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Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

Or Jitendra holds 'Public Durbar' UU at Ramban, on spot decisions taken

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24

Katra remains shut for 5th day against ropeway project; BJP MLA joins protesters

13th Police Martyr's NZ T-20 Cricket Tournament: Vicky XI Pathankot, KKR XI register wins in ties

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

LG calls upon educational institutions to adopt new technologies

"Focus on both knowledge and values"

STATE TIMES NEWS

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday attended the Annual Day function of Jammu Sanskriti School "Karmanya-The Power of

Good Deeds", at General Zorawar Singh Auditorium, Jammu University. In his address.

Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations to the school management, teachers and students on its annual day. Over the years, many eminent teachers and educationists have contributed to high reputation the Jammu Sanskriti School enjoys today. It is an occasion to remember all of them with gratitude, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that the prime objective of school education is to ignite the intellectual capacity of children.

"The future of a nation is decided in school campus. The overall goal of our education system is to provide unique opportunity to every unique personality so that



LG Manoj Sinha addressing gathering during annual day function of Jammu Sanskriti School.

- >> LG addresses Annual Day function of Jammu Sanskriti School
- The prime objective of school education is to ignite intellectual capacity of children: LG
- >> Future of nation is decided in school campus
- Overall goal of our education system is to provide unique opportunity to every unique personality so that they can create something new and contribute to nation building with their unique talent
- In today's era of rapid change, when new technological advancements are taking place every day, only one skill will be relevant in future and that is - Lifelong **Learning Skill**
- Primary and secondary education is an interesting phase of positive change in a student's life. This is time when knowledge and influence around affects his mind and body. Whatever a child learns in this impressionable age stays for long years

they can create something new and contribute to nation building with their unique talent," he said.

Modi said he reached this

The Lieutenant Governor ducive environment to boost emphasized the role of teach- the confidence of the stuers and educational institu- dents and motivate them tions in developing a con-

Navyug tunnel should be named after Manmohan Singh: Omar

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday proposed that the Navyug tunnel, connecting Kashmir to Jammu region, should be named after former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to recognise his contributions to the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

"There are two tunnels on Srinagar-Jammu highway. One has been named after Shyama Prasad Mookerjee. The other tunnel (Navyug) should be named after Manmohan Singh," Abdullah told reporters here.

The chief minister said Singh, who died three days ago, had contributed tremendously for the development and welfare of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Perhaps, no other prime minister has done more for Jammu and Kashmir than Dr Manmohan Singh. If we are able to travel between Jammu and Srinagar within five years, it is because of him. Cross LoC travel started during A B Vajpayee's tenure but cross LoC trade

Monitors restoration process after heavy snowfall



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah monitoring restoration process at Srinagar on Sunday.

SRINAGAR: In the aftermath of the recent heavy snowfall, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday chaired a comprehensive meeting with Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and Deputy Commissioners (DCs) of the Kashmir Division via video conferencing.

The meeting was held at the Raabita Public Outreach Office to assess the ongoing restoration efforts and review the status of essential services, including snow clearance, power and vater supply, health facilities and other critical services.

During the meeting, MLAs across the party lines appreciated the efforts of CM-led Administration in swift response to snowfall, acknowledging the commitment of Government in times of weather adversaries. Minister Javaid Ahmad Dar attended the meeting as legislator. Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, along with ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

started under Dr Singh's tenure.

"Students from Jammu

and Kashmir are studying (under Scholarship Scheme) due to

him, the job reservation for Kashmiri Pandits with

Constitution stood every test of time: Modi

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the Constitution

stoodevery test of time, laudguiding light". Speaking

Mann Baat broadcast, Modi noted

that the next Republic Day will mark the 75th anniversary of the implementation of "It is a matter of immense

pride for all of us. The Constitution which its mak-

AEE suspended for

dereliction of duty

The

Commissioner Doda on Sunday ordered suspension

of Assistant Executive

Engineer (AEE) PMGSY

Division Doda, citing subop-

timal performance and negli-

gence in clearing snow-

blocked rural roads. The sus-

pension came after reports of

dereliction of duty by the

AEE during crucial winter

The inquiry revealed that

the AEE left his station

without prior authorization

and failed to resume his

duties despite repeated

directives. This absence led

to delays in road clearance,

creating difficulties for resi-

dents in accessing critical services. The administration

emphasized that such behavior is unbecoming of a public

noted that the AEE

Max: 20.5°C

Max: 85

Max: 4.2°C

Max: 95

Sunset: 17:32 Hours

Sunrise: 07:32 Hours

Min: 73

STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA:

periods.

