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Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

Dr Jitendra hosts luncheon interaction with J&K youth, discusses StartUp, entrepreneurship opportunities

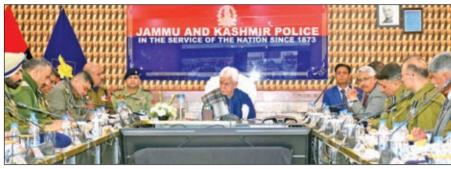
1984 anti-Sikh riots: Delhi court convicts ex-Congress MP Sajjan Kumar in murder case

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

All-round India demolish England by 142 runs to complete 3-0 clean sweep in ODIs

LG chairs high-level meeting to review security scenario in Kashmir I have given free hand to J&K Police, SFs to neutralise terror ecosystem: Sinha

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/2025-27



LG Manoj Sinha chairing security review meeting at PCR, Srinagar on Wednesday

elected him from the Jorhat

Gogoi's reaction came after

BJP national spokesperson

Gaurav Bhatia alleged,

"Some serious concerning

facts related to national

security have come to light.

Links of Elizabeth Colburn,

the wife of deputy leader of

opposition in the Lok Sabha

Gaurav Gogoi, with Pakistan

Advisor Ali Tauqeer Sheikh

and the ISI, have come to

This is "extremely concern-

ing" as it relates to national

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demanded the Congress

Commission

said and

Planning

parliamentary constituency.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting in Srinagar to review the security scenario in Kashmir Division.

The meeting was attended by DGP J&K, Nalin Prabhat; ADGP Hqrs, MK Sinha; ADGP CID, Nitish Kumar; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari; IGP Kashmir, Vidhi Kumar Birdi;

>> LG directs J&K Police, its various wings to work in close synergy with each other; intensify efforts to crush terrorism and those aiding and abetting terrorists

Says, those supporting, financing terrorism will have to pay very heavy price

Directs all senior police officials and SSPs to follow zero tolerance policy to tackle terrorism

We must aggressively counter fundamentalist and extremist ideas; take action as per law

Directs police officials to take strict action against elements exploiting cyber space to carry out their disruptive activities and disinformation campaign

IGP Crime, Dr Sunil Gupta; IGP Security, Sujit Kumar; IGP Railways, Vivek Gupta; DIGs, Range Commandants of AP/IR Battalions and various other senior officers of J&K Police, in person and through virtu-

The DGP briefed the chair regarding the present security scenario of the valley and the roadmap put in place to counter the various security challenges like counter insurgency, law & order, protection of minorities, terrorist recruitment etc. at zonal, range and district level.

IGP Kashmir also gave a detailed presentation highlighting the challenges and the achievements of the Kashmir Zone and strategic foresight for the future.

The Lieutenant Governor took appraisal of the working of various wings of

CM holds pre-budget consultations with public representatives

MLAs seek liberal funding for prioritized dev works, public oriented projects

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Continuing with extensive pre-budget consultations, Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday held a series of meetings with public representatives from various districts of Kashmir at the Civil Secretariat,

The Chief Minister chaired pre-budget consultations with the chairpersons of District Development Councils (DDCs) and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from the districts of Srinagar, Ganderbal and Bandipora, who participated both in person and vir-

The meeting was also attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D Vaidya, Director General Budget M.S. Malik, Director General Expenditure Sajad Deputy Hussain and Commissioners of Srinagar, Ganderbal and Bandipora with participants joining the meeting either personally or virtually through video conference.



CM Omar Abdullah chairing pre-budget consultation with public representative. of Srinagar, Bandipora & Ganderbal

Srinagar sought liberal funding for priority developmental projects and key public welfare initiatives in their respective constituencies, keeping in view the significance of the capital city. MLAs Ali Muhammad Sagar, Mubarak Gul, Shamim Firdous, Tanvir Sadiq, Ahsan Pardesi, Salman Ali Sagar discussed their plans in the meeting.

The consultation covered a wide range of issues, including traffic decongestion by exploring alternate routes, parking lots in downtown Srinagar, reducing vehicular pressure on roads, constructing flyovers, community halls. The

ment of sports infrastructure, vertical housing projects, dredging of Dal interiors and the development of an efficient drainage system were also discussed.

