

LG Kavinder chairs high-level security review meeting in Ladakh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
LEIH: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Saturday chaired a high-level security review meeting to assess the prevailing security scenario in UT Ladakh.

During the meeting, senior officials of the UT Administration, Ladakh Police, Army, and Central Armed Police Forces briefed the Lt Governor about the present situation.

Speaking at the meeting, the Lieutenant Governor said, "The Administration is committed to maintaining peace,



Lt Governor Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta chairing a high-level security review meeting.

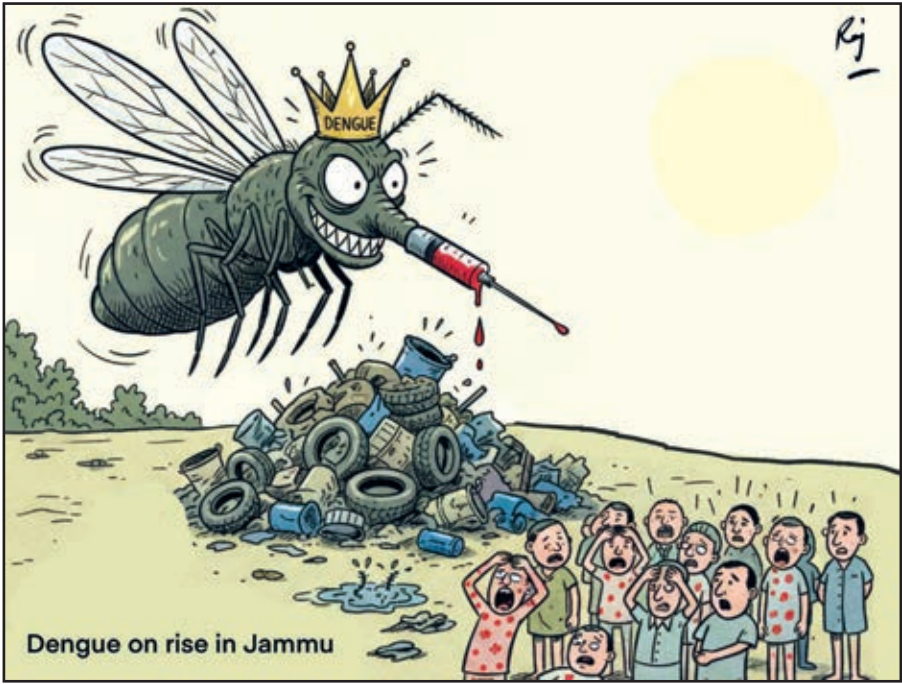
safety, and stability across Ladakh. Vigilance and preparedness remain key to addressing any emerging challenges."

The meeting also discussed the roadmap for phased relaxation of restrictions, with Kavinder Gupta emphasising that any easing of measures

would be implemented carefully, balancing public safety with resumption of routine socio-economic activities.

The Lieutenant Governor lauded the people of Ladakh for their exemplary restraint and cooperation, stating, "The cooperation and resilience of the people is instrumental in restoring normalcy in the region."

He further stressed the importance of continued coordination with security agencies to maintain peace, harmony, and stability in Ladakh. The meeting was attended by senior officials of the UT Administration, heads of security agencies, and representatives from the Army and Central Armed Police Forces.



Dengue on rise in Jammu

JDA conducts anti-encroachment drive; seals unauthorized commercial structures

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In continuation of its efforts to reclaim public land and enforce building regulations, the Jammu Development Authority (JDA) on Saturday carried out an anti-encroachment drive at Rajpur Koular and sealed multiple unauthorized commercial structures in Bari Brahmana and Jammu South areas.

During the anti-encroachment operation at Rajpur Koular, the JDA team demolished an under construction illegal structure attempting to encroach prime JDA land. The illegal structure being raised was a fresh attempt to encroach JDA land under Kh. no. 65 of Village Rajpur Koular, Tehsil Bari Brahmana, District Samba.

Simultaneously, in Bari Brahmana and parts of Jammu South, the JDA



enforcement teams sealed several commercial structures found to be in violation of building bye-laws and land use regulations. These actions were taken following due notice to the violators and in accordance with the Jammu and Kashmir Control of Building Operations Act. It is pertinent to mention here that such drives are part of a broader initiative to uphold the rule of law, prevent unauthorized constructions and protect public assets. The Jammu

Pradeep Dutta honoured with State Icon Harmony Award-2025 for fearless journalism

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Pradeep Dutta, a renowned journalist and founder of The Line of Communication, a digital platform promoting Indian narratives globally, has been honored with the prestigious State Icon Harmony India Award 2025.

