

Sat, Kavinder discuss present security situation in J&K

Hail Modi Govt's Kashmir Policy as more Hurriyat Groups repose faith in New Bharat

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta on Friday met with BJP J&K President Sat Sharma and discussed the prevailing security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing the need for sustained vigilance and proactive measures to maintain peace and stability in the region.

In the meeting, the BJP stalwart lauded the Modi government's firm and strategic approach towards Kashmir, asserting that it has successfully brought even the staunchest separatists into the national mainstream.

He welcomed the recent decision of two more Hurriyat groups to denounce separatism and place their faith in Modi-led Bharat, calling it a landmark shift in the



Senior BJP leader Kavinder Gupta meeting Party President Sat Sharma.

region's political landscape.

Kavinder said "This development comes as a major breakthrough, as only days ago, two other affiliates of the separatist conglomerate also distanced themselves from the ideology of secessionism. The BJP government has never compromised on the unity and integrity of the nation. Earlier, vested interests incited people, and certain governments even encouraged such ele-

ments. However, that atmosphere no longer exists. Today, Kashmir is witnessing an era of peace and stability, and the people are content. If individuals and groups have realized the futility of separatism and wish to integrate with the mainstream, they are welcome."

Kavinder emphasized the importance of maintaining stability and ensuring that anti-national elements do not regain any foothold in the region. He reiterated

that the progress achieved under the Modi government must be safeguarded against any attempts to disrupt peace.

The former Deputy Chief Minister emphasized that this transformation is a direct outcome of the unwavering commitment of the Home Ministry and the Government of India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He credited the abrogation of Article 370, a stringent crackdown on terror funding, and the proactive outreach to all sections of society as key contributors to this paradigm shift.

Kavinder Gupta further asserted that the message is clear-Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India, and there is no space for separatist narratives anymore. He expressed confidence that the ongoing peace-building

measures would pave the way for greater development, economic prosperity, and long-term stability in the region.

Sat Sharma said that the days of political appeasement and turning a blind eye to anti-national activities are over. The Modi government has ensured that the people of Kashmir are no longer held hostage by vested interests. The future of Jammu and Kashmir lies in peace, development, and national integration, he affirmed.

Sat Sharma urged the people of the region to continue supporting the government's initiatives aimed at fostering progress and prosperity. He reiterated that the BJP remains committed to safeguarding national interests while ensuring holistic development for Jammu and Kashmir.

ICAI announces Major Changes in Examination System - CA Final to be held thrice a year

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In order to align with global best practices and provide students with greater opportunities, the 26th Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has taken a historic decision to hold the CA Final exam three times a year.

This examination was being held twice a year. Last year, ICAI took a decision to hold the Intermediate and Foundation course exams three times a year and now the CA Final exams will follow suit. Now, all three levels-CA Final, Intermediate and Foundation will have an equal number of attempts each year, providing students more opportunities to sit in the exam. These exams will be held in the month of January, May and September. Additionally, the Post Qualification Course in Information Systems Audit



CA Charanjot Singh Nanda, President, ICAI chairing a meeting.

will also undergo a transformation. Earlier conducted twice a year in June and December, the Assessment Test for this course will now be held three times a year - February, June and October, further increasing access and convenience for members

On this decision of the Council, CA Charanjot Singh Nanda, President, ICAI said, "These epoch-making decisions will significantly benefit

both students and members, offering them enhanced opportunities for success. This move marks a new era in the way we support and guide our future Chartered Accountants.

ICAI is working 24/7 for the growth of its members and students. This historic decision will ensure that both students and professionals have abundant opportunities to excel in their careers."

Deputy Chief Minister visits GMC, enquires about Kathua encounter injured



Dy CM Surinder Chowdhary enquiring health of injured cop.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Chowdhary, visited the Government Medical College (GMC) Hospital in Jammu to enquire about the condition of police personnel injured in an encounter in Kathua.

During his visit, the Deputy Chief Minister met with the hospital authorities and medical staff to assess the condition of the injured. He directed the GMC administration to provide the best possible medical care and ensure that all necessary resources are made available for their treatment.

Interacting with the patients and their families, the Deputy Chief Minister assured them of

the government's full support during this challenging time.

"The safety and health of our people are paramount. I have instructed the hospital to leave no stone unturned in providing top-quality care to those injured in the Kathua encounter," said the Deputy Chief Minister.