ers gave to us has stood every test of time. It is our guiding light, our guide," he said.

position in life because of the country's guiding document.

He asked people website constitution75.com which, he

tutional heritage and legacy. They can read Constitution in different languages, ask questions

STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: As the New Year

approaches, the Indian Army

troops deployed along the

Line of Control (LoC) in the

Poonch district remain on

high alert, responding to per-

sistent threats from across

the border by Pakistan. The

heightened vigilance comes

in light of the ongoing infil-

tration attempts and security

Pakistan-based terror out-

The Pir Panjal region has

witnessed nearly a dozen ter-

posed by

challenges

said, has been launched to

link citizens with the consti-

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Plane bursts into flames while landing in South Korea, killing 179

AGENCY

SEOUL: A passenger plane skidded off a runway at a Korean airport Sunday, slammed into a concrete fence and burst into flames after its front landing gear apparently failed to deploy. All but two of the 181 people on board died in one of the country's worst aviation disasters.

The Jeju Air plane crashed while landing in the town of Muan, about 290 kilometres south of Seoul. The Transport Ministry said the plane was a 15-year-old Boeing 737-800 jet that had arrived from Bangkok and that the crash happened at

CROSS-BORDER THREATS

Army stands alert along LoC in Poonch

ahead of New Year

rorists who infiltrated into

Indian territory. Despite



9:03 am.

Troops guarding LoC amid heavy snowfall in Poonch.

A total of 179 people women, 84 men and 10 others whose genders weren't immediately identifiable -

died in the fire, the South Emergency workers pulled two people, both crew members, to safety. Health offi-

Adityanath invites President Murmu, VP Dhankhar

for Maha Kumbh STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Uttar Pradesh Minister Adityanath on Sunday called President Droupadi Murmu and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar to invite them for Maha Kumbh set to begin early next year. Adityanath, who is in national capital, also presented plaques of Maha Kumbh, 2025 to President Murmu and Vice President Dhankhar. He also extended invite to FM Nirmala Sitharaman, the state government said. On Saturday, the Yogi met BJP chief J P Nadda, Home Minister Amit Shah and former president Ram Nath Kovind in Delhi.

cials said they are conscious and not in life-threatening condition.

Among the 177 bodies so far found, officials have so far identified 88 of them, the fire agency said. The passengers were predominantly South Korean, as well as two Thai nationals. Thailand's Foreign Ministry said its embassy in Seoul received confirmation from South Korean authorities that the two Thai passengers were among the fatalities.

The fire agency deployed 32 fire trucks and helicopters to contain the blaze. About 1.570 ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

vigilant against enemies: Rajnath two-century-old Mhow cantonment in the Indore dis-

India not 'lucky' on security front, stay



■ STATE TIMES NEWS MHOW: Defence Minister

Rajnath Singh on Sunday termed India a "not very lucky" nation on the security front and urged soldiers to keep a sharp eye on internal and external foes who he said are always active.

He was addressing Army personnel at the more-than-

trict of Madhya Pradesh. "Taking the security sce-

nario into account, Bharat is not a very lucky country because our northern border and western border continuously face challenges," said Singh, who is on a two-day tour of the state.

Mhow cantonment, 25 km from Indore, is home to three premier training institutes -Army War College, Military College

Telecommunication Engineering and Infantry School - other than the Infantry Museum and Army Marksmanship Unit.

