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Dr Jitendra launches India's first indigenous **Biomedical Waste Plant at AIIMS Delhi**

Excise Deptt organises volleyball match, painting competition under NMBA

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

Live telecast of Pariksha Pe Charcha held at JK Public School Kunjwani

Omar meets Amit Shah, discusses law and order issues

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STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah and discussed with him various issues related to law and order in the Union Territory and changes in industrial and tourism policies to give a boost to these two sectors

During the meeting, which lasted for 30 minutes, officials said the chief minister briefed Shah about the situation in J&K after the two recent incidents -- the death of a person by suicide in Kathua in Jammu, and shooting of a truck driver after he did not stop at a checkpoint in Sopore in north Kashmir.

After these incidents that took place on February 4 and 5, the chief minister had said that incidents like these "risk alienating the very people who we need to carry with us on the road to complete

"I have taken up these incidents with the Union Government & insisted that both incidents are inquired into in a time bound, transparent manner. The Government in J&K will also order its own inquiries," Abdullah had said in a

During the meeting on Monday, the



CM Omar Abdullah calling on Union Home Minister Amit Shah at New Delhi.

Chief Minister is believed to have conveyed to the Home Minister the need for taking people of the UT into confidence and that as the public representative of the people, his government should have a say in maintaining the law and order, the officials said.

Abdullah said that the last stages of militancy won't be succeeded in vacuum, according to the officials.

A strong votary of peaceful Jammu and Kashmir, Abdullah has been emphasising that the situation in the

UT cannot be normalised in a vacuum.

The meeting came a week after Shah chaired two back-to-back meetings in two days where the security situation of J&K was discussed threadbare.

"The Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Shri @OmarAbdullah, called on Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri @AmitShah," Shah's office wrote on 'X'.

During Monday's meeting, the officials said Abdullah also apprised the home

Maha Kumbh: Large number of devotees head to Kashi, Ayodhya after holy dip at Sangam

STATE TIMES NEWS PRAYAGRAJ/VARANASI/

AYODHYA: Undeterred by challenges, lakhs of devotees thronging the Maha Kumbh for a holy dip at the Sangam are now heading towards Kashi and Ayodhya, officials

According to government data, an average of 1.44 crore people are taking a holy bath at the Maha Kumbh every day.

Dr Sushma, who arrived in Prayagraj from Ranchi with her son on Monday, told PTI, "After taking a dip in the Sangam and visiting the fair, we will head to Kashi for Lord Shiva's darshan and later proceed to Ayodhya."

74-year-old Similarly, Ketari Devi from Ara, Bihar, said, "We saw on TV and mobile that this Maha Kumbh is happening after 144 years. After taking a holy dip, we will visit Kashi. Despite the huge crowd, we hope that we will get his dar-

Modi tells students to challenge themselves but not take exam pressure

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Minister Narendra Modi interacted with students on a host of issues such as nutrition, mastering pressure and leadership as the eighth edition of his annual 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' was broadcast on Monday.

Modi told students 'gyan' (knowledge) and examinations are two different things. One should not view exams as be-all and end-all in life, he added.

In a lively interaction with students drawn from states and UTs from across the country, the prime minister said students should not be confined and allowed to explore their passions.

He asked students to use their time in a planned way for its effective management.

The prime minister spoke on issues such as 'master your time master your life, live in the moment, finding



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacting with students during 8th edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha in New Delhi.

with students quizzing him on different matters.

In a shift from the traditional town hall format, Modi preferred a more informal setting this time and took around 35 students to Sunder Nursery here and held a more deeper and freewheeling conversation.

Urging parents to not use their children as models to show off, he said they should not compare them with others and instead support

The prime minister highlighted the importance of good sleep and stressed that students should not consider that their lives will be spoilt if they do not score high marks.

He said students should handle pressure as batters do in a stadium amid the noise being made by spectators. They focus on the next ball ignoring the demand for boundaries, he said, asking students to focus on their studies and not be

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

14th HLC meet of SASB

CS directs for finalising arrangements ahead of commencement of Amarnathji Yatra

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary. Atal Dulloo, on Monday impressed upon all the line departments including the Shrine Board to ensure all arrangements are made well before commencement of the annual AmarnathJi yatra

The Chief Secretary issued these directions while chairing the 14th High Level Committee (HLC) meeting of Shri AmarnathJi Shrine Board (SASB).

