

BLUE MOON
Banquets • Conventions

THE BANQUET WITH A DIFFERENCE

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J.K. PUBLIC SCHOOL
KUNJWANI JAMMU
The School with a Difference

SOWING SKILLS
SHAPING INDIA

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Green environments-Treasure for preliminary steps in cardiovascular disease prevention: Dr Sushil

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Satish Sharma witnesses final of Talent Hunt U19 Cricket Tournament

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Jammu District Judo Championship 2024 from Nov 18

JCO martyred, 3 soldiers injured in gunfight with terrorists in Kishtwar



Martyr JCO Rakesh Kumar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) of the Army's Special Forces laid down his life on Sunday, while three more soldiers were injured in a gunfight with terrorists in a remote forest area in Kishtwar district, officials said.

The operation comes amid an intensified hunt underway since the killing of two Village Defence Guards (VDGs) recently.

The Army identified the fallen hero as Naib Subedar



Rakesh Kumar of 2 Para and saluted his supreme sacrifice.

The encounter broke out around 11 am when joint search parties of the Army and police intercepted the terrorists in the Keshwan forest, a few kilometres from the spot where the bullet-riddled bodies of VDGs Nazir Ahmad and Kuldeep Kumar were found.

A massive search operation was launched in the forests of Kuntwara and Keshwan on Thursday evening after the terrorists abducted and

the JCO, were injured in the initial gunfight and evacuated to a hospital, where the condition of three of them was stated to be "critical". The JCO later succumbed to injuries.

"GOC (General Officer Commanding) White knight Corps and all ranks salute the supreme sacrifice of braveheart, Nb Sub Rakesh Kumar of 2 Para (SF). Sub Rakesh was part of a joint CI (counter-insurgency) operation launched in general area of Bhart Ridge Kishtwar. We stand with bereaved family in this hour of grief," the Army said in its latest tweet.

Earlier, a police spokesperson also confirmed that an encounter was underway with the terrorists responsible for the killing of the two VDGs. "Three or four terrorists are believed to be trapped in the area," the official said. The officials said a massive search operation was going on till the last reports were received.

'Ek Rahenge Toh Safe Rahenge' Buried Article 370 in J&K: Modi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GUMLA /BOKARO: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday attacked the Congress and its allies for seeking to reinstate Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The Congress and its allies want to bring back Article 370 so that Babasaheb's Constitution is once again out of Jammu and Kashmir, and our soldiers again face the fire of terrorism," he said during his campaigning in Jharkhand.

"Modi buried Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. For seven decades, Ambedkar's Constitution was not in force there," he said.

Modi said it was the first time that the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir had taken oath in the name of the Indian Constitution and this was his tribute to Ambedkar.

The Prime Minister also launched a scathing attack on the Congress, accusing its "shahi parivar" (royal family) of attempting to break the ST-SC-OBC unity to "snatch



away reservations under an evil design" while urging the crowd at a rally in Jharkhand to stay united, saying, 'Ek rahenge toh safe rahenge' (stay united to stay safe)."

He accused the ruling JMM-led coalition in Jharkhand of looting the state's rich resources, including minerals, forests, sand, and coal, which he said put the state's "Roti-Beti-Mati" (bread, land, and daughter) at risk.

He vowed that the "culprits" would not escape justice, even if they were hiding

in "paatal."

"The Congress knows that if STs, SCs and OBCs are united, they will pose a threat to the party's existence. This is the reason the Congress 'shahi parivar' is hell-bent on breaking their unity... They want to snatch reservations.

"The Congress is trying to pit one tribal community against another... Munda against Oraon, Lohra against Kharia, Kharwar against Korwa etc. with an agenda to break the tribal society's strength," he said.

The Congress cannot tolerate tribals in higher

posts, which is why it opposes Droupadi Murmu's elevation (to the post of President) and continues to insult her, the PM said, adding former Jharkhand chief minister Champai Soren was also insulted.

The Prime Minister also alleged that the Congress-JMM coalition wanted to divide OBCs by pitting sub-castes against each other. "Beware of Congress-JMM's evil designs and conspiracies. They can go to any extent to grab power. Congress has been an opponent of SC, ST, and OBC unity since Independence. Till there was no unity, Congress kept forming governments at the Centre and looted the nation," he said.