MLAs highlighted the need for better drinking water quality, upgraded sewage treatment plants, improved electricity supply, and an effective solid waste management system. They further stressed the importance of scientific disposal of waste at Achan landfill site, identifying new dumping sites, introducing water ambulances in Dal Lake, dredging its canals, enhancing relief for fire victims, widening of interi-■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

BJP claims Gogoi's wife has links with Pakistan, ISI

STATE TIMES NEWS

DELHI/GUWA-HATI: BJP on Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi's wife of having links with Pakistan and the ISI, a charge rejected by the deputy opposition leader in the Lok Sabha as "laughable and entertaining".

The BJP resorted to such "baseless allegations" as it has no issue to raise, Gogoi hit back

He alleged that the BJP had carried out a similar "smear campaign" against him and his family ahead of last year's Lok Sabha polls and the people, in reply,

Maha Kumbh: Over 2 Cr devotees take holy dip on Maghi Purnima STATE TIMES NEWS PRAYAGRAJ: Amid heightened

security measures, more than two crore devotees took a dip in the Sangam till 6 pm on Wednesday on the occasion of Maghi Purnima during the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela According to an official statement,

special arrangements have been made for the sacred bath that began early Wednesday. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has

been monitoring the event since 4 am at the war room in his official residence in Lucknow, the statement With the 'snan' on Maghi Purnima,

another auspicious day for holy bath, the month-long 'Kalpavas' will be ending and around 10 lakh 'Kalpavasis' will start leaving the

Modi departs for US after



Maha Kumbh. The administration has requested them to follow traffic rules and use only authorised parking

While lakes of devotees are headed

in the statement said that by 6 pm, over two crore people had taken the ritual dip at the Triveni Sangam and other ghats.

Overall since the start of the Maha

taken a dip in the Sangam, it said. Flower petals were also showered on devotees from helicopter.

Cricket legend Anil Kumble took a holy dip in the Triveni Sangam along with his wife Chaitna Ramtirtha.

After arriving in Pravagraj on Tuesday, Kumble chose to perform the bathing ritual on Maghi Purnima, a day when no VIP protocols are observed. He joined the devotees as a regular pilgrim, taking a boat to the confluence with his wife for the ritual.

Director General of Police Prashant Kumar, Principal Secretary (Home) Sanjay Prasad and officials of CM Secretariat are also present at the war room, the statement said.

Maha Kumbh Mela DIG Vaibhav Krishna said, "Our arrangements are ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Govt lists Income-Tax Bill, 2025 for introduction in LS today

STATE TIMES NEWS NEW DELHI: The government has listed a bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to income-tax for introduction in the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

According to the agenda circulated by the Lok Sabha secretariat on Wednesday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will introduce the Income-Tax Bill, 2025.

The much-anticipated Bill will replace terminologies like assessment and previous year with easier to understand 'tax year' as part of move to simplify language while removing provisos and

BoDs of J&K RTC reconstituted

JAMMU: The Government on Wednesday reconstituted $\,$ the Board of Directors (BoDs) of the J&K Road Corporation Transport (RTC).

"As per a recent order issued in supersession of all previous orders, sanction is hereby accorded to the reconstitution of Board of Directors of J&K Road Transport Corporation," reads an order issued by General Administration Department (GAD).

As per the order, Minister Incharge of the Transport Department will be the chairman of the Board of Directors while the Administrative Secretary, Finance Department will be the vice chairman.

Administrative Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; Administrative Secretary, Transport Department; Administrative Secretary, Works (R&B)Public Department and Chief Mechanical Engineering Department,

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Sunset: 18:13 Hours

Sunrise: 07:17 Hours

Max: 88

STATE TIMES NEWS

wrapping up France visit **■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

PARIS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday departed for the US to meet President Donald Trump after wrapping his two-day visit to France where he co-chaired the Artificial Intelligence Action Summit alongside French President Emmanuel Macron with whom he also held bilateral dis-

In the US, PM Modi will hold a bilateral meeting with President Trump in both restricted and delegation-level formats.

Modi will be the fourth foreign leader to visit Trump in the weeks after the American leader's inauguration as the 47th President of the US in January.

In France, during the bilateral talks, Modi and Macron on Wednesday called for enhancing trade and investment ties between the two countries and committed **CONTD ON PAGE 9**



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Pakistani troops on Wednesday suffered 'heavy casualties after the Indian Army retaliated befittingly to unprovoked firing from across the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, security officials said.

