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Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

03 Dr Jitendra announces successful gene therapy trial for Haemophilia blood disorder

10 Big Cricket League: Swachhta Strikers to face Mulan Club in final

10 VAJK sets to host 36th JK UT Senior Men & Women Volleyball Championship from today

Website : www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

Pays tributes to General Zorawar Singh

Infra development accelerated manifold in J&K in past 5 years: LG



LG Manoj Sinha paying tributes to General Zorawar Singh and honouring State Times Editor-in-Chief, Raj Daluja.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government is committed to ensure equality and social justice for all, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Thursday, asserting that the speed of infrastructure development

► **General Zorawar Singh's vision, values guiding us to work for those sections of society who have got left behind**
► **Says public welfare is my 'Dharma' and 'Kartavya'**
► **Govt committed to ensure equality, social justice for all**

has accelerated manifold in the Union Territory over the past five years.
Addressing a commemorative event, organized by General Zorawar Singh Memorial Educational and Charitable Trust, at

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NIA raids 19 locations in country to probe terror conspiracy hatched by Pak-based JeM

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency conducted searches at 19 locations across the country on Thursday as part of its probe into a case of terror conspiracy by Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad.

The searches were carried out in Assam, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Jammu and Kashmir; the federal probe agency said.

Several incriminating documents and electronic devices, including mobile phones, pen drives, CDs and hard disks were seized, it said.

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Kashmir plains receive first snowfall

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
SRINAGAR: Many areas in the plains of Kashmir received the season's first snowfall on Thursday breaking a long dry spell, even as the minimum temperature improved at most places in the valley, officials said.

However, snowfall in the higher reaches, which began in Wednesday, continued at several places. The plains of Shopian, Pulwama,

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Pakistani intruder apprehended in Poonch

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: A Pakistani intruder was apprehended by the Army near the LoC in the Poonch district, security officials said on Thursday.

Mohd Sadiq (18) was allegedly attempting to sneak into the Indian side from across the border when he was intercepted by the alert troops at Noorkote, a village near the border fence late Wednesday evening, the officials said.

They said the

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 19.6°C Min: 6.8°C

Humidity
Max: 73 Min: 52

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 7.0°C Min: -0.5°C

Humidity
Max: 95 Min: 80

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

One Nation One Election marks new era of governance, accountability: Chugh

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Thursday welcomed the Union Cabinet's landmark approval of the One Nation, One Election (ONOE) describing it as a transformative step toward strengthening India's democracy and governance.

Chugh lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary leadership in spearheading this reform, which aims to synchronize elections for the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies, and local bodies across the country. He



emphasized that ONOE will streamline India's electoral process, reduce financial and administrative burdens, and enhance democratic participation.
"One Nation, One Election is a game-changing initiative that reflects Prime Minister

Modi's commitment to building a more efficient and participative democracy. By aligning electoral cycles, we will not only save significant resources but also eliminate the disruptions caused by frequent elections," Chugh said.

Chugh highlighted the historical context of simultaneous elections in India, which were held between 1952 and 1967. By adopting ONOE, we are taking a decisive step toward a more stable governance framework and fostering greater democratic engagement," he added.

Chugh also underlined the

significant financial savings anticipated from ONOE, pointing out that simultaneous elections could drastically reduce the Rs 60,000 crore spent by political parties and the Rs 10,000 crore incurred by the government every five years. These savings, he said, could be redirected toward developmental initiatives that directly benefit citizens.

Calling ONOE a historic reform, Chugh said, "This initiative will make India's democracy not only the largest but also the most efficient in the world. It marks a new era of governance and accountability."

Six held for firing in Jammu; country-made pistol seized

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Six people were arrested for allegedly open firing at a man with the intent of killing him here, police said on Thursday.

The incident took place on Tuesday when the accused shot at him and later threw him from a height of nearly 60 feet near Ring Road Kunjwani in the outskirts of the city, a police spokesman said.

He was taken to a hospital by locals, the officer said.

A case has been registered under relevant sections of law at Bishnah police station and a team was formed

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Karan Singh congratulates CM for deciding to reintroduce 'Darbar Move'

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Veteran Congress leader Karan Singh on Thursday congratulated chief minister Omar Abdullah for deciding to reintroduce the centuries old tradition of 'darbar move', saying it would be helpful to overcome cultural and linguistic differences between the two regions.

Darbar move, under which the civil secretariat and other government offices used to function six months each in Srinagar and Jammu during summer and winter, respectively, was stopped by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha in

UP Govt invites LG Sinha for Maha Kumbh Mela



UP delegation presenting invitation card to LG Manoj Sinha.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Anil Kumar, Minister for Science & Technology in Uttar Pradesh Government and Danish Azad Ansari, Minister of State for Minority Welfare, Uttar Pradesh on Thursday

called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, and extended the invitation for the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025, on behalf of the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath. They

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No court to entertain, pass directions in cases of religious places till further orders: SC

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NEW DELHI: In an important development, the Supreme Court on Thursday restrained till further directions the courts in the country from entertaining fresh lawsuits and passing any effective interim or final orders in pending ones seeking to reclaim religious places, especially mosques and dargahs (a muslim shrine).

