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03 Dr Jitendra releases 'Association of Physicians of India' book on 'Pollution and Health'

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PM Modi approves 8th Pay Commission 1.15 cr central employees, pensioners to be benefitted



■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday approved setting up the 8th Pay Commission to revise salaries of nearly 50 lakh central government employees and allowances of 65 lakh pensioners.

Commission for central government employees," the minister said.
The term of the 7th Pay Commission will end in 2026. Since 1947, seven Pay Commissions have been constituted, with the last one implemented in 2016. As the 7th Pay Commission's term concludes in 2026, initiating the process in 2025 ensures sufficient time to receive and review recommendations

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PAY COMMISSIONS: TIMELINE & KEY FACTS

1st Pay Commission (May 1946 - May 1947)

Chairman: Srinivasa Varadacharia
Focused on rationalizing the pay structure after India's Independence
Introduced the concept of the "living wage"
Minimum salary: Rs 55/month; maximum salary: Rs 2,000/month
Beneficiaries: Around 1.5 million employees

2nd Pay Commission (August 1957 - August 1959)

Chairman: Jaganath Das
Focused on balancing the economy and living cost
Recommended the minimum wage of Rs 80/month
Introduced the 'socialistic pattern of society'

3rd Pay Commission (April 1970 - March 1973)

Chairman: Raghunath Dayal
Recommended minimum pay of Rs 185/month
Emphasized salary parity between public and private sectors
Addressed inequalities in the pay structure
Beneficiaries: About 3 million employees

4th Pay Commission (September 1983 - December 1986)

Chairman: P.N. Singhal
Recommended a minimum salary of Rs 750/month.
Focused on reducing disparities in salaries across rank.
Introduced a performance-linked pay structure
Beneficiaries: Over 3.5 million employees

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Mysterious deaths: J&K Govt closely monitoring situation in Budhal village, probe ordered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Government has been closely monitoring the situation in village Budhal, Rajouri, where an unexplained illness has claimed 14 lives. One child admitted in SMGS hospital is critical, according to an official statement issued here on Thursday.

have tested negative for any viral or bacteriological etiology. The tests were conducted on different samples in some of the most reputed labs of

Clinical reports, lab investigations, and environmental samples indicate that deaths are not due to communicable disease

the country. These include National Institute of Virology Pune, National Centre for disease control New Delhi, National Institute of Toxicology and Research Lucknow, Defence Development Establishment Gwalior, the Microbiology Department of

PGIMER Chandigarh besides the ICMR-Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratory, GMC Jammu. The incident came into notice on December 7, 2024, when a family of seven got ill after a community meal, resulting in five fatalities. On December 12, 2024, a family of nine got affected, claiming three lives. The third incident occurred on January 12, 2025, involving a family of ten who fell ill after consuming another community meal, with

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Actor Saif Ali Khan stabbed by intruder at Mumbai home

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI: Bollywood star Saif Ali Khan was repeatedly stabbed with a knife by an intruder inside his 12th floor apartment in upscale Bandra early Thursday in a shocking attack that raises intriguing questions about security, motive, and celebrity life.

Khan, 54, was "out of danger" following an emergency surgery, said the doctors at the Lilavati Hospital where he was rushed following the incident that took place around 2.30 am at his apartment in 'Satguru Sharan' building.

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Six SPs posted in ACB; 3 SPs repatriated

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The J&K General Administration Department (GAD) on Thursday ordered the posting of six SP-rank officers to the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and repatriated three officers to their respective departments.

According to a government order, Shiv Deep Singh Jamwal (JKPS), (PHQ) Manzoor Ahmad Mir (JKPS), (SO to ADGP Security) and Mamta Sharma (JKPS) (Addl SP Security) have been posted in the Anti Corruption Bureau, J&K with

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Firing on Advocate: CJM rejects PDD employee's bail plea

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) of Jammu, Preet Simran Kour, has rejected the bail plea of Ravinder Singh, a meter reader with the Power Development Department (PDD), accused of firing at Advocate Kanav Sharma.

According to police reports, on January 3, 2025, Singh allegedly fired multiple rounds at Adv Kanav Sharma in the New Plot area of Jammu following an altercation over a parking dispute. Sharma sustained serious injuries and was rushed to Government Medical

College (GMC) Hospital by locals. An FIR 01/25 was registered at Bakshi Nagar Police Station, and the investigation is ongoing.

During the hearing, Advocate Deepika Pushkar Nath represented Singh, while APP Vikram Parihar argued on behalf of the Union Territory. The court noted that while there was no evidence of prior enmity between Singh and Sharma, the accused's act of carrying and using a licensed pistol in broad daylight over a minor issue posed a significant threat to public safety.

CJM Kour observed that

such incidents highlight a disturbing trend of individuals resorting to violence over trivial matters. "Carrying a licensed weapon does not grant anyone the right to harm others. Firing in a public place endangers not only the targeted individual but also innocent bystanders," she remarked.

