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STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

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The School with a Difference

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SHAPING INDIA

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03 Dr Jitendra for promoting Udhampur 'Kalhari', Lavender StartUps, MP Fund for Medical College

10 Border Lions Club, Trikuta Club win Jammu Volleyball trophies

10 BBAJK organises 24th Mr J&K Championship

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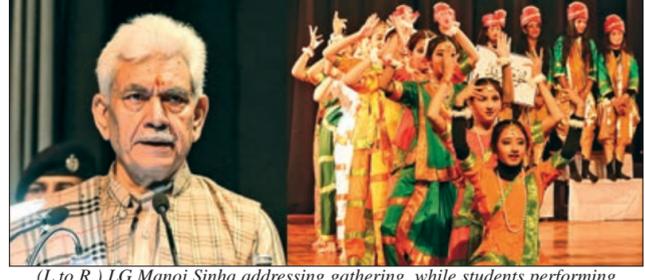
Knowledge revolution needed for leading India into developed nation: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday highlighted the need for knowledge revolution for leading India into a developed nation and to sustain all round growth in different sectors of the economy.

"In J&K, capacity building and developing schools as centers of excellence has been one of my objectives and we have created a dynamic and competitive environment of learning to harness the power of the innovative ideas of the students," the Lieutenant Governor said while addressing the 18th annual function of Mahavir (MV) International School, at General Zorawar Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu.

Congratulating the school administration, teachers and students on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor emphasised the role of teachers in realising inherent potential of students and ensuring that core competencies of J&K UT are synergized for a brighter future.

Learning should not be centred around test and assessment. Learning with proper understanding and proper awakening is must to connect the young generation with the moral values and practical aspects of life, he said.



(L to R) LG Manoj Sinha addressing gathering, while students performing cultural programme during Annual day function event in Jammu on Sunday.

- ▶▶ LG addresses 18th Annual function of Mahavir International School
- ▶▶ Says capacity building, developing schools as centers of excellence in J&K has been one of my objectives and we created a dynamic, competitive environment of learning to harness power of innovative ideas of students
- ▶▶ Emphasises role of teachers in realising inherent potential of students
- ▶▶ We must ensure that core competencies of J&K UT are synergized for brighter future
- ▶▶ Unless teachers are empowered, students will not be empowered; unless students are empowered, nation cannot become strong
- ▶▶ AI supported classroom, not AI led classroom, should be our future strategy

The Lieutenant Governor further laid special emphasis on developing a pro-ductive teaching-learning ecosystem where teachers are **■ CONTD ON PAGE 9**

DM orders assessment of farmlands beyond border fence in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu District Magistrate Sachin Kumar Vaishya has directed officers to conduct a detailed assessment of agricultural land beyond the border fence to address the challenges faced by farmers in these restricted areas, a spokesperson said on Sunday.

During a meeting attended by Border Security Force (BSF) officials and subdivisional magistrates concerned, Vaishya emphasised the need for accurate documentation of inaccessible farmlands along the International Border.

The spokesperson said the subdivisional magistrates were instructed to carry out ground-level mapping and identify land parcels that the farmers were unable to cultivate.

"This will include direct engagement with the affected farmers and coordination with the BSF to ensure comprehensive data collection," the official said.

India to set up anti-drone unit for border security: Amit Shah

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JODHPUR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said India will soon create a comprehensive anti-drone unit to secure its border.

Addressing BSF troops at the 60th Raising Day event of the force here at its training camp, about 300 km from the India-Pakistan border, Shah said the initial results of a "laser equipped anti-drone gun-mounted" mechanism have been encouraging.

This has led to an increase in drone neutralisation and detection cases, up from 3 per cent to 55 per cent, along the India-Pakistan border in Punjab, he said.

"The drone menace is going to get more serious in the coming days... We are tack-

ling this issue in a 'whole of government' approach with the border guarding forces, defence and research organisations and the DRDO joining hands.

The minister reviewed the ceremonial parade, took salute and awarded medals to gallantry award winners and gave away some other decorations.

The Border Security Force (BSF), which has a strength of about 2.65 lakh personnel, was raised on December 1, 1965. It is primarily tasked with guarding more than 6,300 kms of Indian fronts with Pakistan and Bangladesh apart from rendering a variety of duties in the internal security domain of the country.

Shah said the ongoing Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) for securing India's borders with **■ CONTD ON PAGE 9**



"We are going to create a comprehensive anti-drone unit for the country in the coming time," Shah said.

According to official data, more than 260 drones have been downed or recovered from India's border with Pakistan this year as compared to about 110 in 2023.