He also expressed solidarity with the affected families, emphasizing the administration's resolve to maintain peace and security in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Deputy Chief Minister was accompanied by senior officials from the Health Department and local administration, who briefed him on the medical arrangements in place.

DFSS calls for unity against terrorism



DFSS activists staging protest in Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a heartfelt display of solidarity, workers of Dogra Front and Shiv Sena (DFSS), led by their president Ashok Gupta, organized a massive rally in Jammu city to pay homage to the brave police personnel who made the ultimate sacrifice defend-

Rattan Lal urges PM Modi to convene All-Party Meet over the escalating terrorism in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), raised serious concerns over the deteriorating security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, urging the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to convene an all-party meeting of J&K to discuss the alarming rise in terrorism across the Jammu region. He pointed out that terrorism, which was once largely contained to the Valley, has now started spreading across Jammu, putting civilians and security forces at heightened risk.

Paying heartfelt homage, the senior NC leader has expressed profound grief over the martyrdom of four brave soldiers in the Rajbagh area gunfight in district Kathua. He extended condolences to the bereaved families of the fallen heroes, emphasizing that their supreme sacrifice should not go in vain.

Rattan Lal reminded the Prime Minister of his earlier all-party meeting of J&K political leaders called in 2021, where he had assured the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood. He also recalled PM Modi's commitment to bridging the Dilli ki Doori (distance from Delhi) and Dil ki Doori (distance from the heart).

ing the nation. The rally was marked by slogans of unity and respect for the martyrs.

"I bow to the valorous martyrs of J&K Police, who laid down their lives for our motherland. My deepest condolences to their families," said Gupta during the rally.

He emphasized the need to dismantle the network of Over Ground Workers (OGWs) who provide logistical and local support to terrorists. "Without the OGW network, terrorists cannot

sustain themselves or hide in jungles for long," he said.

Gupta further urged the nation to stand together, setting aside politics, to tackle the menace of terrorism.

He advocated for a strong offensive against Pakistan, which he accused of fostering terrorism in India.

"It is highly unfortunate that while Pakistan sends militants to spread fear, some individuals here advocate dialogue with the terror nation. As our Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stated, "Terror and talks cannot go hand in hand," he added.

The rally saw the participation of prominent members of the party, including Abhishek, Ashish, Rahul, Ashu, Surinder, Prem, Rampal, Naresh, Kunal, Bantu, Vikky, and many others, who expressed their unwavering support for the security forces and their families.

JMC launches drive to ensure Hygienic & Good Quality food for Eid celebrations



JMC officials carrying out drive.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: With Eid celebrations just around the corner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has launched a comprehensive drive to ensure quality meat is being served to the public. The initiative aims to guarantee safe and hygienic meat supply, giving citizens a worry-free and joyful Eid experience.

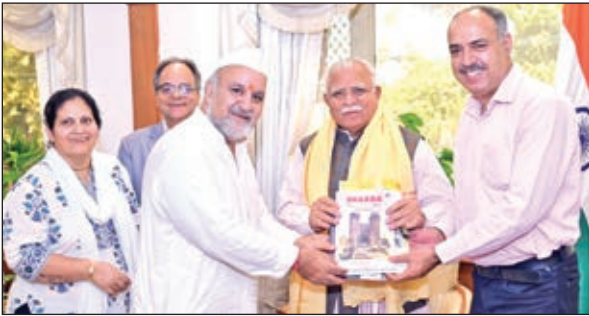
On Directions of Commissioner JMC, Dr. Devansh Yadav, a team of Veterinary Section of JMC headed by Dr. Gourav Chowdhary, conducted surprise inspections of meat

markets across the city. The inspection focused on verifying the authenticity of meat, checking for any signs of disease or contamination, and ensuring compliance with food safety standards.

During the drive, 11 meat shops were penalised and directions were issued to all shops to abide by food safety norms for health and safety of consumers.

JMC's drive will continue until the end of Eid celebrations and citizens' complaints will also be addressed through online & offline modes.

