June 12.

## Centre committed to increasing farmers' income, says Chouhan

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

VELLORE (TAMIL NADU): The central government is committed to increasing agriculture production and enhancing farmers' income, Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has said.

He said that four low-production districts of Tamil Nadu viz. Ramanathapuram, Sivaganga, Tuticorin, and Virudhunagar have been included in the Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana. Under this, 36 schemes of 11 central ministries were being integrated to deliver comprehensive benefits to farmers.

"We will work to increase production in these districts and make farmers prosper-

ous," he said at the Chaupal programme at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra here on Saturday.

He interacted with farmers and officials of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra and explained about the Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhaanya Yojana and the Pulses Mission.

"The farmers here are very hardworking and are doing excellent work for natural farming," he said lauding the ryots of Tamil Nadu.

He assured that concrete steps will be taken to address pest and disease issues affecting coconut crops. Efforts would be taken to mitigate the impact of price decline due to glut in mango production, and also to establish value-addition and processing units.