

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!

Our prime objective...

teachers, scientists, philosophers to make dedicated efforts to carry forward our rich spiritual legacy to young generation and connect more youth to nation-building and realise the resolve of Viksit Bharat.

"Our ancient saints, philosophers and teachers' life and vision of selfless service, brotherhood, equality and universal values is an inspiration for all humanity. They inspired people to follow the righteous path, awaken the society to fulfil duties for a developed society," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that a mass campaign should be started in mission mode to preserve and nurture the ancient Indian civilizational heritage.

Our mystic saints have created a divine aura through meditation and yoga and laid the foundation for the all-round development and welfare of humanity since time immemorial.

Modern communication tools, reach of social media and other communication mediums have eliminated geographical boundaries. We must use these mediums to spread research work, books, magazines, monographs on meditation and yoga to every corner of the world, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that the basic foundation of cultural-spiritual institutions should be based on 3 Es - Education, Experience and Enlightenment.

By empowering the society through a system based on education, experience and enlightenment, we can uplift every section, without any discrimination. This system will lay emphasis on character building which will build a strong society with the vision of equality and social justice and create a sense of self-respect and self-pride in the citizens, the Lieutenant Governor further added.

He also called upon the devotees visiting Mahakumbh from across the globe to become ambassadors of the glorious Indian culture.

HIGHLIGHTS...

righteous path, awaken society to fulfil duties for developed society
8 Emphasised that mass campaign should be started in mission mode to preserve and nurture ancient Indian civilizational heritage.

Unexplained deaths: Badhaal...

entry is strictly prohibited without permission from the designated officer. The other two Zones are families identified as having contacts with the affected families.

Further, on the direction of Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma ordered immediate relocation of close contacts and high-risk contacts of affected families from Badhaal Village to Nursing College and Government Medical College (GMC) Rajouri.

The decision forms part of a proactive approach to ensure the safety and well-being of the community amid prevailing concerns.

The Animal and sheep Husbandry Department has been tasked with deploying officials to manage and take care of domestic animals left behind in the village, ensuring their safety and proper upkeep.

The district administration is working round the clock to provide all necessary assistance and appeals to the public to cooperate fully with the containment measures.

Meanwhile, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, and Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu, Anand Jain, visited Badhaal village to assess the situation and review ongoing measures for the safety of the residents.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri was directed for immediate relocation of close contacts and high-risk contacts of affected families from Badhaal Village to Nursing College and Government Medical College (GMC) Rajouri.

Instructions were issued to Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs), Block Development Officers (BDOs), and their subordinate staff to facilitate the seamless movement of the identified individuals to the designated facilities.

Further, the Animal and sheep Husbandry Department has been tasked with deploying officials to manage and care for domestic animals left behind in the village, ensuring their safety and proper upkeep.

Designated officers and their teams will oversee the well-being of the relocated residents upon their arrival in Rajouri, providing essential support and other necessities during their stay. The Divisional Commissioner directed all concerned officials to work in close coordination to ensure the effective implementation of the measures.

4 more hospitalised...

were shifted to the Government Medical College (GMC), Rajouri from Badhaal after their health suddenly deteriorated on Wednesday. Another critically ill patient, Javid Ahmad (24), was referred to PGI Chandigarh from GMC Rajouri on Tuesday evening, the officials said. All four are close relatives of the three families that lost their members to the mysterious illness, they said.

Army troops open...

after hovering briefly over an area near the border fence in Mendhar sector, they said. The troops picked up the movement of the drone around 1 am and fired nearly a dozen rounds.

A search operation was launched with the first light of the day on Wednesday to ensure there was no airdropping of weapons or narcotics by the drone, the officials said. The search operation was continuing when last reports were received.

J&K Govt flags...

to the government's directives.

"Accordingly, it is once again impressed upon all administrative secretaries and heads of departments to ensure that all employees under their administrative control register and enroll in the competency assessment tests on the iGOT Karmayogi portal. Action taken reports in this regard must be furnished to the GAD," it said.

The National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB) - Mission Karmayogi - is a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at developing the potential of government employees and training institutes, it added.