The award recognises his fearless and bold journalism, particularly his coverage of five wars, including the Russia-Ukraine war, Israel-Hamas Conflict, Israel Lebanon War, Afghan Taliban and Kargil War and his extensive experience reporting from conflict zones, including Pakistan and Jammu and Kashmir.

Dutta's journalistic journey spans over two decades, during which he has worked with prominent news organisations such as The Indian Express and Times Now. He has reported on various geo-strategic issues and presented papers at national



Journalist Pradeep Dutta being honoured with State Icon Harmony India Award 2025.

and international seminars. His expertise in covering counter-insurgency and counter-terror operations has earned him recognition and accolades.

Notably, Dutta's commitment to promoting positive narratives and countering misinformation began at a young age. As a Class XI student, he recognized the importance of narrative warfare and launched a bi-monthly magazine called

Oyster in the Kashmir Valley. The magazine aimed to channelize the energy of youth in the right direction and provide a platform for developing literary skills, thereby countering the influence of gun culture promoted by Pakistan. This early initiative showcases Dutta's dedication to using journalism as a tool for positive change.

The award was presented to Dutta by Nirupama

Kotru, Commissioner of Income Tax, former DGP Kuldeep Khoda, J&K Relief Commissioner Arwind Karwani, veteran journalist Ashwani Kumar. Award was presented during the 11th edition of the Harmony Award ceremony, held at Abhinav Theatre here today.

The ceremony recognised individuals who have made significant contributions to their respective fields, and Dutta's award is a testa-

ment to his dedication to fearless and impactful journalism.

This year's Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Vijay Dhar, social activist and educationist who runs DPS School in Srinagar, while internationally acclaimed researcher and educationist, Padmashree Prof Amitabh Mattoo got Yogini Mata Laleshwari "Lalded" Samman and Padmashree Romalo Ram got Pt. Bhajan Sopori Smriti Samman.

The other awardees included: renowned Punjabi writer Khalid Hussein, Women Achievers Award - Dr. Deepali Wattal, Shrestha Samman - Khalid Hussain, Brj Nath Pandit Betab, Ramesh Hangloo, Prof. B. L. Zutshi, Kaka Safaya, Dr. Milan Sharma, Special Award - B. L. Kaul Deep and Rakesh Anand and community award to Pintoo.

Shantamanu inaugurates Mega Science event

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Higher Education Department, Shantamanu inaugurated the 52nd Rajya Stariya Bal Vaigyanik Pradarshani (RSBVP) 2024-25 and Divisional Level National Science Seminar (NSS) 2025, held together as a Mega Science event at Krishi Bhawan Talab Tillo here on Saturday.

The event was hosted by the State Council of Educational Research & Training (SCERT) J&K, Divisional Office Jammu and marked the divisional culmination of these nationally acclaimed science initiatives.

Joint Director DSEJ, Joint Director SCERT, Joint Director Central, experts from NCERT, New Delhi- Prof. Ramavtar Meena and Prof. T. P. Sharma, National RSBVP Coordinator, students and other officers were present on the occasion. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from seventy young innovators, twenty seminar toppers and teachers from the ten districts of Jammu Division. The ACS in his captivating address on the occasion, motivated the students to embrace curiosity, strengthen scientific foundations and step forward with



ACS Higher Education Deptt, Shantamanu inspecting science models displayed by students.

confidence to shape their future and wished them to begin their journey as innovators and leaders of tomorrow. In her opening remarks, Joint Director SCERT, Prof. Sindhu Kapoor, praised the efforts of students and educators emphasizing SCERT Jammu's commitment to fostering scientific passion, creativity and innovation among the young minds for the betterment of the society. Under the 52nd Rajya Stariya Bal Vaigyanik Pradarshani (RSBVP), sponsored by NCERT, forty seven innovative models were exhibited under the theme "Science and Technology for Society". The exhibits addressed pressing issues like natural farming, waste management, and renewable energy solutions and were evaluated by an expert jury

comprising faculty members of different colleges. Twenty-one outstanding models (three from each sub-theme) were shortlisted to represent Jammu Division at the 52nd Rashtriya Bal Vaigyanik Pradarshani 2025. The Science Seminar saw ten district-level winners delivering insightful presentations on the theme "Quantum Age Begins: Potential and Challenges." Their talks blended traditional wisdom with modern sustainability practices and were enriched by the expert inputs from Dr. Meenakshi Gupta, Professor of Agronomy, SKUAST-Jammu.

