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# STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

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**03 India to become third largest economy in Modi's third term: Dr Jitendra**

**03 Some J&K areas with large exploitable Commercial & Pilgrim Tourism potential 'cry' for due CARE even in 2024**

**10 J&K female swimmer wins Bronze in Khelo India**

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## Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee

### Startup ecosystem giving strength to New India

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## Logo, Mascot for Khelo India Winter Games 2024 launched J&K emerges as preferred destination for winter sports: LG



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI/JAMMU/LADAKH: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as a preferred destination for winter sports.

"The sporting fraternity, organizers and fans are eagerly waiting to host athletes from across the country", the Lt Governor observed while launching along with Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Brig. (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd) the Logo and Mascot for Khelo India Winter Games 2024.

The Lt Governor said, Khelo India Winter Games honours sporting excellence, courage and character on the breathtaking snow mountains and it is a great sporting spectacle for J&K UT.

He also observed that the Mascot for Winter Games, Snow Leopard, is the symbol of Himalaya's natural heritage and reflects the commitment of the government towards the protection and preservation of

DM Jammu seeks explanation from 13 BDOs for poor performance

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya has sought written explanation from Block Development Officers of 13 blocks for their lackluster performance.

District Magistrate on Tuesday convened a comprehensive performance review, revealing that Akhnoor, Arnia, Bishnah, Bhalwal Brahmana, Dansal, Maira Mandrian, Mandal Phallain, Mathwar, Marh, Miran Sahib, Nagrota, Samwan, and Satwari blocks fell short of the expected benchmarks in delivering MGNREGA benefits.

Expressing disappointment over the findings, the DM has issued a five-day deadline to the BDOs concerned to submit detailed explanations for their

## Parliament's Budget Session begins today; last of present LS

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Budget Session of Parliament, the last of the present Lok Sabha, begins on Wednesday with an address by President Droupadi Murmu to a joint sitting, as the government sought cooperation of opposition parties to ensure the proceedings run smoothly.

All eyes will be on the President's address and the interim budget Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presents on February 1, as they are likely to offer a glimpse into the ruling BJP's agenda for the Lok Sabha polls, expected in April-May.

Following the customary all-party meeting on the eve of the session, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad

Joshi said the government sought the cooperation of all the parties for the short session, even as the main opposition Congress raised issues like the alleged attack on Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra in Assam, the alleged "misuse" of probe agencies and the Manipur situation.

Joshi said the main agenda of the 17th Lok Sabha's brief session, set to conclude on February 9, was the President's Address, the presentation of the Interim Budget and the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address with a reply by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Congress leader K Suresh said the party would raise the issue of unemployment, high inflation, agrarian distress, and the situation in ethnic violence-hit Manipur during the session.

Trinamool Congress leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay said the finance minister should include the pending dues to West Bengal on account of various central schemes in the Interim Budget.

"It is unfortunate that a chief minister has to sit on a dharna to demand timely allocation of central dues to the state," he said.

Samajwadi Party leader S T Hassan demanded steps to strengthen the Places of Worship Act that freezes the status of religious places of worship as they existed on August 15, 1947, and prohibits their conversion

## Vande Bharat Express Train to have daily stoppage at Udhampur, Kathua

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In a strategic move to bolster regional connectivity, the Katra-New Delhi Vande Bharat Express Train to have regular daily stoppage at Udhampur and Kathua stations in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Congratulations #Udhampur, Congratulations #Kathua. Orders issued for #Vande Bharat Express Train to have regular daily stoppage at both the stations, as was promised during my interaction with the local people during the ceremonial run on 30th December. Thanks PM

Sh @NarendraModi for giving the #Katra Vaishnodevi New Delhi route the gift of not one but two Vande Bharat Trains," tweeted Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Ind. Charge) Science & Technology.

The announcement of the inclusion of Udhampur and Kathua as stops on the Vande Bharat Express route has been met with enthusiasm and gratitude. Residents anticipate improved travel convenience, enhanced business activities, and an overall improvement in living conditions.