"The programme is designed to enhance core competencies for effective and efficient public service delivery while enabling government functionaries to explore and acquire new skills critical for better execution of responsibilities," according to the order.

Employees have already been instructed to register on the portal using their government email IDs and complete the competency assessments. The assessments will help identify areas for improvement, enhance existing skills, and acquire new ones. The portal offers extensive modules tailored to these needs, the order further said.

The iGOT Karmayogi platform shifts the responsibility of learning to the individual while also providing tools for departments and managers to monitor and mentor officials.

"The platform offers anytime-anywhere-any-device learning to train about 2 crore users - a scale unachievable through traditional methods," an official said.

The platform is envisioned to evolve into a dynamic, world-class marketplace for content, modelled on FRACs (Framework of Roles, Activities, and Competencies) and supported by a robust e-learning content industry.

The platform's content can be curated in-house by government ministries or organizations or developed through knowledge partners. Training modules will feature carefully crafted and vetted content from top institutions, universities, private providers, and individual experts, the official said.

CB registers FIR...

Official added, "Another written complaint lodged by Sahil Choudhary, son of Sultan Hussain, resident of Dabber Potha, Tehsil Nowshera, District Rajouri with Anti-Corruption Bureau, Jammu which was got enquired by ACB through SSP Srinagar and SSP Rajouri was received in Crime Branch (EOW) Jammu through PHQ & CHQ in which the complainant alleged that Sunny Sharma, son of Om Parkash, resident of village Laroka, Tehsil Qila Darhal at present Ward No.4 Near Tehsil Office Nowshera, Rajouri and Bisharat Hussain Mirza, son of Faquir Mohd, resident of Jamola, Manjakot, Rajouri came to Nowshera and met the complainant accompanied by his grandmother Shah Begum."

"Both accused persons brought the complainant and his grandmother under their influence and assured that they would provide permanent appointment of the complainant in the J&K Bank as Class IV employee for which the complainant would have to pay Rs. 8.00 lakhs," official said and added, "The accused persons further assured that they would receive the said money from complainant only after they would hand over the appointment order to the complainant. The complainant and his grandmother were convinced by the accused persons."

"The accused persons after sometime introduced the complainant and his grandmother to two other persons namely Majid Ali, resident of Srinagar (employee in J&K Bank Ltd. Hari Singh High Street Branch Batmaloo, Kashmir) and Imran Tantray, resident of Srinagar who asked the complainant to come at Srinagar for his appointment." official said adding that thereafter complainant alongwith his grandmother went to Srinagar where the complainant met with both accused persons Majid Ali and Imran Tantray.

"During the stay of complainant and his grandmother in Srinagar, the accused

persons compelled the complainant to make payment as agreed between them in the accounts provided by accused persons. The complainant made bank transactions of the amount of Rs. 7.90 lakh in the accounts provided by the accused persons." CB official said adding that on receipt of the aforesaid whole payment, accused Majid Ali called the complainant and handed over the copy of appointment order for the post of Banking Attendant at The Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited, Business Unit: Dalhori Rajouri to the complainant.

Thereafter, the complainant went to J&K Bank Ltd. Branch Dalhori, Rajouri for his joining where the complainant informed by the said Bank Branch Head that the said appointment order is fake and frivolous and no such appointment order was issued, official said.

Senior Superintendent of Police Crime Jammu, Benam Tosh confirmed that two cases viz. case FIR No. 07/2025 and FIR No. 08/2025 have been registered at P/S EOW, Crime Branch Jammu and investigation is underway.

India faces threat...

I repeatedly clarified that no one could settle here without the Union Home Ministry's approval, yet no one listened," he added.

Commenting on the abrogation of Article 370, Dr Abdullah argued that the special provision was not solely for Kashmiris but was introduced by Maharaja Hari Singh in 1927 to protect Dogras from economic domination by wealthy Punjabis.

"You celebrated the abrogation, but now even domestic jobs are going to outsiders. Servants are being brought in from outside. Think about what you have gained," he remarked.

He highlighted growing economic challenges post abrogation of article 370 and said "Your lands are being taken, and jobs are no longer reserved for you. Outsiders hesitate to come to Kashmir; fearing its majority Muslim population. This is what we tried to warn you about."