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Jammu-Srinagar Highway reopens; flights resume KU defers exams because of snow

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 270-km Jammu-Srinagar highway was on Sunday reopened for vehicular traffic after a daylong closure due to heavy snowfall, allowing stranded vehicles to proceed to their respective destinations, officials said.

However, several other important inter-district routes, including the Mughal Sinthan Road. Pass. Sonamarg-Kargil inter-UT road, and Bhaderwah-Chamba inter-state road. remained closed for vehicular traffic due to heavy snowfall. Meanwhile.



exams scheduled for Monday in view of the inclement weather:

The information was shared by the varsity in a statement.

The varsity spokesperson said fresh dates for the postlater separately "The highway has been

reopened today following the clearance of snow accumulated on various stretches of the road," a traffic official said. The stranded vehicles along the highway are

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

ror attacks in the past couple ceasefire agreements, crosspose a grave security of years, carried out by terborder activities and support University has postponed all poned papers will be notified ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 assert its original and definitive identity ammu needs to



JAMMU: Often a question is asked: how would Jammu survive on its own if it is to become a separate entity. It is a valid question for all the skeptics and also for those, who believe that Jammu can improve its destiny by carving out a separate geographical and ethnic identity.

The skeptics have doubts over the geographical unity of the region as they pedal a theory that the shills would not reconcile to the plains. They have numerous theories to advance - the cultural, religious and sub regional dissonance. They have been expressing concern over the economic viability of such an entity if at all it came into being.

The fact of the matter is that the real issue with Jammu is that it will assert its Hindu identity. Jammu suffered from this select prism of the skeptics, politicians, business community and political and economic scholars over the decades. There is absolutely no doubt that Jammu is a Hindu majority region as of today.

But is the percentage of the community in the geographical reach as much as it was few years ago? No, is the answer. There has been a steady decline in its presence on the geography, both in hills and plains. There has been concentration of Hindus, who

(Pic by Randhir Singh)

for terrorism from the neigh-

boring nation continue to

migrated from the Kashmir valley, and hills of erstwhile Doda district and parts of Udhampur and Reasi districts in Jammu plains. Earlier, at the time of Partition, the minorities hounded out by the Pakistani tribesmen and

army, sought refuge in Jammu. A number of families also came from what is called West Pakistan . All of them were displaced people who found safety net for them in and around Jammu. They have been adopted by the natives by birth of Jammu. This demography was not natural but created by circumstances, wars and terror violence in the places from where they came down to Jammu and

An honest look back and the continuing trend shows that a lot many non-Hindus also came down to Jammu and set up their establishments, construct-

made it their home.

ed homes and started business ventures, including the shopping malls and hotels. They made Jammu as their home, or second home out of choice. There was no compulsion except in the few cases where they were under threat because of their political affiliations and leanings. The others found better chances to flourish their business in Jammu than the trouble-hit areas of which they were original residents.

Not only that, they also encour-PERISCOPE aged and helped Rohingiyas and Bangladeshis to settle in Jammu.

There is no specific number available as these outsiders have settled amidst those who have acquired colour and profile of locals . Today that is a serious problem as they have not only altered the demographic character of this place but also consolidated the forces whose interest is more in challenging peace and security of the place rather than contributing to that. This is a serious problem . It is now a Catch 22situation for the administration as it has to grapple with pulls and pressures of various political groups. After the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A, it

The outsiders, inimical to national security should be driven out of this place and sent back to the countries from where they came. There is no scope of debate on this .Some of the measures contemplated on this count have been frustrated by some political groups and so-called non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

These things are hampering Jammu's growth and undermining its original identity . The answer to this is that Jammu should assert and reassert its origi nal identity. The people from all walks of life should put their heads together and mull what should be done. There should be a consensus-evolving strategy in which the land and the people of Jammu find their safety all the time, instead of getting flooded by those whose sole interest is to change demographic character of Jammu. This is a matter than concerns all those who love the land and the national security Jammu's original identity and its assertion is the only way out to snub and stall designs of elements bent upon harming Jammu's interests.