The first position was bagged by Thakur Anirudh Singh from The Nature Lap International HS Pouni(Reasi), Banshika Devi from Vikas Memorial High

School Laiter, Reasi secured second place and Sachi Sharma from Spring Dale English School Changran stood third. Thakur Anirudh Singh from The Nature Lap International HS Pouni(Reasi), securing first position will showcase his talent at the UT-level, with the opportunity to represent Jammu & Kashmir and showcase their talent at the National Science Seminar 2025 in Bangalore.

Deputy Secretary, School Education Department, in her concluding remarks, lauded the efforts of the students and SCERT Jammu for organizing such enlightening programs. She gave away the medals and certificates to the students in recognition of their remarkable efforts.

Permission granted to Nankana Sahib Jatha to visit Pakistan welcome decision by Modi Govt: Chugh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
CHANDIGARH: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National General Secretary Tarun Chugh has welcomed the decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government allowing devotees to visit Nankana Sahib on the sacred occasion of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Prakash Purab (birth anniversary).

In a statement, Chugh said that this decision reflects the Modi government's sensitivity, where security remains a top priority, yet the faith and sentiments of the devotees are never disregarded.

He added that this is the hallmark of Prime Minister Modi's leadership maintaining a balance between security and devotion.

He recalled that after Operation Sindoor, the Ministry of Home Affairs had suspended jatha (religious groups) visits due to prevailing conditions, but the spiritual call associated with Guru Nanak Dev



Ji could not be ignored. He emphasized that Nankana Sahib is not merely a religious site, but a living memory of Guru Nanak Dev Ji and a sacred place of deep emotional connection, which the Modi government has duly respected.

Chugh said that this decision is not an isolated event but part of the Modi government's ongoing tradition of honoring the Sikh-Punjabi community. Whether it was opening the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor, granting FCRA registration to Shri Darbar Sahib, removing GST from Langar, or cele-

brating Guru Nanak Dev Ji's 550th birth anniversary globally, every action has shown that Sikh pride and heritage are of utmost importance to Prime Minister Modi, he added.

He also highlighted how the Modi government stood with the Sikh community in times of pain and injustice-from delivering justice to the victims of the 1984 riots, removing blacklists against overseas Sikhs, to safely bringing Afghan Sikhs to India.

Chugh remarked that Modi is the only Prime Minister who has bowed with true devotion at places like Rakab Ganj Sahib, Sultanpur Lodhi, and Patna Sahib.

Chugh said that the development of Punjab has always been a priority for the Modi government-be it the establishment of AIIMS in Bathinda, the Shahpurkandi Dam project to boost irrigation, or connecting Amritsar to global networks, the government has regarded Punjab not merely as a

state, but as the heartbeat of India.

He also pointed out that the revocation of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir provided equal rights to Sikhs, and that institutions are being set up to promote the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji-all of which prove that the Modi government has protected both the dignity and future of the Sikh community.

Chugh said that as the Sangat (devotees) prepare to embark on the journey to Nankana Sahib, they do so with the blessings of a government that truly honors their heritage.

He said that for Prime Minister Modi, the Sikh community is not a vote bank but a living pillar of India's soul. The Modi government will always stand with the Sikh Panth, safeguard their rights, preserve their legacy, and ensure that the message of the Gurus-service, compassion, and equality-continues to illuminate the path of the nation, he added.

1857 Swatantra Sangram: Indian Princely States and Princes: Why did Indian British Empire comprise of British India & Indian Princely States?

■ DAYA SAGAR
The Nizam of Hyderabad, Afzal-ud-Daulah, remained loyal to the British and did not join the rebellion. Hyderabad's forces were used to maintain order in the Deccan and prevent the spread of the revolt to southern India. The Nizam's support was crucial in ensuring that the rebellion remained confined to northern and central India. Hyderabad's loyalty helped the British maintain control in the south, freeing up resources to combat rebels like Rani Lakshmi Bai in Central India. The ruler of Jammu and Kashmir, Maharaja Gulab Singh (succeeded by Ranbir Singh during the revolt), too supported the British. The state provided logistical support and troops to aid British efforts in the Punjab and North-West Frontier, ensuring that the rebellion did not gain traction in the region. Jammu and Kashmir's support bolstered British control in the north, indirectly aiding their campaign against Rani Lakshmi Bai and other rebels. The Wodeyar rulers of Mysore, under Maharaja Ramachandra Wodeyar (with adminis-