Present in the meeting were the senior officers of civil administration and security establishments.

gunfire along LoC in Rajouri STATE TIMÉS NEWS

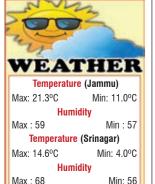
RAJOURI/JAMMU: An army soldier was critically injured by gunfire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district on Monday, officials said.

The soldier was manning a forward post in the Kalal area of Nowshera sector when he was hit by a bullet and was immediately rushed to a military hospital, the officials said.

They said preliminary information revealed that the fire came from across the LoC around 2.40 pm.

Earlier on February 8, an army patrol was fired upon from a forest across the Line of Control in Keri sector by terrorists, apparently waiting for an opportunity to sneak into this side.

The Indian troops had also fired a few rounds in retaliation and subsequently the anti-infiltration grid was strengthened to keep a tight vigil in the area.



Sunset: 18:11 Hours

Sunrise: 07:18 Hours

The Chief Secretary urged upon all the departments including PWD, PDD, Jal Shakti, RDD, H&UDD, BRO, Telecommunication and others to complete the necessary tendering and other contract related processes in the upcoming month itself. He called upon them to make procurements so that there is no end-time

site arrangements. The Chief Secretary stressed on the Deputy Commissioners of Anantnag and Ganderbal to ensure marking of the

rush in finalizing the requi-

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

GOC reviews 'hostile activities' along LoC in Rajouri Search operation underway in Poonch

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: General Officer Commanding of Jammubased White Knight Corps Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva on Monday reviewed the "hostile activities" along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, the Army said.

The top Army officer's visit to the forward areas came two days after an Army patrol party was fired upon by suspected terrorists hiding in a forest across the LoC in the Keri sector.

"GOC White Knight Corps, along with GOC Ace of Spades and GOC Crossed



Swords divisions visited forward areas of the Rajouri sector for an operational update on the prevailing security situation and the hostile activities," the Army said in a post on X.

The post, shared by the White Knight Corps on its official social media handle, said the corps commander complimented all ranks for

their vigil and relentless operational focus.

He also urged them to remain prepared for all contingencies, the Army said. Meanwhile, security forces have launched a cordon and

search operation at nearly a dozen places in Poonch district, officials said. The search operations in parts of Mendhar, Surankote and Gursai areas were initi-

about suspicious movement, the officials said. The Special Operations Group (SOG) of local police

ated following information

along with the CRPF ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Nitish Rajora assumes charge as Dir Information



in Jammu on Monday.

STATE TIMES NEWS JAMMU: Nitish Rajora,

assumed the charge of Director Information here on Monday.

After assuming the charge,

the Director held a brief introductory meeting with the officers and officials of the department. He had an overview of working of

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 J&K Bank brings sound of hope with free hearing

Soldier injured by IGP Jammu reviews operational preparedness of forces in Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban range



IGP Jammu Bhim Sen Tuti chairing a meeting at Doda.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Inspector General of Police (Jammu), Bhim Sen Tuti, conducted a high level review meeting on the operational preparedness in Chenab valley districts of Doda. Kishtwar Ramban on Monday.

The review was held at the Range Police Headquarters, ior officers discussing in detail the strategic deployment of forces in the region which was rocked by several terror incidents, especially in Doda and Kishtwar last year, police said. During the meeting, it said

IGP meticulously assessed the security situation, operational readiness, and response mechanisms in the region.

The focus was on ensuring the effective coordination between various security agencies and police forces deployed in the area to maintain law and order, as

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: Reinforcing its social commitments, J&K Bank has launched a widespread campaign to support individuals with hearing and speech impairments in Kashmir and Jammu. Ladakh. Funded under Bank's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), the campaign is being imple-Voluntary mented by Medicare Society (VMS) - a non-profit organization dedicated to healthcare and rehabilitation.

The Bank's General (S&IT/CSR) Manager

aids and speech therapy for needy Hands over key of mobility van to VMS



Bank's General Manager (S&IT/CSR) Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat handing over symbolic key of mobility van to Chairman VMS.

Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat formally inaugurated the campaign in the presence of Chairman & Patron (VMS) Dr. Mir

Deputy General Manager Manju Gupta, Zonal Head (Srinagar) Raja Zaffar Khan, Director VMS Dr Bashir Lone and senior func-

tionaries from both organizations at the VMS Complex in Bemina.