## CJ unveils Activity calendar 2024 of J&K LSA

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority) on Tuesday unveiled the Activity calendar 2024 in presence of Justice Tashi Rabstan, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority (LSA) and Justice Sindhu Sharma, Chairperson, High Court Legal Services Committee in a simple but impressive function held at High Court, here.

While unveiling the activity calendar, Chief Justice said that the calendar is a testament to the dedication of J&K Legal Services Authority to transparency and public engagement that not only showcases the key initiatives taken by the Authority but also gives a glance to the legal awareness programs and other activities proposed in the current calendar year. Chief Justice further said that each month is adorned with the information that serves as a functional calendar as also informative resource for the stakeholders.

Appreciating the efforts put forth by the J&K Legal Services Authority in



preparing the activity calendar, the Chief Justice emphasized its role in fostering legal awareness and promoting a deeper understanding of legal processes.

Justice Tashi speaking on the occasion said that this release is in line with the ongoing initiatives

## Suspension of 14 MPs revoked; RS panel holds 11 MPs guilty of breach of privilege

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: A day before the start of the Budget session, the chairs of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on Monday revoked the suspension of 14 opposition MPs, allowing them to attend House proceedings, sources said.

The MPs -- 11 of the Rajya Sabha and three of the Lok Sabha -- were suspended during the last session and their cases were referred to the respective committees of privileges.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said the Rajya Sabha chairman and the Lok Sabha speaker

have agreed to the government's request to revoke the suspension of the 14 MPs.

The Privileges Committee of the Lok Sabha had recommended that the suspension of the three MPs -- Abdul Khaleque, K Jayakumar and Vijay Vasanth of the Congress -- be revoked after they expressed regret for their conduct during the Winter session when their relentless protests prompted the Chair to take action.

The Privileges committee of the Rajya Sabha held the 11 suspended opposition MPs guilty of breach of privilege and contempt

## 33 educational institutions, roads renamed after names of 'martyrs and eminent personalities'

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Government on Tuesday ordered for renaming of 33 educational institutions, including schools and colleges, and roads after the names of 'martyrs and eminent personalities' of Jammu and Kashmir. Among the

## No need to be scared of China, says Jaishankar

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
MUMBAI: It was necessary to acknowledge China will influence India's neighbours, but New Delhi must not be scared of such "competitive politics", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday as he also emphasised on the Indian Navy's proactive role in the Red Sea region given its maritime capability and capacity to help those in distress.

Interacting with students at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Mumbai, Jaishankar replied to questions on a range of



issues -- from China to India's strained ties with the Maldives, deployment of Naval warships in the Red Sea region and the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.

Referring to piracy and drone attacks on merchant vessels in the key Red Sea

## Uber launches operations in J&K

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
New Delhi: Ride-hailing firm Uber on Tuesday said it has started operations in Jammu and Kashmir with the launch of services in Srinagar.

Uber will offer Uber Go and outstation cab service Uber Intercity in the Valley.

"Uber's launch in Srinagar is in line with its expansion plans in India, with an aim to increase its footprint and product offerings to regional markets. Residents of Srinagar and visiting tourists can now book Uber Go and Uber Intercity

## Sinha calls for time bound action on complaints with greater transparency

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday directed the officials to take quick action on the complaints in a time bound manner with greater transparency.

Interacting with citizens and heard their grievances during this month's "LG's Mulaqaat- Live Public Grievance Hearing" through virtual mode, Sinha said: "When it comes to handling complaints, grievances and delivering public services, the



officers need to act as professional service provider and keep the citizens in the loop on action taken, maintain standards of accountability and always strive for improvement.

Several applicants expressed their gratitude to the Lt Governor for resolving their issues on the spot.

