

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! India raises issues...

the retaliatory action was not known immediately but officials had said the enemy forces also suffered "heavy casualties".

Meanwhile, the sources said an explosion took place on the zero line in the Nakerkote area of the Digwar sector in Poonch at 9:20 am but there was no casualty. The cause of the blast was not known immediately, they added.

Army Commander reviews...

was briefed on the assertive stance and prophylactic measures taken during the last few weeks by the formation," the Udhampur-based Northern Command said in a post on X.

Investments in J&K...

Pradesh has adopted a strict policy in this regard and there is need for adopting similar policy in J&K", the Chief Minister said while addressing the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Jammu & Kashmir Annual Session-2025 titled "AMAZ-ING J&K: Aspiring For New Growth Goals".

He emphasized that such interactions are pivotal to enhancing efficiency, competitiveness, and creating business opportunities for industries through a range of specialized services and strategic global linkages. It also provides a platform for consensus-building and networking on key issues.

Omar Abdullah sought suggestions and valuable insights from the participating entrepreneurs and other stakeholders that can be incorporated into the upcoming budget of Jammu and Kashmir for the overall welfare and benefit of the public, as well as for industries, tourism, and other sectors.

He emphasized the need for responsible entrepreneurial practices to foster an economic ecosystem that ensures sustainability across J&K.

He commended the resilience of J&K's industry, acknowledging businesses that have endured challenging times without solely relying on government subsidies. He stressed the importance of ensuring long-term business sustainability, proposing a mechanism to track businesses' viability beyond ten years.

On the ease of doing business, the Chief Minister advocated for a genuine single-window clearance system, addressing concerns over bureaucratic hurdles, particularly in obtaining clearances from forest and environment boards, which hinder manufacturing growth.

He encouraged stakeholders to provide suggestions and feedback for the upcoming budget, reinforcing the Government's commitment to an industry-friendly policy framework.

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma, who attended the event as Guest of Honour, also spoke at the event. He emphasized the need to address past deficiencies and underscored the importance of promoting sports tourism, health tourism, and border tourism while leveraging Kashmir's renowned hospitality through innovative marketing strategies.

The event, organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) J&K Council, brought together business leaders, industrialists, entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders to discuss strategic actions to boost J&K's economic growth and development, driving the region's competitiveness and business potential through a robust and resilient industrial and sustainable entrepreneurship ecosystem.

Madhav Singhania, Joint Managing Director & CEO, JK Cements Limited & Chairman, Confederation of Indian Industry, Northern Region; Syed Junaid Altaf Group Executive Director, FIL Industries Pvt. Ltd. & Chairman, CII J&K; Dr. M. A. Alim Director, Package Design Industries & Vice Chairman CII J&K were also present on the occasion.

CM reviews functioning...

and ongoing initiatives aimed at enhancing public service delivery. The Chief Minister reiterated his government's unwavering commitment to a transparent, accountable, and people-centric administration. He instructed officials to adopt a more responsive and result-oriented approach, ensuring that grievances are resolved in a time-bound manner. He emphasized on improving the quality of disposal of public grievances and to ensure that grievances are actually resolved when updating the final disposal of each grievance.

Emphasizing the importance of direct engagement with citizens, the Chief Minister directed officials to increase outreach efforts through awareness campaigns, interactive public sessions, and digital platforms. He assured that his government remains committed to listening to people's concerns and taking concrete steps to resolve them.

Meanwhile, Group of Concerned Citizens (GCC) delegation led by former IAS officer Khurshid Ahmad Ganai called on the Chief Minister at Raabita office and expressed their concern over the proposed amendments being contemplated in the Unified Building Bye Laws (UBBL). The GCC members requested CM to review the proposed UBBL amendments and urban planning policies which have been initiated by Housing & Urban Development Department just before the elected Government assumed office in October.

The Chief Minister listened to their objections and said that his Government would examine the objections and scrutinize other urban development policies before approving any such policy and said that all stakeholders shall be consulted before firming up such policies or bringing any legislation to that effect.

Keep away from...

reiterated his remarks that the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) is an attempt to impose a three-language formula throughout the country.

Modi said India is one of the oldest living civilisations in the world because it has constantly evolved and embraced new ideas and welcomed new changes.

"The fact that India has the world's largest linguistic diversity is a proof of this. This linguistic diversity is also the most fundamental basis of our unity," Modi said.

NCP-SP chief Sharad Pawar, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, litterateur Tara Bhavalkar, the president of the 98th Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sammelan, were present at the inaugural function, among others.

The three-day Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan is being held in the national capital after a gap of 71 years and a year after Marathi was granted the classical language status.

Modi said the event is being held in Delhi in the 350th year of the coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji and the centenary celebrations of the RSS.

Speaker sets deadline...

