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Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

03 Sant Pura Danna Trust organises Mahan Gurmat Samagam

05 AJKSCC to start maiden Sikh Cricket Premier League today

10 Soft Tennis meet from Feb 22

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

Want J&K youth to be daring, adventurous and strong: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday said he wanted the local youth to be daring, adventurous and strong, as speedy and inclusive development of the society largely depends on productivity of its youth.

Speaking at the 6th Annual Day Celebration of Guidance & Career Counselling Cell for Youth Development (GCC), Gurha Slathia at Samba, the Lieutenant Governor said: "I want youth of J&K to be daring, adventurous and strong. I want our youth to be unshakably strong in their morals and ideals. I firmly believe that our youth must show the way to the world by carrying age-old traditional values in one hand and modern scientific tools in the other."

The Lieutenant Governor lauded the efforts of volunteers and everyone associated with the Guidance and



LG Manoj Sinha addressing gathering at 6th Annual Day Celebration of GCC, Gurha Slathia at Samba on Sunday.

Career Counselling Cell for Youth Development in imparting skill development and coaching to the youth to ensure their brighter future.

"This unique youth organisation is a role model for the nation. GCC has adopted a futuristic approach for the youth-centric initiatives to enhance the quality of their pursuits and enabling them to pursue their dreams. The focused effort to study, understand, develop and conserve cultural and

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- ▶ **LG attends 6th Annual Day Celebration of Guidance & Career Counselling Cell for Youth Development (GCC), Gurha Slathia at Samba**
 - ▶ **Lauds efforts of volunteers and those associated with GCC for imparting skill development, coaching to youth to ensure their brighter future**
 - ▶ **Says, to realize progress that we have envisaged for J&K, we need to secure health of our youth at local level. GCC is working with administration to achieve this goal through infrastructure, coaching**
 - ▶ **GCC is role model for nation. It has adopted futuristic approach for youth-centric initiatives to enhance quality of their pursuits,**
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Omar holds pre-budget consultation with public representatives of Jammu Distt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday chaired pre-budget consultations with public representatives from Jammu district at a meeting held at the Civil Secretariat.

The session was attended by Minister Satish Sharma, Chairman District Development Council (DDC), Members of Legislative Assembly from District Jammu, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta and Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D Vaidya; with some of the MLAs attending the meeting virtually through video conference.

Addressing the participants, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasized the importance of engaging with elected representatives in the budget-making process to ensure that the aspirations and needs of the people are



CM Omar Abdullah chairing pre-budget consultation with public representatives of Jammu district.

adequately reflected.

"We could have drafted the budget in our offices, but we are consulting elected representatives so that the people's needs and aspirations are taken into account," the Chief Minister stated.

He acknowledged that public representatives are aware of the ground realities and they have interacted closely with the people during election campaigns.

"During your electioneering, you traveled across your constituencies and met peo-

ple. You understand their issues and demands because you are directly connected to them. That is why I decided to hold these consultations with you," he added.

He expressed confidence that these discussions would play a crucial role in shaping the budget and addressing key concerns of the people. During the consultation, the Chairman of DDC Jammu and MLAs put forward various demands and concerns affecting their constituencies. They stressed the need

for improving irrigation systems and ensuring access to clean drinking water in several areas.

Many representatives raised concern about the poor condition of roads, need for construction of bridges and the overall upgradation of infrastructure to facilitate better connectivity. The discussions also covered health-care improvements, construction of new educational institutions among other things. Additionally,

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BJP legislature party to choose Delhi CM likely today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The newly-elected MLAs of the BJP are likely to meet here on Monday to choose the new chief minister of Delhi, party sources said.

The national leadership of the BJP will send its observers for the legislature party meeting, in which the leader of the House in the Delhi Assembly will be elected, they said.

The leader of the House will be the new chief minister of Delhi.

The sources also said the new government in the national capital is likely to be formed with the oath-taking

ceremony of the chief minister and council of ministers around February 19-20.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power in Delhi after a gap of more than 26 years, winning the Assembly polls held on February 5. It ended the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) 10-year rule in Delhi. The saffron party won 48 of the 70 Assembly seats in the capital.

The names of several newly-elected MLAs are doing the rounds for the posts of chief minister and ministers. Those considered frontrunners for the top

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Amit Shah's security review meetings on J&K underline nothing should hamper journey to peace



DOST KHAN

terror-free . A number of new and old threats have been put on the table and solutions searched thereof.

This was part of the serious exercises that the Centre and the UT administration led by Lieutenant Governor have been undertaking in the past few years.

These review meetings have conveyed one clear message that the Centre is not fully satisfied with the

JAMMU: In recent days, a lot of time has been spent in Delhi, Srinagar and Jammu in reviewing the security situation of J&K, with a single-lens goal to make this territory

situation that prevails in Jammu and Kashmir, despite 70 per cent decline in violence and drastic reduction in the rank and file of the terror groups. It is pursuing the goal of perfect peace for Jammu and Kashmir. It wants to cover the whole of the ground to reach a stage where there is no terror and there also remain no

chances of its recurrence. Controlling violence and making its elements accountable under the law is just part of the goal, the real objective can be achieved only when there is no scope left for the revival of terrorism.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah

has been looking after Jammu and Kashmir affairs ever since he took over his office in 2019, and particu-

larly so after the abrogation of Article 370, which coincided with the split of the state into two union territories in August 2019 . Though J&K and Ladakh became the union territories on October 31, 2019 but in all practical terms they assumed their

NEWS ANALYSIS

geography on the political map on August 5, 2019 itself. That is the reality and irrefutable one.