Abdullah also addressed accusations of being unpatriotic. "I am a Muslim, and I am an Indian Muslim. I am neither a Chinese nor a Pakistani Muslim. But this propaganda persists. Even Hindu members of the National Conference were once branded as Pakistanis," he said.

Expressing gratitude to the people for their support, Abdullah said "We faced immense challenges but never bowed down. My father faced difficulties too, but we did not succumb. If we remain on the right path, act with honesty, and ensure justice for all, we can overcome any challenge."

He urged party leaders to avoid division and remain open to the people, stressing the need for internal unity. "Put your house in order first. If your house is not in order, how can your country be?" he questioned.

Abdullah highlighted the need for a united effort towards nation-building, stating, "This country can only progress when all of us are happy and united. India is diverse, comprising various races and regions, and our strength lies in our unity amid diversity."

"Touching upon gender equality, Abdullah expressed disappointment over delays in implementing reservations for women in Parliament. He asserted "Men often hesitate to share power with women, hindering our nation's progress. We must ensure equality for men and women to truly advance."

Farooq Abdullah also called upon party workers to start preparing for the upcoming panchayat elections, emphasizing the need for unity to "rebuild" Jammu and Kashmir.

"Prepare for elections. Whenever elections are held, be ready from today," he said, addressing a gathering of party workers here.

He urged NC workers to choose candidates who genuinely want to serve the people and emphasized the need for honesty and unity to "rebuild" Jammu and Kashmir. "Together, we can overcome these challenges and bring our region back on the path of progress," he said.

Recalling the 2024 assembly elections, Abdullah said, "In previous elections, many believed it wouldn't happen, but they were eventually announced, leaving many unprepared."

Abdullah urged party workers to remain truthful with the public and avoid misleading promises. "Tell people what you can do and what you cannot. Do not mislead them with greener pastures; it will not work," he said.

He also warned against disloyalty within the party, stating, "don't project yourself as NC workers while voting for the lotus (BJP's symbol). I have seen such behaviour before. Today, many are joining NC because we are in power; but we must prioritize those who have sacrificed for the party over opportunists."

Calling for unity among leaders, he said, "Love and support those who have stood by the organization. First, put your house in order. If your house is not in order, how can the country be in order?"

Highlighting the challenges J&K is facing, Abdullah said various sectors including education, healthcare, power, and water supply are facing issues.

Meanwhile, while talking to reporters on the sidelines of a party function here, Abdullah responded to the question about the criticism of the government functioning allegedly by a Congress leader, saying the government knows what to do.

"Government will function as it wants. Nobody can dictate terms to the government," he said.

Responding to the PDP remark that the NC government has changed the goal post from Article 370 to statehood, Abdullah said the rival party needs to go for self-introspection before making any allegations against his party.

"Tell them (PDP), they are the ones who are responsible for the revocation of Article 370. We have told Mufti Mohammad Sayeed (former chief minister and PDP founder) not to join the BJP for government formation. He went ahead, despite repeated requests by us, Congress and other parties," he said.

Asked when the statehood was restored to Jammu and Kashmir, he quipped "When it is acceptable to the Almighty."

On return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri pandits who completed 35 years in exile on January 19, Abdullah said the BJP ruled J-K over the past 10 years and the question should have been posed to them how many migrant families they have rehabilitated during this period.

He said the BJP has also promised 50,000 jobs to the unemployed youth but nobody will ask them how many jobs they provided in the past 10 years but will ask the National Conference which only came to power three months ago and has five years to fulfil all its promises including providing jobs to the youth.

Abdullah questioned the silence of the media over the alleged misuse of the central government by the BJP in the elections.

"I want to advise the media to remove hatred from their reporting and try to work to spread love. If we continue to spread hatred, we cannot save the country," he said, urging the media in the country to go for self-introspection before asking questions to the opposition party leaders.

Asked about the involvement of a Bangladeshi national in the recent attack on Bollywood star Saif Ali Khan in Mumbai, Abdullah said he is against such things and wished him a speedy recovery. "Maharashtra is a rich state where everybody wants to go to earn a living. How many people from our state are earning their livelihood in Mumbai? It is the financial capital of India," he said, adding "If somebody has attacked him, you cannot blame an entire nation for one man's action."