The court emphasized the importance of addressing such cases firmly to ensure societal safety. It underscored that the accused had prima facie committed a serious offense of attempted murder, a heinous crime

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What is Rahul Gandhi up to? Is he truly Indian?



declared a "war against the Indian state." What is Rahul Gandhi really up to? Is his rhetoric merely political posturing, a reflection of ideological differences, or something more calculated and concerning? These questions need to be examined in the context of alleged conspiracies by global actors, including the controversial billionaire philanthropist George Soros, who has a track record of influencing political discourse in various nations, having openly expressed his desire to challenge nationalist governments worldwide and publicly declared his intent to overthrow Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government under the guise of "saving Indian democracy."

"war against the Indian state," it is natural to question his intent. Is this a mindless statement, or a deliberate attempt to weaken the nation's democratic framework? As a prominent political leader, Rahul Gandhi bears a significant responsibility for his words. Such venomous utterances can be construed as anti-national or divisive, with far-reaching consequences in a country as diverse and vibrant as India. This reckless language represents a direct assault on the nation's sovereignty and unity, raising questions about his allegiance to India and his understanding of his responsibilities.

Rahul Gandhi has a history of undermining India's national pride and cultural heritage. His infamous query, "Who is Bharat Mata?" during a public address, was widely perceived as an insult to India's civilizational identity. Bharat Mata, a symbol of the nation's collective pride and heritage, is revered across political lines. By questioning this, Rahul Gandhi has exposed himself for his disconnect from India's cultural ethos. In a bid to corner Prime Minister

Modi, Rahul Gandhi made a bizarre U-turn by describing Dr. Manmohan Singh as a proud son of Bharat Mata while blaming the Centre for not announcing a memorial for the former Prime Minister. However, this statement was riddled with factual inaccuracies. It raises the question: how can a leader use the symbol of Bharat Mata selectively, based on political convenience?

The nation remembers Rahul Gandhi's role in questioning the valor and sacrifices of the Indian Army. He raised doubts about the surgical strikes conducted by the Indian armed forces, even joining voices demanding "proof" of these operations. His remarks undermined the credibility and morale of the forces that defend India's sovereignty.

Similarly, his misleading claims about Indian territory being under Chinese occupation contradicted clarifications by the Army's top brass. His private meetings with Chinese ambassadors, conducted without transparency, further raised concerns. In the midst of security

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Vaishno Devi hills receive season's first snowfall

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Trikuta hills enshrouding the cave shrine of Mata Vaishnodevi received the season's first snowfall even as rain lashed large parts of the Jammu region, blocking the Mughal and Simthan roads.

Despite the snowfall, pilgrims continued their journey on foot to offer prayers at the shrine, officials said.

"We are happy to feel the snowflakes touching us. It is the first time in my life that I have seen snowfall, and that too at the abode of Mata. It is a blessing for me," a pilgrim from Pune said. The world-famous tourist resort of Sanasar in the Ramban district

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CM reaffirms commitment to strengthen Umeed programme

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reaffirmed his government's unwavering commitment to the Umeed Programme, promising to take all necessary steps, provide the required funds and simplify procedures to ensure its continued growth and success.

The Chief Minister made these remarks while addressing the 'Lakshpati Didi Sammelan' organized by the J&K Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM) working under the aegis of Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj at the Convention Centre



CM Omar Abdullah speaking at an event in Jammu.

here on Thursday.

Speaking at the event, the Chief Minister said, "As I stand here, my heart is filled with pride. I want to assure all of you-our daughters, sisters, and mothers-that the

government is fully committed to supporting this program. We will take every necessary step to ensure its continued growth, provide the required funds and

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SC dismisses J&K Govt's plea against HC direction to create 334 judicial posts

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Supreme Court (SC) on Thursday dismissed Jammu and Kashmir government's challenge to a High Court order which directed the UT authorities to create 334 judicial posts within 60 days.

A bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and SVN Bhatti passed the order, noting that the main matter is pending before the High

Court and the observations contained in the impugned order - an interim order - were tentative.

The order was dictated thus: "We see no reason to entertain the present SLP and the same is accordingly dismissed. However, the observations made in the interim order to at the interlocutory stage is made tentative in the event subject to the final order that would be

passed in the pending proceedings."

At the outset of the hearing, Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj pointed out that 2 special leave petitions arising out of the same proceedings before the High Court are already pending before the Supreme Court. In response, Justice Roy noted that the top Court has granted relief in one of them,

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SC to hear Godhra train burning case on Feb 13

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday said it will hear on February 13 the appeals filed by the Gujarat government and several other convicts in the 2002 Godhra train burning case.

A bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and Aravind Kumar made it clear that no adjournment will be given in the matter on the next date of hearing.

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