"More than 125 sub-castes are considered OBCs in the Chotanagpur region. Congress-JMM wants to break the OBC unity by pitting sub-castes against each other like Yadav

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LG Sinha flags off 2nd Mobile Sanskrit Gurukul

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday flagged off the second Mobile Sanskrit Gurukul of Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust, at Raj Bhawan.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor extended his felicitations and commended Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust and everyone associated with the initiative for their constant efforts to popularize Sanskrit language and timeless wisdom of Sanskrit scriptures.

Mobile Sanskrit Gurukul is a part of the "Sanskrit in Every Household" Campaign for the promotion of Devavani Sanskrit in



LG Manoj Sinha flagging off 2nd Mobile Sanskrit Gurukul of Shri Kailakh Jyotish & Vedic Sansthan Trust at Raj Bhawan Jammu on Sunday.

Jammu Kashmir: A vehicle for the Mobile Sanskrit Gurukul has been provided by Rakesh Gandotra, Chairman, S.D. Memorial Educational Trust.

Mahant Rohit Shastri, President, Shri Kailakh Jyotish & Vedic Sansthan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Justice D Y Chandrachud on Sunday concluded his tenure as the 50th Chief Justice of India after two years marked by transformative rulings and substantial reforms, carving out a unique legacy in the Indian judicial history.

Beside delivering several landmark judgements like the Ayodhya land dispute, abrogation of Article 370 and the decriminalisation of consensual gay sex that shaped society and politics, he was part of 38 constitution benches during his eight years tenure as a judge in the Supreme Court.



Outgoing CJI D.Y. Chandrachud with CJI-designate Justice Sanjiv Khanna.

During his tenure at the apex court, he rendered more than 500 judgements, some of them having wide ramification to the society and legal field.

India's 50th Chief Justice

D Y Chandrachud, known also for his many pithy statements, leaves an imprint all his own on the annals of legal history. Not only on the judicial side but even in

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Justice Sanjiv Khanna to be sworn in as 51st CJI on November 11

NEW DELHI: Justice Sanjiv Khanna, who has been part of several landmark Supreme Court judgements such as scrapping the electoral bonds scheme and upholding abrogation of Article 370, will be sworn in as the 51st Chief Justice of India on Monday.

President Droupadi Murmu will administer the oath of office at Rashtrapati Bhavan in a ceremony scheduled at 10 am.

Justice Khanna will succeed Justice DY Chandrachud, who retired on Sunday, and his term will last until May 13, 2025.

The Centre officially notified Justice Khanna's appointment on October 24 following Chief Justice Chandrachud's recommendation on October 16. Friday was the last working day of Justice Chandrachud as the CJI and he was given a rousing farewell by judges, lawyers and staff of the apex court and the high courts.

Justice Khanna, who served as a Supreme Court judge since January 2019, has been part of several

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J&K relaxes upper age limit for combined competitive exams of UT

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government has relaxed the upper age limit to 35 years for open merit candidates appearing for combined competitive exams of the Union Territory. The earlier age limit was 30.

The upper age limit for reserved category candidates has been set at 37 years while for persons with physical disability, it is 38 years, according to the order issued on Saturday.

With this measure, the ruling National Conference said it has fulfilled another election promise.

"As promised in our Manifesto, the JKNC government prescribes revised upper age limit for Jammu & Kashmir Combined Competitive Examination. We wish all the candidates good luck with their preparations!" the party posted on X.

BJP will oppose religion-based reservation: Amit Shah

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JALGAON/BULDHANA: Union Home Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah on Sunday said the Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi could stoop to any level for the sake of appeasement and vote bank politics.

He further said Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole had agreed to the Ulema Council's demand for Muslim reservations.

Addressing rallies in Raver assembly constituency in Jalgaon and Malkapur seat

in Buldhana, Shah pointed out to a recent memorandum submitted by the Ulema



Council to the opposition Congress seeking 10 per cent reservation in jobs and education for the Muslim community.

"Patole has agreed to end

reservations for SCs. STs and OBCs and give it to Muslims as demanded by the Ulema Council," Shah said in Buldhana.

The demand for 10 per cent quota for the Muslim community would eat into the benefits of Dalits, tribals and Other Backward Classes, since there is a 50 per cent cap on quota and any increase will come at the cost of existing ones, he told the gathering.

"Maha Vikas Aghadi leaders' lust for power has blinded them to

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Two drug peddlers held with over 1 kg Charas

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Two suspected drug peddlers were arrested and more than a kilogramme of Charas was seized from them at a checkpoint in Udhampur district on Sunday, police said.