"You remember what had happened in Canada and America and they put the blame on India. How can you blame a nation for one person's action...(former Prime Minister) Indira Gandhi visioned SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) like the European Union with the aim that all countries in the neighbourhood work together for the betterment of their nations. We need a revival of this," he said.

Maha Kumbh: UP...

amid high security. Adityanath was joined by Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Manrya and Brajesh Pathak, Minister of State for Minority Welfare, Muslim Waqf and Haj Danish Azad Ansari, Minister Ashish Patel of ally Apna Dal (S) and Baldev Singh Anlakh, the only Sikh face of the Adityanath government, among others. Fisheries Minister Sanjay Nishad of ally Nishad Party also joined them.

The Cabinet meeting and the holy dip comes on a day that marks the first anniversary of the consecration ceremony of the Ram Lalla idol at the Ram temple in Ayodhya. Earlier, UP Director General of Police Prashant Kumar also took a dip in the Sangam - the revered confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and mythical Saraswati.

Centre to establish...

sectors such as health, communication, industry, transport, and defence, "there is a need for a revolution in education and the holistic development of children."

During his speech, he also remarked that a 'sainik' or soldier should not be seen solely from the perspective of war; as each soldier possesses many other qualities.

He noted that a soldier is disciplined, focused on his goals, serves selflessly, has self-control, and is dedicated. These qualities are also seen in many great leaders, such as Swami Vivekananda, Adi Shankaracharya, and Raja Ravi Varma, whose battlefields were social, cultural, political, or religious reforms, he said.

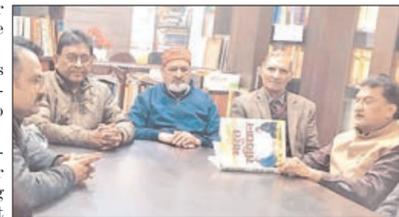
Cabinet approves continuation...

Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The new MSP ensures return of 66.8 per cent over all-India weighted average cost of production and will benefit growers, the minister said. The government has increased MSP of raw jute from Rs 2,400 per quintal in 2014-15 to Rs 5,650 per quintal for 2025-26 marketing season, an increase of 2.35 times.

Read Constitution to know your rights: Balbir

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: People of Scheduled Caste (SC) community should be aware of their constitutional rights, and for this, they must read the Constitution.



Balbir Ram Rattan has appealed to the SC community to read the Constitution to understand their rights.

BJP spokesperson and former Vice Chairperson, Balbir Ram Rattan, said this during a discussion with prominent members of his community about the importance of the Indian Constitution.

He stated that the country's Constitution guarantees equality, justice, and dignity to all citizens. He further added that many provisions of the Constitution are specifically designed to protect the interests of Scheduled Castes, prevent discrimination, ensure equal opportunities, and promote social and economic development.

Balbir Ram Rattan emphasized that a lack of awareness about these rights often hinders their effective implementation.

He suggested for organizing workshops, seminars, and public lectures to explain the provisions related to Scheduled Castes in the Constitution in a simple and accessible language. This work should be carried out by senior retired officials and prominent social figures from the community.

He appealed for free distribution of copies of the Constitution in regional languages and highlight the need to simplify and emphasize the key rights and provisions for Scheduled Castes.

Balbir stressed on the importance of connecting with the youth of the community and encouraging them to read the Constitution so that a sense of pride and responsibility develops in this generation.

Balbir Ram Rattan stated, "The Constitution is a powerful tool for empowerment." He further said that by understanding their rights, members of the Scheduled Caste community can take effective steps towards social and economic inclusion.

20 individuals from Jammu region to attend as special guests

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Twenty distinguished individuals from the Jammu region have been invited as special guests to witness the Republic Day Parade 2025 at Kartavya Path, New Delhi, on January 26, 2025.

Special guests from Jammu region include members of paralympic contingent, winners of international sports events; best performing PM Vishwakarma Yojana beneficiaries; road construction workers and best performing water warriors.