As part of the project, the General Manager also handed over the keys of the mobility van to the Chairman VMS, the procurement of which has also been supported by the Bank to enhance outreach and expand the campaign's impact.

Speaking on the occasion, General Manager Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat said, "At J&K Bank, we believe in nurturing an equitable and inclusive society by supporting

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Time to punish Pakistan, Bangladesh for audacious anti-India acts



Aago, India welcomed and celebrated World Bank's neutral expert's ruling on the settlement of the disputes and differences between India and Pakistan with

regard to the two hydro-power projects -Kishenganga and Ratle - rebuffing Islamabad's approach to invoke Permanent Court of Arbitration for settling these differences. The neutral expert backed India's stand that the Treaty had within itself the provisions to resolve the issue and approaching PCA was violation of the Treaty itself.

There has been a contest between India and Pakistan over these two projects for the last nine years, as Pakistan objected to design and damming of the two hydropower projects claiming that these halted and hampered the flow of the waters of River Kishenganga and Chenab, which flow to Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir PoJK). It took the extreme step of approaching PCA to decide on the matter, which was out of the provisions provided for in the IWT.

The celebration point is there as India's view pint and interpretation has been upheld by the Neutral Expert Michel Lino , who ruled on January 20 that he is competent to deliver a decision on the merits and demerits of the points of difference between India and Pakistan. But there is a larger question about the IWT itself, should India continue with this liability of the Nehruvian era into the 21st century.

Over the decades, this treaty has done more damage to India than good . The at signed by Jawaharlal Nehru, first prime minister of India and Pakistan's military ruler Ayub Khan on September 1960, granted full control of three eastern rivers of Ravi, Beas and Sutlej to India, while three western rivers -Indus, Chenab and Jhelum and their tributaries - all of them flowing through Jammu and Kashmir to the other side of the borderline to Pakistan. Nehru had walked into a trap as he compromised the Indian position on its control over the rivers of the country, and in fact,

rewarded Pakistan for invading Jammu and Kashmir and weakening India's position on Kashmir.

Despite huge goodwill gesture, though shown erroneously by Nehru in 1960, Pakistan was stubborn on its so-called claim on Kashmir, launched three fullfledged wars in 1947-48, 1965 and 1971 and also in Kargil in 1999, to bleed India what it calls 'by thousand cuts'. In the light

COMMENTARY

of its persistent pricking and attacking India in Kashmir through wars and proxy war, the need of the hour is to scrap the treaty or rework it so that the interests of people of J&K, integral part of India, were not compromised

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has shown that political will. He had called for protecting the interests of farmers of Punjab alongside that of Jammu and Kashmir way back in 2016 while calling for renegotiating the treaty. Pakistan wants to have waters of the Indian rivers and at the same time it launches hostile actions

Today, the ill-effects of the wars and proxy-war are self evident in J&K. The water scarcity has become common, glaciers are melting and the water availability has been reduced to a great level. There is shortage of water for irrigation, drinking purposes and it is becoming more and more difficult to maintain the status of waters n the hydro-electric projects. Pakistan cries about the climate crises but when it comes to J&K, it refuses to accept that anything like that is happening. This duplicity of Pakistan needs to be exposed and it should

be made to pay price for this.' The Governments should hold Pakistan accountable for violating the terms of the IWT and punish it with measures that it deserves - that is to do away with the Treaty. This should be done at the earliest as J&K and Punjab cannot be allowed to suffer because of this Treaty in perpetuity. Delhi must take a call.

Alongside it also needs to be reflected that how Pakistan has been very quick, as if it was waiting for Bangladesh to erupt that forced Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina to leave the country in Augus 2024. Indeed ,Bangladesh belongs to the people of the country, but they should no be forgetting that had India not inter vened and saved them from atrocities of Pakistan's army which murdered their men and outraged modesty of women and girls, using rape as a weapon. Since August last year, vested interests, partic ularly prompted by ISI of Pakistan have launched anti-India propaganda to the extent that Hindus were murdered, tem ples burnt, ransacked and looted. India cannot afford to overlook all these brutalities against Hindus. The community members who were leading partners in the nation-building after it was devastated by Pakistan army in 1971 are now living in fear.

Besides, anti- India actions and rhetoric is peaking. India should not be tolerating it The least it can do is to stop all exports to the country that is becoming a big island of anti-India activities. All anti-India activists and forces have converged there. India must retaliate. Bangladesh is progressing on the import of electricity **CONTD ON PAGE 9**