18 months after award of contract. He stressed upon them to immediately start the construction works on the new Assembly Complex after completion of the tendering process, an official spokesperson said. The meeting was informed that a detailed project report of balance work has been submitted to IIT, Jammu for vetting, the spokesperson said. As soon as vetting of DPR is received, tendering process shall be initiated, the officers said, adding that all modalities for the tendering process will be completed by March 31.

Time to create...

plantation season. He stressed that achieving this goal without any delay was imperative for environmental sustainability. He emphasized the need for ensuring maximum survival of planted saplings by adopting protective measures, including fencing of reforested areas.

Highlighting the ecological importance of wetlands, the Chief Secretary underscored their crucial role in the ecosystem and called for rigorous conservation efforts. He directed the officials to ensure proper demarcation and protection of wetlands, along with improving water quality and other relevant parameters to enhance their sustainability.

Regarding Wular Lake conservation, the Chief Secretary instructed both the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) and the Commissioner Secretary, Forests to personally visit the site. They were asked to review the status of the ongoing conservation works and devise a mechanism to accelerate their execution. He observed that Wular Lake, being Asia's largest freshwater lake, necessitates urgent and effective conservation measures and has a scope of attracting a large number of tourists.

Regarding the conservation of Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need for increased manpower and furthering efforts to achieve tangible results. He pointed out that the scale of work required exceeds the current workforce, necessitating moving of additional resources on the ground for meeting the objectives set for its mitigation.

Additionally, the Chief Secretary stressed the early approval and implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) in coordination with other departments. He instructed for formation of an inter-departmental coordination panel responsible for ensuring smooth execution of the plan by aligning available funds with the envisioned schemes.

Commissioner Secretary, FE&E, Sheetal Nanda, presented an overview of the functioning of the department. She informed that besides protection and conservation of forests, the department carries out rehabilitation of degraded forests, urban area afforestation, maintenance of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries besides looking after the wetlands, pollution control and biodiversity conservation in J&K.

In his presentation, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Suresh Kumar Gupta, highlighted that the UT has a forest area of around 20,194 sq km (47.8 % of Geographical area) with a tree cover of 151.8 million trees as per Draft ToF Report, 2023.

About Wular Lake conservation, the CEO, WUCMA revealed that demarcation of 84 km long Wular boundary has been completed with geo-tagged Boundary Pillars (1159 Nos). It was further added that out of 44 Km of bund consolidation in encroachment prone peripheral areas 11 km have been completed with a dredging of 5 sq km critically silted area till date.

While discussing the environment management plan of the Kishtwar High Altitude National Park, it was projected that it includes Wildlife Mitigation Plan for Rs. 236.00 crore (including 100 crore corpus), Catchment Area Treatment plan (CAT) for Rs. 44.00 crore and Biodiversity Conservation Management Plan for Rs. 18.00 crore.

The meeting was apprised that the Department of wildlife protection looks after 10 other wetlands in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions. These included Hokersar, Shallabugh, Hygam, Mirgund, Chatllahum, Kranchoo, Manibugh, Freshkooori in Kashmir and Surinsar-Mansar and Gharana wetlands in Jammu division.

Dowry demand not...

acts of harassment in pursuit of unlawful demands for property or valuable security, including demands related to dowry.

In the present case, the Andhra Pradesh High Court quashed an FIR against man and others in a case by holding that the allegations against the accused did not constitute the offence of cruelty under Section 498A IPC as there was no dowry demand. Referring to several judgements, the top court set aside the high court's verdict quashing the FIR against them after taking note of the wife's appeal.

The order referred to the statement of objects and reasons for the introduction Section 498A in the IPC in 1983 in Parliament and said it was brought when dowry deaths were on rise in the country.

The bench quoted the statement as saying in Parliament, "The provision was brought to deal effectively not only with cases of dowry death but also cases of cruelty to married women by their in-laws."

UP Govt intensifies...

boat, reviewed cleanliness arrangements and issued further directives to officials to enhance preparations. So far, approximately 59 crore devotees have participated in the world's largest religious and cultural gathering, taking a holy dip at the sacred confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and the invisible Saraswati, according to an official statement.

As the Maha Kumbh, which began on January 13, enters its final phase, an estimated one crore devotees continue to arrive daily, the government said.

The grand event has drawn sadhus and seers from various sects of Sanatan Dharma, along with pilgrims from across the country and the world.

Dignitaries, including the president, vice president, prime minister, governors, chief ministers of several states, King of Bhutan, foreign diplomats, leading industrialists and renowned film personalities have also taken the sacred dip at the Sangam, it added.

Traffic resumes on...

two-way traffic on the highway, the officer said.

Meanwhile, several places in Kashmir received fresh snowfall on Friday while the plains received intermittent rains, officials said here.

The famous tourist resorts of Gulnarg, Sonamarg, and Pahalgam received fresh overnight snowfall, the officials said.