They are among the 10,000 special guests invited from across the country, recognized for their exceptional contributions in various fields, including government schemes, social welfare, and personal achievements.

The guests from Jammu region have been selected for their outstanding performance in their respective categories.

The list of special guests includes Rakesh Kumar, Sheetal Devi, Anup Verma, Shakti Devi and Rakesh Kumar Yadav under the category of Paralympic contingent and winners of international sport events and Parveen Choudhary of Rang Pur Treva under the category of "Best performing PM-Vishwakarma Yojana beneficiaries"

List also includes Hardeep Singh, Kasturi Lal, Sachin Kumar, Ravinder Singh - all from Rajouri; Saber Hussain, Tazeem Akhter both from Poonch; Bipan Lal from Kishtwar; Rakesh Kumar from Patyari, Gurah Brahmanna, Baljeet Singh from Nardi Bala Nardi, Rounak Lal from Arnia, Sanjay Kumar from Korgasal and Mukesh Sharma from Udhampur - all under the category of "Road construction workers."

Under the category of "Best Performing Water Warriors", Nisha Sharma from Tikri, Udhampur has been selected as special guest.

"These individuals have been selected for their remarkable achievements, particularly in fields such as water conservation, handicrafts, women's empowerment and education. The special guests invited from across India represent diverse sectors, highlighting the impact of government schemes and the dedication of individuals in contributing to national progress," said PRO Defence Lt Col Sumeel Bartwal.

"The Republic Day Parade provides a unique platform to honour these exceptional individuals for their service to the community and the country. The guests from Jammu region join a distinguished list of achievers who will be attending the event to witness the Republic Day celebrations," he said.

ADGP Jammu zone conducts review meeting on CCTNS implementation, performance

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu zone, Anand Jain, on Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting on the functioning of the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS).



The meeting focused on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the system to enhance policing and citizen services.

The agenda points of the review included discussion on the utilization and optimization of the e-Sakshya module for seamless case management, evaluation of the implementation of e-Summons and ways to address challenges in its use, identification of challenges faced in feeding Integrated Investigation Forms (IIFs) and an overall assessment of the functioning of DeMTs, emphasizing their role in monitoring and troubleshooting CCTNS operations.

During the meeting, ADGP Jammu zone emphasized the importance of timely and accurate data entry in CCTNS to ensure real-time availability of information for effective decision-making. He directed all officers to address the bottlenecks in feeding IIFs and to ensure strict adherence to timelines.

Highlighting the significance of e-Sakshya and e-Summons in improving the efficiency of case handling and service delivery, the ADGP instructed the officers to conduct regular training sessions for police station staff to ensure optimum utilization of these modules.

The ADGP also stressed the critical role of District e-Mission Teams in maintaining the operational integrity of CCTNS. He called for proactive engagement by the teams to resolve technical issues, monitor performance, and support police stations in achieving the objectives of the CCTNS project.

Officers attending the meeting shared feedback on the challenges faced in implementation and suggested practical measures to improve overall performance. The ADGP concluded the meeting with a directive to all DIGs and SSPs to regularly monitor the functioning of CCTNS in their jurisdictions and to ensure the system's seamless operation. The meeting was attended by all Range DIGs; District SSPs; SO to ADGP Jammu; Sr. PO ZPHQ Jammu; Incharge CCTNS section, ZPHQ Jammu; and In-charge CCTNS of police stations across the Jammu zone.

Rusted mortar shell defused in Kathua

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A rusted mortar shell was defused in a forest area in Hiranagar sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Wednesday, officials said.

The mortar shell was noticed by a shepherd, who had gone to Mayan Kamah forest to graze his sheep this morning, the officials said.

They said Shawar informed the local police following which a bomb disposal squad was rushed to the scene and the mortar shell was defused.

Soldier dies after being hit by bullet fired from his service rifle

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: An Army soldier died after he was hit by a bullet fired from his service rifle in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, officials said.

It was not immediately clear if it was a case of suicide.

The jawan, hailing from Punjab, was hit by the bullet in his head and died on the spot, the officials said.

Police are trying to ascertain whether the jawan's rifle went off accidentally or he committed suicide, they said.