The ceasefire violation by Pakistan in the Krishna Ghati sector came a day after two Indian Army personnel including a Captain were martyred in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) explosion triggered by suspected terrorists near the LoC in the Akhnoor sector of



Pak troops suffered heavy casualties amid

They said Pakistani troops violated the ceasefire by resorting to unprovoked firing on a forward post in the

Tarkundi area along the LoC, prompting a strong retalia-

"Heavy casualties" were suffered by the enemy forces in the retaliatory action, the

tion by the Indian Army.

However, the Indian Army neither confirmed nor denied the information.

any exact figure.

officials said, without giving

The officials said a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) of the Indian Army was slightly injured when he accidentally stepped over a landmine in the same sector this evening.

The JCO, who is a resident of Mendhar, was part of a patrolling party keeping a close vigil on the LoC to prevent infiltration of terrorists. they said, adding the injured

officer was evacuated to ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

IF LOK SABHA POLLS WERE HELD TODAY

NDA '300 paar', Congress slips: MOTN poll

NEW DELHI: The NDA is likely to put up a dominant show and win 343 seats if the Lok Sabha elections are held today, with the BJP projected to secure a simple majority on its own, according to the India Today-CVoter Mood of the Nation opinion poll. The poll shows that the Congress-led INDIA bloc, which punched above its weight to win 232 seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, will be down to 188 if the elections are

The India Today-Cvoter Mood of the Nation (MOTN) poll was conducted between January 2 and February 9, 2025, surveying 125,123 individuals across all Lok Sabha segments. The survey included fresh interviews as well as long-term tracking data.

In terms of vote share, the NDA, which won 292 seats - bareMood of the Nation poll predicts 343 seats for NDA, 188 for INDIA

BJP-led NDA won 292 seats in polls, scraping past the halfway mark

>> Survey projects simple majority for BJP, giving it over 280 seats

ly crossing the halfway mark of 272, is projected to see a rise by 3 percentage points to 47%. For the INDIA bloc, the poll predicts just a 1% rise in vote share, mirroring its falling stocks in subsequent electoral contests after the Lok Sabha polls amid infighting.

The survey projects massive gains for the BJP, giving it 281 seats if the polls were held today. The Congress is likely to see a dip to 78 seats, down from the 99 it

won in the elections. Individually, the BJP is projected to see its vote share rise to 41%, a jump of 3 percentage points, while the Congress will stand to see its share down to 20%

"Congress is simply not solving its foundational problem, which is its organisational structure, without that nothing will move," political expert Yamini Aiyar told India Today.

The saffron party and Prime

Minister Narendra Modi, who had given a call for '400 paar', had come under opposition fire after it failed to get a simple majority on its own. The BJP had to depend on its allies, Nitish JD(U)Kumar's Chandrababu Naidu's TDP, to form the government for a record third consecutive time.

In fact, it was BJP's '400 paar slogan that had pinched it the most, with the Congress using it to convince the voters that the party would change the Constitution if it received such a brute majority. It helped the Congress wean away Dalit and

However, six months later, the BJP seems to have reversed the tide with back-to-back electoral Maharashtra, Haryana and Delhi, where it returned to power after 27 years.

Issuance of passport can't be denied for relatives' involvement in anti-national activities: J&K HC

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has ruled that a person cannot be denied a passport merely because his relatives were involved in anti-national activities.

Justice M.A. Chowdhary, after hearing Adv BS Bali for the petitioner and DSGI Vishal Sharma for the UOI and Sr. AAG Monika Kohli for the UT, observed: "This court is of the considered opinion that there is no reason to not recommend the case of the petitioner for issuance of passport just for the involvement of his brother in militancy activities in the year 2011, when he was killed, and the listing of his father as an OGW (Over Ground Worker of a terror

outfit) for grant of passport in his favour.

The court allowed the petition filed by Mohammad Amir Malik, a diploma holder in engineering, who had applied for the issuance of a passport for travelling abroad to search for a job.

The passport-issuing authority cannot issue travel documents without a clearance from the additional director general of police (ADGP) in the CID.

Malik, a resident of Ramban, filed the petition as the CID headquarters did not give a clearance for the issuance of his passport for his slain brother's militancy links.

"It should have been the activities of the petitioner, which should have

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