They said snowfall was also recorded in Anantnag, Zojila Pass, Banihal, Sadhna Pass, and Machil in Kupwara, and Razdan Pass in Bandipora.

The plains of the valley, including Srinagar, were lashed by overnight intermittent rains, they added.

The Meteorological Department said in the past 24 hours, Kashmir experienced light to moderate rain in the plains, and light to moderate snow over the higher reaches with isolated moderate to heavy snowfall.

The MeT Office said while the weather is likely to remain cloudy it will be generally dry from February 21-24. Light to moderate rain or snow is possible at most places, with isolated heavy falls, during February 25-28.

Kashmir has witnessed a mostly dry winter this year with the months of January and February recording a precipitation deficit of around 80 per cent.

IIM Jammu concludes sixth batch of Nurturing Future Leadership Programme

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu successfully concluded the valedictory ceremony of the sixth batch of the Nurturing Future Leadership



Program (NFLP) on 21st Feb 2025 at its permanent campus, Vedanta, MDP Centre, Jagti. The program, organized under the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme, Ministry of Education, Government of India, reflects IIM Jammu's commitment to fostering leadership in academia.

The five-day residential program, held from 17th Feb to 21st Feb 2025, equipped 26 educators from institutes across India with leadership, communication, and skill development insights. The curriculum, structured into four key themes, focused on leadership excellence, effective communication, skill enhancement, and recent government initiatives, ensuring a comprehensive learning experience through lectures, interactive workshops, group discussions, case studies, role-plays, and practical exercises. Dr. Parvathy B, Program Director, IIM Jammu, highlighted the diverse backgrounds and cultures of the participants, emphasizing the importance of finding common ground to enhance organizational management. She stressed the value of engaging with bureaucrats and academicians in the course module to understand their perspectives and the rationale behind system setups. Reflecting on the interactive, activity-based sessions conducted, she expressed a desire to continue such initiatives. She assured the participants of IIM Jammu's continued support and reiterated the significance of leadership training for educators, commending their enthusiasm and dedication throughout the program. Dr. Jaganth. G, Program Director, IIM Jammu delivered the vote of thanks, appreciating the efforts of all stakeholders, faculty, and administrative teams for their contributions. He encouraged participants to apply their learning to drive positive changes in their respective institutions. The valedictory ceremony also featured participant reflections, where they shared their key takeaways and expressed appreciation for the enriching learning experience. Certificates were distributed to all participants, marking the successful completion of the program. The event culminated with the national anthem. The Nurturing Future Leadership Program under the Malaviya Mission continues to reinforce IIM Jammu's role as a hub for leadership, innovation, and academic excellence, contributing to the national vision of empowering educators for a transformative impact on the education sector. The program was coordinated by Executive Education and Consultancy, (EE & C), IIM Jammu.

IEI celebrates Regional Language Promotion Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Institution of Engineers (India), Jammu Centre celebrated "Regional Language Promotion Dayat Institutional Complex, Sector -3, Channi Himmat, Jammu. The function was attended by Engineers from various Departments, Organizations and Senior Engineers along with Members of the Committee of IEI, Jammu Local Centre.

On this occasion, Padma Shri Prof. Lalit Mangotra, President, Dogri Sanstha,Jammuwasthe Chief Guest and Er. Vageesh Sharma, President,Prime Association of Radio and Doordarshan Approved Drama Artists & A Dogri Writer was the Keynote

Speaker whereas Er. Anil Verma, FIE; Chairman, IEI Jammu Centre presided over the function. At the outset, Er. Anil Vermapresented the Welcome Addressand said that It was followed by Keynote Address by Er. Vageesh Sharmain. Er. Avneet Gupta,MIE, Honorary Secretary, IEI Jammu Local Centre presented the vote of thanks to the august gathering and media personnel for active participation.



Labour Department organises District-Level Awareness Workshop in Rajouri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: The Labour Department, Rajouri, today organized a District-Level Awareness Workshop at Dak Bungalow Rajouri to educate the public about various labour laws and welfare schemes available for registered construction workers.

The event was graced by DDC Chairperson Adv Naseem Liaquat and MLA Rajouri, Iftikhar Ahmed.

The DDC Chairperson suggested distributing pamphlets in local languages to ensure the general public understands the registration process and scheme benefits. He also called for launching a massive registration drive across the district and suggested that DDC members be consulted for maximum coverage of eligible beneficiaries. Additionally, he highlighted the role of social media in spreading awareness.

MLA Rajouri Iftikhar Ahmed called for extending awareness programs to far-flung areas. He further suggested that all MGNREGA job card holders who have worked for more than 90 days in a financial year should be registered under the Labour Department's welfare schemes. He further proposed to conduct mega awareness programs in remote areas to maximize outreach.