The maximum number of such interdictions of drones

Don't have magic wand to set everything right within no time: Farooq

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
REASI/JAMMU: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Sunday said he has no magic wand to set everything right within no time, asserting that his party-led government in Jammu and Kashmir will fulfil all its election promises made to people of the Union Territory.

The former chief minister also sought support of voters in the Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies (ULB) elections likely to be held early next year.

He asked the voters to elect qualified candidates, including women, in large numbers

and urged them to keep away those who are dividing them on the basis of religion, creed and caste.

"We will fulfil all our election promises but give us some time. You don't ask them (BJP) what they did in the last 10 years and want us to change the world in the six weeks (of our government). I do not have the magic wand," Abdullah, whose party returned to power in the recently held assembly elections, told reporters in Reasi district.

Asked about reports suggesting a rift between Raj Bhawan and **■ CONTD ON PAGE 9**

Cop shoots dead colleague before committing suicide in Udhampur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A policeman allegedly shot dead his colleague with an AK-47 assault rifle before turning the weapon on himself to commit suicide in Udhampur district early Sunday, officials said.

The two policemen along with another colleague were travelling from north Kashmir's Sopore to the Subsidiary Training Centre (STC) Talwara in Reasi district of Jammu region when the incident took place.

The bullet-riddled bodies of the two cops were seen lying inside a police van near the Kali Mata temple in



Rehambal area of Udhampur around 6.30 am.

Officials said the Head Constable opened fire at the driver over some argument before committing suicide. A Selection Grade Constable, who was also travelling in the vehicle, escaped unhurt and is being questioned, they said.

Official sources said that a vehicle, bearing registration number JK05E-4703, driven

by Constable Manjeet Singh was travelling from Sopore to Talwara Reasi along with two other cops namely Harmeet Singh and Head Constable Malik. When the vehicle reached near Kali Mata Mandir Rehambal Udhampur, Head constable Malik shot at Constable (Driver) Manjeet Singh after some argument and then afterwards shoot himself, resulting in the death to both said cops. The police has registered a case in this regard and investigation has been taken up, the sources added. Senior Superintendent **■ CONTD ON PAGE 9**

Search ops underway after villagers report suspicious movement in Kathua

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A massive search operation is underway in Kandi area near the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district after local villagers reported suspicious movement, officials said on Sunday. The joint search operation by police, Army and CRPF was launched in several forward villages of Hiranagar sector late Saturday night, the officials said. "We got information about movement of **■ CONTD ON PAGE 9**



ISI pushes drug addicts as terror couriers in Indian jails, say officials

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI has reportedly resorted to infiltrating individuals under the influence of drugs or posing as mentally disturbed into India to utilise them to deliver critical messages to hardcore terrorists incarcerated in the country's prisons.

Officials said that more than 10 such cases have been reported since July this year in which Pakistani nationals have entered India from their country and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Many of them have been sent to prisons in Jammu, Punjab and Rajasthan.

The officials said security agencies suspect these individuals are Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) couriers tasked with relaying important communication to the jailed terrorists wherever possible.

Interrogation of these individuals typically shows that they have been trained in resistance techniques to withstand questioning **■ CONTD ON PAGE 9**

Omar reviews progress of convention centre's construction in Gulmarg

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday said the convention centre coming up in Gulmarg will enable the famous ski resort to host international conferences, conventions and film screenings.

Accompanied by local MLA Farooq Ahmad Shah, Abdullah visited the site of the convention hall to review the progress of its construction.

"Visited Gulmarg and reviewed the progress of the convention hall that is under construction. Once completed, early next year, this complex will enable Gulmarg to host international conferences, conventions and film screenings. I was accompanied by local MLA @FarooqShah_JKNC and officials of the government," the chief minister posted on his X handle. **■ CONTD ON PAGE 9**



CM Omar Abdullah reviewing progress of construction work of convention centre at Gulmarg on Sunday.

Fresh snow in Gulmarg, tour operators hope for higher tourist footfall

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Fresh snowfall in the tourist resort town of Gulmarg on Sunday brought cheer to Kashmir's tourism stakeholders.

The Gulmarg bowl, as it is popularly known, witnessed snowfall in the afternoon. The snowfall was going on when the last report was received, officials said.

They said two to three inches of snow had accumulated, according to the latest report.

Snowfall was also recorded in several areas, including the Kupwara and the Baramulla districts of **■ CONTD ON PAGE 9**

Four of family die of suspected food poisoning in Rajouri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI/JAMMU: A 40-year-old man and his three children died, while his wife and another daughter fell sick, due to suspected food poisoning in a remote village in Rajouri district here on Sunday, officials said.

