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Inaugurates first edition of Sikh Cricket Premier League in Jammu J&K working for inclusive growth: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday inaugurated the first-edition of Sikh Cricket Premier League in Jammu.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations and best wishes to all the players participating in the tournament. "It is not just a sporting event but a cultural and social initiative that reflects the commitment to holistic community development and aims to build a brighter future for the youth of Sikh community in J&K," the Lieutenant Governor said.

"He congratulated the All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee for playing a vital role in empowering the Sikh community and preserving its rich heritage, through such innovative programs, while fostering a sense of pride and responsibility towards the society and the nation among its youth."



LG Manoj Sinha speaking at the inaugural ceremony of first-edition of Sikh Cricket Premier League in Jammu on Monday.

"Today, Jammu Kashmir is working for inclusive growth, which means socio-economic growth of all sections of society. Such initiatives hold the key to equitable growth and socio-economic change. It also promotes the ideals and values of unity, discipline and harmony," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised the role of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) to empower youth by improving infrastructure,

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► **Sinha says Sikh Cricket Premier League not just sporting event but cultural and social initiative that reflects commitment to holistic community development and aims to build brighter future for youth of Sikh community in J&K**

► **Our youth from Sikh community represent very pivot around which socio-economic growth and transformation of society takes new shape and to ensure this, we are working with dedication for mainstreaming of Sikh youth into the development process**

► **I strongly believe that socio-economic goals of development and empowerment of youth should be made through public-private partnerships** ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Army fully capable of dealing with any type of situation along borders: Sinha

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Amid several incidents of cross-border firing and an IED attack along the LoC recently, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said the Indian Army is fully capable of dealing with any type of situation on the borders and is giving a befitting response to enemy forces.

He also asserted that there will be no pause in anti-terror operations as clear directions have been given to security agencies to wipe out the menace and ensure peace and tranquillity in the region.

"Indian Army is fully capable and giving a befitting response on the border," Sinha told reporters on the sidelines of a sports event here.

He was responding to a question on the recent incidents on the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu region where two army personnel,



including a captain, were killed in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attack carried out by suspected terrorists in Akhnoor sector of Jammu region on February 11.

Two army personnel were also injured in separate incidents of cross-border firing along the LoC in Rajouri and Poonch districts, while one more

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Deaths of 2 men in Kathua being probed: CM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday expressed grief over the mysterious deaths of two men in a remote village in Kathua district and said he has asked the concerned officers to probe the matter.

Bodies of Roshan Lal, 45, and Shamsher, 37, were retrieved from the banks of a stream in Batheri village in Billawar on Sunday and preliminary information revealed that the deceased had been strangled to death.

"Deeply anguished by the tragic death of two persons at Billawar, Kathua,"

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Three Jammu residents killed in Yamuna Expressway crash

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Three residents of Jammu lost their lives, and two others sustained serious injuries in a road accident on the Yamuna Expressway near Tappal town in Uttar Pradesh's Aligarh district.

According to reports, the accident occurred when a speeding bus rammed into a car traveling towards Noida, causing it to overturn. The victims, who had attended the Maha Kumbh, were returning to Jammu from Prayagraj when the mishap took place.

The deceased have been identified as Padam (67) of Nanak Nagar, Yulhveer (50) of Trikuta Nagar, and Savita (65) of Trikuta Nagar. The injured, Baldev Raj Sharma (71) and Ritu Gupta (48), both from Trikuta Nagar, were rushed to Kailash Hospital in Noida for treatment. Officials said the car, which bore a Jammu registration number, was registered in the name of Baldev Raj Sharma. Authorities are investigating the incident, and the bodies of the deceased have been sent for post-mortem.

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 26.2°C Min: 10.2°C

Humidity
Max: 65 Min: 35

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 14.2°C Min: 2.1°C

Humidity
Max: 78 Min: 41

Sunset: 18:16 Hours
Sunrise: 07:10 Hours

Justice Tashi Rabstan inaugurates new Munsiff Court Complex at Akhnoor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a historic development aimed at enhancing access to justice and improving the legal infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir, the newly built Munsiff Court complex Akhnoor was inaugurated on Monday by Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in the presence of Justice Sanjeev Kumar.

On their arrival at Akhnoor, the dignitaries were accorded floral welcome by the Pr. District & Sessions Judge, Jammu and Chief Engineer PWD (R&B)



Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan inaugurating newly built Munsiff Court complex at Akhnoor on Monday.

Jammu. The contingent of District Police Jammu presented ceremonial guard of honour.

In his inaugural address, Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief

Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, emphasized the importance of expanding judicial facilities across

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Gyanesh Kumar appointed as Chief Election Commissioner; Vivek Joshi is new EC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar was appointed as the next Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) on Monday, the law ministry said. Dr Vivek Joshi, a 1989-batch Haryana-cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, has been appointed as Election Commissioner (EC).

Kumar is the first CEC to be appointed under the new law on the appointment of the members of the Election Commission (EC). His term will run till January 26, 2029, days before the EC is expected to announce the schedule of the next Lok Sabha election.

During his tenure as the 26th CEC, Kumar will over-



Gyanesh Kumar

Dr Vivek Joshi

see the Bihar Assembly polls later this year, and the Kerala and Puducherry Assembly polls in 2026.

Similarly, he will oversee the Assembly polls in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, which are also due in 2026.

Kumar, who played a key role in implementing decisions following the abrogation of Article 370 of the

Constitution in Jammu and Kashmir during his stint in the Union home ministry, took charge as an election commissioner on March 15, 2024.

The meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi took place in the South Block office. Besides Modi and Rahul Gandhi,

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BoDs of SC, ST, OBC Dev Corp re-constituted

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Monday reconstituted the Board of Directors (BoDs) of Jammu and Kashmir Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and OBC Development Corporation.

As per government order number 239-GAD of 2025 dated October 17, 2025, in suppression of all previous orders regarding constitution of BoDs for SC, ST and OBC Development Corporation, The Minister, Social Welfare Department shall be the new chairperson of the corporation.

The order further said that Administrative Secretaries of Finance Department, Social Welfare Department,

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Amit Shah to review implementation of new criminal laws in J&K today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday will review the status of the implementation of the new criminal laws in Jammu and Kashmir in presence of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, sources said.

Abdullah has been invited for the meeting even though law and order is now directly handled by the central government after the erstwhile state was bifurcated into two Union territories - Jammu and Kashmir and

Ladakh.

Shah on Tuesday will review the status of the implementation of the new



criminal laws in Jammu and Kashmir here at North Block, sources said.

Abdullah, Sinha and top officials of the central and Jammu and Kashmir governments will attend the

meeting, they said.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam replaced the colonial-era Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872, respectively. The new laws came into effect from July 1 last year.

Shah has already reviewed the status of the implementation of the new laws in several states, including Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.

Govt constitutes panel for devolution of functions to ULB

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has issued an official order sanctioning the formation of a high-level committee to address issues related to the devolution of functions, functionaries, and funds to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in the Union Territory.

The committee, chaired by the Chief Secretary of J&K, will include the Administrative Secretaries

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