Amit Shah chaired the security meets in Delhi, while Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha did so in Srinagar and Jammu. These meetings covered almost everything under the sun about the situation and the security needs of J&K, and a strong

message got conveyed that the Government will do everything possible to preserve the security canvas that it has crafted in the past five years, and continue to work for making it a permanent land of peace with no trace of violent extremism left in any of its corner.

When Home Minister convenes the review meetings, it holds special strategic significance. It adds seriousness to the purpose and injects hope among the people that their worries were being taken care of at the highest level. Practically speaking, MHA is playing a very important role in J&K , politically, psychologically and strategically, not just that this is a UT but because this territory has

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Brief exchange of fire along LoC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: A brief exchange of fire took place along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Poonch district on Sunday, security officials said.

They said an Indian Army post came under fire from a forested area across the LoC around 11.30 am in Gulpur sector.

They said soldiers retaliated and the exchange of fire lasted for a very brief period.

There was no damage on the Indian side, the officials said.

They said it was not immediately clear whether the Pakistan army was behind the firing, or it was terrorists hiding in the forests and waiting for an opportunity to sneak in.

There were a few cross-border incidents last week, including an IED explosion that killed two army personnel including a captain. Two other soldiers were injured in cross-border firing in violation of ceasefire. Indian troops retaliated befittingly, inflicting "heavy casualties" on the Pakistani side.

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Bhagwat emphasises unity of Hindu society

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARDHAMAN: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday stressed the importance of uniting Hindu society, describing it as the "responsible" community in the country that sees unity as an embodiment of diversity.

Addressing an RSS programme at SAI Ground in Bardhaman, he said, "People often ask why we focus only on Hindu society, and my answer is that the country's responsible society is Hindu society."

"Today is not a special event. Those unaware of the Sangh often wonder what it

wants. If I had to answer, I would say the Sangh seeks to organise Hindu society because it is the responsible



society of the country," Bhagwat said.

He also stressed the importance of accepting the world's diversity.

"Bharatvarsha is not just a

geographical entity; its size may expand or shrink over time. It is called Bharatvarsha when it embodies a unique nature. Bharat has its intrinsic character. Those who felt they could not live in harmony with this nature created their own separate countries," he said.

"Naturally, those who remained wanted Bharat's essence to endure. And what is this essence? It is much older than August 15, 1947. It is Hindu society, which flourishes by embracing

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Maha Kumbh, number of pilgrimage goes past 52.83 Cr

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MAHAKUMBH NAGAR: Despite the conclusion of key bathing festivals, including Amrit Snan and Maghi Purnima, the surge of pilgrims at the Maha Kumbh shows no sign of abating and an estimated 1.36 crore devotees had taken a holy dip at the Sangam by 6 pm on Sunday.

According to figures released by the mela administration, the total number of pilgrims who have taken a dip at the Sangam since January 13, when the Maha Kumbh started, has gone past 52.83 crore.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath



conducted an aerial survey of the Maha Kumbh on Sunday and reviewed traffic-management and other facilities with

officials. He requested all devotees arriving in Prayagraj to cooperate in maintaining a smooth traffic

flow. The chief minister asked the pilgrims to avoid parking their vehicles on roads and instead, use designated parking areas.

He also appealed to religious and social organisations to continue their charitable food-distribution services uninterrupted.

In view of the massive influx of devotees, the Prayagraj district magistrate has ordered online classes for the students of Classes 1 to 8 across all government, aided and recognised schools in rural and urban areas from February 17 to February 20.

Saturday also saw

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 24.2°C Min: 9.7°C

Humidity

Max: 64 Min: 54

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 18.0°C Min: 0.4°C

Humidity

Max: 79 Min: 29

Sunset : 18:16 Hours

Sunrise : 07:13 Hours

LG attends Shri Raghunath Ji Ki Jammu Aarti at Shri Raghunath Ji Mandir Chowk Jammu is not only a city of temples, but it is also axis of our eternal culture: Sinha

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday attended Shri Raghunath Ji Ki Jammu Aarti, at Shri Raghunath Ji Mandir Chowk, Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the efforts of Shree Raghunath Ji Corridor Vikas Council for bringing this sacred and divine ceremony to Jammu, which has been going on at Ganga Ghats of Varanasi and Haridwar.

Shri Raghunath Ji Ki Jammu Aarti will be a major attraction for tourists, seekers and definitely bolster the local economy, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said, "Jammu is not only a city of temples, but it is also the axis of our eternal cul-



LG Manoj Sinha attending Shri Raghunath Ji Ki Jammu Aarti at Shri Raghunath Ji Mandir Chowk in Jammu on Sunday.

ture. Jammu is a symbol of our faith in Sanatan Sanskriti. Jammu is a pilgrimage for seekers. It is the divinity and self-confidence of India. It is the centre of our heritage and the soul of our traditional values.

The sanctity of Jammu is attached to the soul of every Indian. Therefore, I believe that the initiative of Shree Raghunath Ji Corridor Vikas Council will bring a huge change in Jammu and usher joy and happiness in the lives

of common citizen".

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that all-round development of Jammu and the progress of its business class, shopkeepers, workers, entrepreneurs and transporters is the top priority of

administration.

"The last 5 years have been the golden period of Jammu. Under the leadership of Prime Minister, we are working with a long-term vision for the rejuvenation

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- ▶ **All-round development of Jammu and the progress of its business class, shopkeepers, workers, entrepreneurs and transporters is the top priority of administration: LG Sinha**
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