tration largely controlled by British residents), remained loyal to the British. Mysore did not participate in the rebellion and provided resources to maintain British authority in southern India. Mysore's loyalty ensured that southern India remained largely unaffected by the revolt, allowing the British to focus on suppressing rebels in Central India, including Jhansi. Several Rajput princely states in Rajputana, including Jaipur (under Maharaja Ram Singh II) and Jodhpur (under Maharaja Takht Singh), remained loyal to the British. These states provided troops and resources to suppress the rebellion in Rajasthan and surrounding areas, preventing the revolt from spreading westward. The loyalty of Rajputana states ensured British control in western India, allowing them to focus on Central India, where Rani Lakshmi Bai was active. The Nawab of Rampur, Kalb Ali Khan, supported the British during the 1857 revolt. Rampur provided troops and resources to aid British efforts in Rohilkhand and surrounding areas, helping to suppress rebel activities. The

Nawab was rewarded with the 'Most Exalted Order of the Star of India' for his loyalty. Rampur's support in North India bolstered British efforts, indirectly aiding the campaign against Rani Lakshmi Bai. Sikandar Begum, the regent of Bhopal, was a loyal ally of the British during the 1857 revolt. She provided troops, supplies, and intelligence to assist British forces in Central India, particularly in the Sagar and Narmada territories. Her loyalty was crucial in maintaining British control in the region and was recognized with honors post-rebellion. Bhopal's support in Central India directly impacted the British campaign against Rani Lakshmi Bai, as it strengthened their position in the region.

Maharaja Ishwari Prasad Narayan Singh of Rewa: Sided with the British, contributing to stability in Central India, though less directly involved with Rani Lakshmi Bai. And like. Annual



A Look through the Mist Part-II

Administrative report of The Jammu and Kashmir State for the Sanvat1997-98 (16th Oct 1940-15th oct 1941) released in 1942 : Lieutenant -General His Highness Raj Rajeshwar Maharajadhiraj Maharaja Shri Hari singh ji Bahadur Inadar Mahindar, Sipar-I- SALTNAT-E- ING-LISHIA Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir : Reads on page-22< In 1856 , the Maharaja's health began to fail. At the outbreak of the Mutiny - 1857, when he was on his death bed he called his Council and sent a Contingent of 2000 infantry, 200 cavalry and six guns under the command of his son and heir-apparent , Sri Ranbir Singhji. The Maharaja died in August 1857, at the age of 66 before the Mutiny had been finally quelled. For the brave part played by the state forces in putting down the Mutiny, Maharaja Ranbir Singh, who succeeded his father, was offered a Jagir in Oudh, which he declined declaring that he had acted as a loyal friend and ally of the British.>

The rulers of Gwalior, Indore, Bhopal, J&K and Rewa-Maharaja Jayajirao Scindia, Maharaja Tukojirao Holkar II, Sikandar Begum, Maharaja Ishwari Prasad Narayan Singh, respectively, were key British allies during the 1857 rebellion, particularly in Central India, where they supported efforts against Rani Lakshmi Bai. Their actions, ranging from military assistance to maintaining loyalty, were instrumental in the British suppression of the revolt, highlighting the divided loyalties among Indian rulers during this period. The ruler of Sampla also supported the British during the revolt. The ruler of Jind sided with the British and helped suppress the rebellion. The ruler of Kapurthala also sided with the British. The ruler of Nabha sided with the British during the revolt. The ruler of Loharu provided troops and supplies to the British. The ruler of Jodhpur provided support to the British.

Princely states, such as Travancore and smaller Rajputana kingdoms, also abstained from the rebellion but played less direct roles in the context of Jhansi.

Some rulers, like Holkar of Indore, exhibited complex behavior, with initial rebel support from their troops but ultimate loyalty to the British, reflecting the nuanced political dynamics of the time.

Whereas there were others who suffered huge losses / lost their empires / royal titles in the Revolt of 1857 like Bahadur Shah II (also known as Bahadur Shah Zafar): The last Mughal emperor of India, who played a significant role in leading the revolt and was exiled to Burma after the British suppressed the uprising; & Wajid Ali Shah: The Nawab of Awadh, known for his patronage of arts and culture, who was deposed and exiled to Calcutta after the British regained control; some sources mention Nana Saheb also as one of the rulers who lost his title though on immediate historical records Wajid Ali Shah is more commonly associated with the loss of royal title alongside Bahadur Shah II.

To be continued
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