Fazal Hussain, his wife Shamim Akhter, 38, and the couple's four children, hailing from Badhal Gorla village, were admitted to Rajouri Government Medical College hospital with severe dyspepsia late Saturday, they said.

Hussain died during treatment in the wee hours of Sunday, while his wife and

the children were referred to Jammu for specialised treatment.

Three of the children - Rabia Kousar, 15, Farmana Kouser, 12, and Rafter Ahmad, 4, - died at Jammu hospital. Akhter and her other daughter Ruksar, 12, are still under treatment.

District Administration Rajouri has taken prompt action following the tragic death of four residents of Badal village in Kotranka Sub Division due to suspected food poisoning.

Deputy Commissioner, Abhishek Sharma, expressed deep condolences to the affected family and assured them of comprehensive support. Demonstrating the administration's commitment, immediate financial relief of Rs. 1 lakh was provided to the family from the Red Cross Fund.

To address the incident, the administration promptly dispatched a health team to the village. The team collected samples of the food consumed by the victims and the local water supply, which have been sent for forensic analysis. The administration is closely monitoring the situation to ensure public **■ CONTD ON PAGE 9**

Fall of Bashar Assad in Syria brings to end decades-long dynasty

■ AGENCY
BEIRUT: Syrian President Bashar Assad fled the country on Sunday, bringing to a dramatic close his nearly 14-year struggle to hold onto control as his country fragmented in a brutal civil war that became a proxy battlefield for regional and international powers.

Assad's exit stood in stark contrast to his first months as Syria's unlikely president in 2000, when many hoped he would be a young reformer after three decades of his father's iron grip. Only 34 years old, the Western-educated ophthalmologist appeared as a geeky tech-savvy fan of computers with a gentle demeanour.

But when faced with protests against his rule that erupted in March 2011, Assad turned to the brutal tactics of his father in an attempt to crush dissent. As the uprising hemorrhaged into an outright civil war, he unleashed his military to blast opposition-held cities, with support from allies Iran and

Russia.

International rights groups and prosecutors alleged widespread use of torture and extrajudicial killings in Syria's government-run detention centres. The war has killed nearly half a million people and displaced half of the country's prewar population of 23 million.

The conflict appeared to be frozen in recent years, with Assad's government regaining control of most of Syria's territory while the northwest remained under the control of opposition groups and the northeast under Kurdish control.

Although Damascus remained under crippling Western sanctions, neighbouring countries had begun to resign themselves to Assad's continued hold on power. The Arab League reinstated Syria's membership last year, and Saudi Arabia in May announced the appointment of its first ambassador since severing ties with Damascus 12 years ago.

However, the geopolitical tide

turned quickly when opposition groups in northwest Syria in late November launched a surprise offensive. Government forces quickly collapsed while Assad's allies, preoccupied by other conflicts - Russia's war in Ukraine and the yearlong wars between Israel and the Iran-backed militant groups Hezbollah and Hamas - appeared reluctant to forcefully intervene.

An end to decades of family rule Assad came to power in 2000 by a twist of fate. His father had been cultivating Bashar's oldest brother, Basil, as his successor, but in 1994, Basil was killed in a car crash in Damascus. Bashar was brought home from his ophthalmology practice in London, put through military training and elevated to the rank of colonel to establish his credentials so he could one day rule.

When Hafez Assad died in 2000, parliament quickly lowered the presidential age requirement from 40 to 34. Bashar's elevation was sealed by a nationwide referendum, in which he was the only candidate.

Hafez, a lifelong military man, ruled the country for nearly 30 years during which he set up a Soviet-style centralised economy and kept such a stifling hand over dissent that Syrians feared even to joke about politics to their friends.

He pursued a secular ideology that sought to bury sectarian differences under Arab nationalism and the image of heroic resistance to Israel. He formed an alliance with the Shiite clerical leadership in Iran, sealed Syrian domination over Lebanon and set up a network of Palestinian and Lebanese militant groups.

Bashar initially seemed completely unlike his strongman father. Tall and lanky with a slight lisp, he had a quiet, gentle demeanour. His only official position before becoming president was head of the Syrian Computer Society. His wife, Asma al-Akhras, whom he married several months after **■ CONTD ON PAGE 9**

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 20.5°C Min: 8.7°C

Humidity
Max: 65 Min: 63

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 9.6°C Min: -0.5°C

Humidity
Max: 81 Min: 51

Sunset: 17:32 Hours
Sunrise: 07:21 Hours