"As the matter is sub-judice in this court, we deem it appropriate that no fresh suit would be registered and proceedings are undertaken till further orders of this

court," the CJI-led bench said.

The direction of a bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and K V Viswanathan stalls proceedings in about 18 lawsuits filed by various Hindu parties seeking survey to ascertain original religious character of 10 mosques including Gyanvapi at Varanasi, Shahi Idgah Masjid at Mathura and Shahi Jama Masjid at Sambhal where four persons' lives were snuffed out in clashes.

The special bench was hearing about six petitions, including the lead one filed by lawyer Ashwini Upadhyay, challenging various provisions of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991.

The 1991 law prohibits conversion of any place of worship and provides for the maintenance of the religious character of any place of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947.

However, the dispute relating to Ram Jannabhooni-Babri Masjid at Ayodhya was kept out of its purview.

There are several cross petitions which seek

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'One nation, one election': 32 political parties supported proposal, 15 opposed

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
NEW DELHI: During the consultation process on 'one nation, one election', 32 political parties supported the idea while 15 did not, according to former president Ram Nath Kovind, who headed a high-level committee that studied the proposal.

Delivering the 7th Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Lecture on Simultaneous Elections on October 5, Kovind had said that many among these 15 parties supported simultaneous elections at some point in past.

The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved bills to implement 'one nation, one election', and the draft legislations are likely to be introduced in Parliament in the ongoing Winter session.

"During our consultation process, 47 political parties presented their views to the Committee. 32 out of these 47 parties supported the idea of simulta-

neous elections. 15 parties did not. However, many among these 15 parties have supported simultaneous elections in the past, at one time or another," Kovind had said.

Among the national parties, the Congress, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) opposed the proposal, while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the National People's Party (NPP) supported it.

The panel headed by Kovind submitted its report to the President in March.

"Responses were received from 47 political parties. Barring 15 political parties, the remaining 32 political parties not only favoured the system of simultaneous elections, but also advocated its adoption for saving scarce resources, protecting social harmony, and stimulating economic development," the report said.

Cabinet nod to bills for simultaneous polls to LS, state assemblies

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved two bills, including one to amend the Constitution to implement "one nation, one election", and the draft legislations are likely to be introduced in Parliament in the ongoing winter session, sources said.

As of now, the Cabinet has given its nod to draft legislations to hold simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and legislative assemblies only, the sources said.

While a high-level committee led by former president Ram Nath Kovind had also proposed holding the municipality and panchayat polls along with the national and state elections in a phased manner, the Cabinet has decided to stay away, "as of now", from the manner in which local body elections are conducted.

The Constitution amendment bill to hold simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and state assemblies will not require ratification by at least 50 per cent of the states, the sources noted.

Another Constitution bill proposed by the Kovind panel was aimed at creating provisions to hold simultaneous elections to municipalities and panchayats, along with the elections to the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies, by inserting a new Article 324A. It would have required ratification by half of the state assemblies. But

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"Those who opposed simultaneous elections raised apprehensions that its adoption could violate the basic structure of the

Constitution, be anti-democratic and anti-federal, marginalise regional parties, encourage the dominance of national parties, and result in a presidential form of government," it added.

According to the report, the Congress, the AAP and the CPI(M) rejected the proposal, saying it undermines democracy and the basic structure of the Constitution. The BSP did not explicitly oppose it, but highlighted concerns regarding the large territorial extent and population of the country, which could make its implementation challenging.

The Samajwadi Party (SP) said if simultaneous elections are implemented, state-level parties will not be able to compete with national parties as far as electoral strategy and expenditure are concerned, leading to an increased discord between these two sets of parties.

Among the state parties, the

AIUDF, the Trinamool Congress, the AIMIM, the CPI, the DMK, the Naga People's Front, and the SP opposed the proposal.

The AIADMK, All Jharkhand Students' Union, Apna Dal (Soney Lal), ASOM Gana Parishad, Biju Janata Dal, Lok Janashakti Party (R), Mizo National Front, Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party, Shiv Sena, Janata Dal (United), Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, Shiromani Akali Dal and United People's Party Liberal supported the proposal.

Others, including Bharat Rashtra Samithi, Indian Union Muslim League, Jammu And Kashmir National Conference, Janata Dal (Secular), Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, Kerala Congress (M), Nationalist Congress Party, Rashtriya Janata Dal, Rashtriya Loktantrik Party, Revolutionary Socialist Party,

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