Doda natives Jagdish Raj and Kuldeep were on their way to Jammu on foot when the police intercepted them at Chenani, a spokesperson said.

He said 1.13 kilogrammes of charas was seized from the pair, who were arrested on the spot.

A case was registered against them and investigation taken up, the

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Focus on economic diplomacy one of key changes in Indian foreign policy: Jaishankar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
MUMBAI: A focus on economic diplomacy has become one of the key changes in Indian foreign policy which is now fundamentally purposed to serve national development and security, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said at an event here on Sunday.

In his keynote address at the silver jubilee celebrations of the Aditya Birla Group's scholarship programme in Mumbai, he said India's appetite to explore the world has also grown, be it in tourism, edu-

cation or work possibilities.

"This deeper linkage between the external world



and our national endeavours offers us crucial opportunities to accelerate the path towards a Viksit Bharat. In fact, we take it so seriously

that I can declare that foreign policy now has fundamentally purposed to advancing national development, apart from ensuring national security," Jaishankar said.

The two goals are of course closely linked, he said.

"Therefore, much of our diplomacy is dedicated towards promoting exports, attracting investments, sourcing best practices, identifying technologies and expanding tourism," the external affairs minister said, adding the

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 26.4°C Min: 17.1°C

Humidity
Max: 86 Min: 84

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 20.3°C Min: 3.6°C

Humidity
Max: 91 Min: 60

Sunset : 17:32 Hours
Sunrise : 06:56 Hours

Gunfire rattles Zabarwan forests; shattering peace, creating panic

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In the first such incident in the past two decades, terrorists exchanged fire with security forces in the dense forests of the Zabarwan range here on Sunday, forcing residents to flee in panic as additional forces were mobilised to strengthen the cordon.

The encounter in the vicinity of Nishat on the banks of the Dal Lake comes close on the heels of a day-long encounter in the Khanyar locality of downtown Srinagar early this month which left a top Pakistani commander of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) dead.

The encounter in Zabarwan lasted several hours before the guns fell silent but the terrorists managed to flee taking advantage of the thick foliage. However, the search for the fleeing terrorists

was continuing when the last reports were received, the officials said.

Eyewitnesses told PTI that the forest area resonated with gunshots shortly after a contingent of Army, police and CRPF personnel appeared there and launched a search operation around 9 am.

The forested area has a cluster of over a dozen houses and many residents fled the locality due to panic. This forest area serves the locals in grazing their cattle and also womenfolk bring firewood from the woods to save themselves from the bone-chilling winter of Kashmir.

"I heard a few gunshots in the morning but I did not know it was happening in the neighbourhood. I have been living here for the past two decades and never witnessed such an incident,"



Abdul Khaliq, a local resident, said.

"I, along with my wife, immediately left our house and ran for safety. There are at least two dozen houses in this forest area," he added.

Abdul Rashid, another resident

of Ishber, has been a frequent visitor to the forest area for quite a long time. This morning, he left his cattle in the forest area and was returning when the encounter started.

"Today, I also took my cow and a few sheep into the woods. While

I was coming down, I heard some gunshots. My cattle are still there and I am here waiting at the road for them. This is an unusual sight for us because this is a quiet place otherwise," a visibly disturbed Rashid told PTI.

Soon after the exchange of fire began, additional reinforcements from the Special Operations Group (SOG) of police and the CRPF rushed to the area and placed it under a tight cordon.

The security forces also restricted the movement of civilians in an attempt to prevent any loss of lives. Even media persons, who reached the spot to report the encounter, were kept at a safe distance.

"I, along with other women, went early in the morning in the forest to collect firewood but we did not see anything. Later on, when we reached home, we heard

gunshots. I am still wondering what exactly happened. Our relatives are calling us as it is everywhere on social media," a woman, who insisted not to be named, said.

Earlier, police in a post on X said, "A joint police and security forces operation was launched in Zabarwan forest area of Srinagar based on specific intelligence about the presence of terrorists. An exchange of fire ensued during the operation."

Amid escalated terror activities, especially after the formation of the National Conference government on October 16, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha recently directed the security forces to go for hot pursuit of terrorists and ensure that no terror activities are carried out to breach the peaceful atmosphere prevailing in the Valley.