ADDC Rajouri, Dr Raj Kumar Thapa emphasized that many laborers remain unaware of these schemes and hence fail to benefit from them. He stressed the need for BDOs and EOs to ensure proper collection of Cess from construction sites, which can be utilized for workers' welfare.

Earlier, Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) Pradyot Gupta delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation on labour laws and welfare schemes.

The workshop was attended by ACP Sheraz Chouhan, DSWO Abdul Raheem, Ex En PHE Ashwani Khajuria, other district and sectoral officers, prominent citizens, and members of the general public.

JU celebrates linguistic harmony under theme 'Jamburiyat'



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The University of Jammu, under the overarching theme of Jamburiyat on Friday celebrated International Mother Language Day through its club consortium Utsaah under the banner of the Translation Club.

The event, themed "Buzurgon Ki Baat Yuvaon Ke Saath", provided a unique platform for senior members of the Gojri, Bakerwali, and Sarazi-speaking communities to engage with students, introducing them to the cultural heritage and linguistic characteristics of these languages.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Prakash C. Anthal, Convener Utsaah commended the efforts of the Translation Club, emphasizing that "UTSAAH - The Club Consortium remains committed to showcasing the rich linguistic diversity of the Jammu region and providing students with a platform to explore and celebrate their cultural heritage." He further highlighted that, in line with Vice Chancellor Prof Umesh Rai's vision of Jamburiyat, all activities of the club shall align with this theme, reinforcing the spirit of inclusivity and linguistic harmony.

Prof Garima Gupta, Coordinator, Translation Club, reiterated the club's dedication to promoting the diverse languages of the Jammu region and increasing awareness among youth about their historical and cultural significance.

The event aimed to create an interactive space where students could gain insights from the wisdom of senior community members, cultivating a deeper understanding of Jammu's linguistic unity in diversity.

Faculty, staff, officers, and students from various linguistic backgrounds actively participated, engaging with resource persons and exchanging perspectives on language and culture.

Those who attended the event included Prof Dushyant Kumar Rai, Dr. Pardeep Bali, Dr. Rizzin, Dr. Kumerjit, Dr. Ramyan Bharaadwaj, Supriya Sharma, Sumit Sharma, Ifra Kak, and Kulbhushan. The event was conducted by Shubham Chowdary and Himani.

Special employment fair organized at Divya Kala Mela

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A job fair was organized on Friday at DKM, Jammu, by the National Divyanganj Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC), a national corporation under the Government of India. The coordinator of this employment fair, Arun Kumar, mentioned that a total of 12 companies conducted interviews for over 100 differently-abled individuals, leading to their selection for jobs. Prominent companies participating in the job fair included Dabur India, Indigo Airlines, and Lemon Tree Hotels, among others.

In the fair 102 Registered Differently-Abled participated in which 9 were short-listed; 44 were Selected in 12 companies: 12.

HC order transfer of 11 Chief Administrative Officers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court transferred 11 chief Administrative Officers.

According to the order issued by MK Sharma Principal Secretary to Chief Justice that Ali Mohammad Kumar, Chief Administrative Officer in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Kupwara is transferred and posted as such in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Baramulla whereas Mohammad Yousuf Shah, Chief Administrative Officer in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Baramulla is transferred and posted as such in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Budgam whereas Rubina Akhter, Chief Administrative Officer in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Budgam is transferred and posted as such in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar whereas Molvi Muzafer Hussain, Chief Administrative Officer in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar is transferred and posted as such in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Bandipora whereas Rouful Mushtaq Rouf, Chief Administrative Officer in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Bandipora is transferred and posted as such in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Kupwara vice Sh. Ali Mohammad Kumar.

Shamsher Singh, Chief Administrative Officer in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Kulgam & currently attached with the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Jammu is hereby detached and posted as such in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge Udhampur against the available vacancy; Mangat Ram Parihar, Chief Administrative Officer in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Jammu is transferred and posted as such in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Reasi whereas Anil Kumar Puri, Chief Administrative Officer in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Reasi is transferred and posted as such in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Samba, to be effective after the retirement of Ms. Madhu Sharma, Chief Administrative Officer i.e on 28.02.2025. Madan Lal-II, Chief Administrative Officer in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Rajouri is transferred and posted as such in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Jammu , Ram Jyoti Sharma, Section Officer, Spl. Judge Anti-Corruption (CBI), Jammu, upon his promotion is transferred & posted as Chief Administrative Officer in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Kathua against the available vacancy. Sanjeev Dogra, Section Officer in the Court of Pr. District & Sessions Judge, Poonch & currently attached with High Court, Wing Jammu, upon promotion is transferred & posted as Chief Administrative Officer in the Court of Principal District & Sessions Judge, Rajouri. However, he shall continue to remain attached in the High Court, Wing Jammu till further orders.