

**03** Dr Jitendra advocates 'Indian regimens for Indian patients' with optimum AI intervention

**09** HC order transfer of 11 Chief Administrative Officers

**10** Let sports be domain of sportspersons only: Satish

Website : [www.statetimes.in](http://www.statetimes.in), Email: [statetimes1@gmail.com](mailto:statetimes1@gmail.com)

## India raises issues of unprovoked firing, terror activities at flag meeting with Pak in Poonch

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: India and Pakistan held a flag meeting along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district on Friday, in an effort to de-escalate tension after several recent incidents of cross-border firing and an IED attack, official sources said.

The brigade commander-level flag meeting took place in the Chakkan-Da-Bagh crossing point area, with both sides highlighting the need to maintain peace along the border, the sources said.

However, no official statement was issued by the Indian Army on the 75-minute-long meeting that started at around 11 am.

The sources said the Indian military delegation lodged a strong protest over the recent unprovoked cross-border firing incidents, infiltration attempts by terrorists and smuggling of narcotics and weapons.

The meeting took place in a



congenial atmosphere and both sides agreed to honour the ceasefire agreement in the larger interest of peace on the border, the sources said.

Ceasefire violations along the border of Jammu and Kashmir have been rare since the two neighbouring countries renewed an agreement on February 25, 2021.

Two Indian Army personnel, including a captain, were killed and another was injured in an improvised explosive device (IED) attack

carried out by suspected terrorists in the Akhnoor sector of the Jammu region on February 11.

Two Army personnel were injured in separate incidents of small-arms firing from across the LoC in Rajouri and Poonch districts on February 10 and February 14, while two more Army personnel were injured in separate land-mine explosions in Poonch over the last week. The extent of damage on the Pakistani side in

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### Army Commander reviews operational preparedness in Akhnoor

JAMMU: Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kuma on Friday visited the Akhnoor sector in Jammu region to review the operational readiness of the troops. Lt Gen Kumar was accompanied by Lt Gen Navin Sachdeva, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Jammu-based White Knight Corps.

The army commander's visit to Akhnoor came 10 days after an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated by suspected terrorists killed two army personnel, including a captain, near the Line of Control in the sector.

"The army commander took stock of the situation along the Line of Control in Akhnoor sector and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### Speaker sets deadline for completion of new LA complex in Jammu

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather on Friday set an 18-month deadline for the Roads and Buildings Department for completion of new legislative assembly in the winter capital Jammu.

The work on the prestigious project was started in 2011 and missed a number of deadlines in the past decade.

Chairing a meeting of senior officers here to review progress on construction of the new legislature complex in Jammu, Rather directed the executing agency to complete the project within

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Time to create action plan for rehabilitation of degraded forests: CS



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting on Friday.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Friday chaired a meeting of the Forest, Ecology & Environment Department to assess its functioning besides reviewing the progress on ongoing conservation measures for protection of lakes

and wetlands in the Union Territory.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary directed the officers to frame a comprehensive action plan based on scientific principles for rehabilitation of degraded forest areas within a stipulated time frame.

To enhance the efficiency of forest land management, the Chief secretary instructed the officials to expedite the survey and demarcation of forest lands by installing boundary pillars and digitizing the records. This step aims to effectively curb encroachments and safeguard forest resources, he maintained.

Focusing on afforestation efforts, Dulloo asked the department to accelerate the plantation drives to meet the ambitious target of planting 1.5 crore saplings by the end of the upcoming

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### Traffic resumes on Jammu-Srinagar highway; fresh snowfall in Kashmir

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANIHAL: The traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway resumed Friday morning after remaining suspended overnight following snowfall in Banihal sector, officials said.

Traffic on the highway was suspended around 7 pm on Thursday due to slippery condition of the road at several places between Ramsoo and Banihal in Ramban district, leaving over 300 vehicles stranded.

"The traffic on the highway resumed around 7 am Friday and was playing smoothly from both sides," Deputy Superintendent of Police Traffic, national highway, S P Singh said.

He said the road clearance agency pressed snow-clearance machinery in operation Thursday evening itself and most of the stranded vehicles were subsequently cleared.

With improvement in the weather this morning, the clearance operation was speeded up paving the way for resumption of

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

**WEATHER**

**Temperature (Jammu)**  
Max: 24.0°C Min: 7.6°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 62 Min: 61

**Temperature (Srinagar)**  
Max: 11.5°C Min: 1.6°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 78 Min: 54

Sunset : 18:16 Hours  
Sunrise : 07:06 Hours

## Dowry demand not needed to invoke cruelty charge against husbands: SC

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has said dowry demand was not a prerequisite to constitute the offence of cruelty under section 498A of the IPC introduced in 1983 to protect married women from the husband and in-laws.

A bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Prasanna B. Varale on December 12, 2024 said the essence of Section 498A IPC lay in the act of cruelty itself and a dowry demand was not necessary to invoke the provision against errant husbands and in-laws.

"Therefore, either form of cruelty, independent of a dowry demand, is sufficient to attract the provisions of Section 498A IPC and make the offence punishable under the law," said the bench.

The top court said it was clear that an unlawful demand for dowry was not a prerequisite element to constitute "cruelty" under Section 498A IPC.

"It suffices that the conduct falls within either of the two broad categories outlined in clauses (a) or (b) of the provision, namely, wilful conduct likely to cause grave injury or mental harm (clause a), or

harassment intended to coerce the woman or her family to meet any unlawful demand (clause b)," added the bench.

Section 498A (Husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty) was introduced in the IPC in 1983 with the primary objective to protect married women from cruelty of their husbands or in-laws.

The provision provides a broad and inclusive definition of "cruelty" encompassing both physical and mental harm to the woman's body and in addition, it covers

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## UP Govt intensifies preparations for Maha Shivratri's final holy bath at Maha Kumbh

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

MAHAKUMBH NAGAR: The Uttar Pradesh government on Friday said it has ramped up preparations at Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj to ensure seamless arrangements for devotees in the final significant bath on Mahashivratri which falls on February 26.

Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh and Director General of Police Prashant Kumar visited Mahakumbh Nagar to review the arrangements and provide necessary instructions to officials, according to a statement.

The officials told reporters that comprehensive measures are being implemented for traffic regulation, crowd management and facilitating smooth rituals, especially



during the weekend rush.

At the same time, the UP government said it was closely monitoring "attempts to disrupt the sanctity" of Maha Kumbh through misleading social media posts.

DGP Kumar assured strict action against those behind

such posts, revealing that over 50 FIRs have already been registered against those spreading misinformation.

During their visit, Chief Secretary Singh and DGP Kumar inspected the Sangam ghats by

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Investments in J&K must have land safeguards, jobs for local youth: Omar



CM Omar Abdullah speaking at the CII J&K Annual Session-2025 at Srinagar.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Advocating for expanding investments in Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday underscored that such investments must be regulated by laws pro-

tecting the agricultural land and having land investment safeguards, like in Himachal Pradesh which has put reasonable restrictions and at the same time it would ensure jobs for local youth.

"Himachal ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## Keep away from attempts to create divisions on basis of language: Modi

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said there has never been any animosity among Indian languages and each has enriched the other, giving a fitting reply to attempts to discriminate on the basis of linguistics.

Addressing the inaugural function of the 98th Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya



Sammelan here, Modi hailed

Marathi as a complete language reflecting the elements of bravery and courage, beauty, sensitivity and equality.

"There has never been any animosity among Indian languages. Languages have always influenced and enriched each other," Modi said.

He said often, when efforts were made to create divisions

based on languages, India's shared linguistic heritage gave a fitting reply.

"It is our social responsibility to distance ourselves from these misconceptions and embrace and enrich all languages," the prime minister said.

His remarks came on a day when Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

**Sabse Pehle Life Insurance**

**LIC's Jeevan UTSAV**

Plan No.: 771 UIN: 512N363V02

**GUARANTEED REASON FOR CELEBRATION**

**with Lifetime Guaranteed Returns**

**Also Available Online**

**Whole Life Insurance with flexibility to choose benefits**

- Limited Premium Paying term 5 to 16 years
- Guaranteed Additions during Premium Paying term
- Regular Income Benefit / Flexi Income Benefit
- Minimum Basic Sum Assured ₹ 5 lacs

A NON-PAR, NON-LINKED, INDIVIDUAL, SAVINGS, WHOLE LIFE INSURANCE PLAN

Download LIC Mobile App **digi** Visit: [licindia.in](http://licindia.in) Call Centre Services (022) 6827 6827 Our WhatsApp No. 8976862090

For details, contact your Agent/Nearest LIC Branch or SMS YOUR CITY NAME to 5676474 Follow us: [f](https://www.facebook.com/LICIndiaForever) [i](https://www.instagram.com/LICIndiaForever) [in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/LICIndiaForever) LIC India Forever | IRDAI Regn No.: 512

BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS/FRAUDULENT OFFERS. IRDAI or its officials do not involve in any activities of insurance business like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums, refund of amounts. Policyholders or the prospects receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.

**LIC** भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

*Har Pal Aapke Saath*

LIC/PI/2024-25/16/Eng