During this month's LG Mulaqaat, the Lt Governor addressed the grievances filed on JKIGRAMS by Mohd. Ashraf from Ramban; Rohit Sharma from

gathering that they were able to win a decisive victory by liberating Baramulla and advancing 60 miles to Uri where, the Valley ends and a gorge along the Jhelum starts to Muzaffarabad. Sinha is reported to have said that Indian forces received orders to cease fire and halt the advance to Muzaffarabad, according to Lal Krishan Advani. Lt General Sinha was a young Major of the Indian Army during 1947, the only Indian Army officer, deployed to drive out armed tribals from Kashmir.

The Congress has committed a plethora of blunders since the independence of India from the British Empire that is now under the public scanner, more than ever before. But can the Nehruvian blunder on Kashmir be ignored? No, the answer would be.

## Did Nehruvian blunder led to creation of POJK- epicenter of terror?

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 16.5°C Min: 8.5°C

Humidity  
Max: 88 Min: 87

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 9.0°C Min: 0.8°C

Humidity  
Max: 90 Min: 69

Sunset : 17:56 Hours  
Sunrise : 07:26 Hours

**ANCHOR**  
**SPECIAL REPORT**

JAMMU: What would have happened, if India had not declared ceasefire on January 1, 1949 to halt the advance of brave Indian Armed Forces in Poonch-Rajouri and Uri sectors in the wake of Pakistani aggression under the guise of tribals or Kabali raid in the Valley and the hilly areas of Jammu? The answer is that India would not have been subjected to three full-fledged wars and the proxy war spanning over three decades. The answer is also that the nation would not have witnessed a snake in its backyards in terms of Pakistan Occupied Jammu

and Kashmir-an epicenter of terrorism and launching pad for Jihadis to give India 'thousand cuts'. The fact is that the so-called 'Kashmir imbroglio' would not have gone to the United Nations to embarrass the 1.40 billion population from time to time.

Why should have Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru committed a blunder, costing the nation its integral part, resulting in uprooting of Hindus from Mirpur and Muzaffarabad post 1947 and miniscule Kashmiri Pandit minority from the Valley post 1990? The answers should have been sought for what is now known as Nehruvian blunder.

Did Jawaharlal Nehru stop the Army from moving forward to reclaim the Pakistan-occupied Jammu and

Kashmir to satiate the alter ego of his friend Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah that subsequently deprived the hilly and border areas of their pivotal role in the governance? The vast majority of Jammu and Kashmir had to remain as fence sitters as far as the affairs of the then huge Dogra state were concerned. BJP's Devender Singh Rana feels that the nation was taken for a ride to fulfill the political ambitions of an elite class of Kashmir for decades and decades. So do several thinkers, columnists and generals.

"It appears that wittingly or unwittingly, Nehru was part of the plot to restrain the Indian Army from recovering the entire Muzaffarabad-Poonch belt and the Gilgit Agency. Legendary journalist Kuldeep Nayar asked (Major

General) Kulwant Singh (commander of the force tasked with beating back the infiltrators) why he restrained the Indian Army from recovering these territories. Singh replied that he had been told by Nehru to halt the Indian Army's advance at a place where the Kashmiri language was no longer spoken. The logic was that the writ of Sheikh Abdullah, appointed the Chief Executive Administrator after Maharaja Hari Singh had signed the Instrument of Accession. (Defence Monitor December 13, 2021)

BJP Patriarch and former Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishan Advani is reported by Deccan Herald (July 17, 2011) quoting former Jammu and Kashmir Governor and a celebrated soldier Lt General S K Sinha, telling a

gathering that they were able to win a decisive victory by liberating Baramulla and advancing 60 miles to Uri where, the Valley ends and a gorge along the Jhelum starts to Muzaffarabad. Sinha is reported to have said that Indian forces received orders to cease fire and halt the advance to Muzaffarabad, according to Lal Krishan Advani. Lt General Sinha was a young Major of the Indian Army during 1947, the only Indian Army officer, deployed to drive out armed tribals from Kashmir.

The Congress has committed a plethora of blunders since the independence of India from the British Empire that is now under the public scanner, more than ever before. But can the Nehruvian blunder on Kashmir be ignored? No, the answer would be.