AIKS delegation meets Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar to discuss Kashmiri Pandit rehabilitation



AIKS delegation meeting Union Minister Manohar Lal.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A delegation from the All India Kashmiri Samaj (AIKS) met Manohar Lal Khattar, Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Government of India, to discuss key issues concerning the Kashmiri Pandit community. The meeting, held in New Delhi, focused on the rehabilitation and return of Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley and securing a permanent address or

asset for AIKS. Ravinder Pandita, President of AIKS, described the half-hour meeting as "quite fruitful," highlighting the productive exchange of ideas and Minister Khattar's constructive suggestions. The Minister encouraged the delegation to present well-planned proposals for consideration and assured support from the Government of India for their initiatives. During the meeting, the AIKS delegation presented

the Minister with a book on Sharda and a portrait of Sharda Peeth, a historic site in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), as a symbol of the cultural and spiritual heritage of Kashmiri Pandits.

The delegation included Vijay Kashlari, Vice President, AIKS, Dalip Kaul, Advisor, AIKS, Ajay Pandita and Kusum Lata. The members expressed gratitude for the Minister's positive response and emphasized the need for collaborative efforts to ensure the rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits and the preservation of their cultural identity.

The meeting marks a significant step toward addressing the long-standing concerns of Kashmiri Pandits, with a focus on building a roadmap for their dignified return to the Valley. AIKS looks forward to presenting detailed proposals and working closely with the government to achieve these goals.

Dogri Sanstha Jammu invites books for Prof. Ramnath Shastri Memorial Award-2025

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dogri Sanstha Jammu has invited books from dogri writers for Prof. Ramnath Shastri Memorial Award-2025.

As per a press note, the dogri writers who have published their first dogri book of any genre between 2020 to 2024 may submit 5 copies of the book at its office at Dogri Bhawan, Karan Nagar, Jammu by April 04th 2025. The submitted book should not have been awarded by Sahitya Akademi, J&K Academy or any other Government or Non-Government organization.

As per Padmashri Prof. Lalit Magotra, President Dogri Sanstha Jammu, this prestigious award was started by Dogri Sanstha Jammu in collaboration with family of Late Padmashri Prof. Ramnath Shahstri in 2014. It carries a memento, shawl and a cash prize money of Rs 21000. The award is presented every year on April 15th, birthday of Prof. Ramnath Shastri. He further added that Prof. Ramnath Shastri always advocated that the youths and new entrants in the field of literature should be

encouraged to lead a movement in the future.

He had inspired many established writers writing in Hindi or Urdu to pen down their creative literary works in Dogri and the result is obvious that we have world class literature today because of their colossal contributions. The soul of the award is also to follow the footsteps of Shastri ji and contribute in the movement started by him thus inspiring the new writers for promoting mother tongue Dogri.

Rajeshwar Singh 'Raju', General Secretary, Dogri Sanstha Jammu said that Prof. Ramnath Shastri is regarded as doyen of Dogri literature. The award established in his name has been inspiring the young writers for so many years now.

The response of the dogri writers for the prestigious award proves the significance of the award and the aspirations of the writers to have the honour. He hoped that this year also all the writers will submit their books in good number.

He further added that after evaluation and being shortlisted by a committee of eminent dogri litterateurs,

an independent jury will select the best one of the lot and winner will be honoured with prestigious award.

Congress protests against rising terror activities, demands statehood restoration



Congress leaders taking out protest rally.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Minister and working president of the Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC), Raman Bhalla, led a massive protest at the historic Bahu Fort, raised slogans against terrorism and Pakistan, while emphasizing the BJP's failure to curb the deteriorating security situation in Jammu. Bhalla highlighted recent terror activities in Kathua and Reasi districts, where security forces have been engaged in prolonged encoun-

ters, resulting in the martyrdom of four police personnel. Bhalla called for immediate action to restore peace and ensure the safety of the region's residents. Former Minister Yogesh Sawhney urged immediate reassessment of the government's security strategy.

DCC President Th Manmohan Singh said the ongoing encounters in Kathua and Reasi have only intensified

the scrutiny on the BJP's security strategy. In Kathua, a district that shares a porous border with Pakistan, security forces have been engaged in prolonged operations to neutralize terrorists, with reports suggesting a possible infiltration attempt, he said.

Meanwhile, in Reasi, known for its religious significance due to the Vaishno Devi shrine, the presence of terrorists has sparked fears of a broader escalation. Th Manmohan Singh said adding that the loss of four policemen in these encounters has struck a chord with the public, amplifying calls for a reassessment of the measures in place to combat terrorism.

The Congress leaders vowed that the party would continue to press the BJP on its failures, both on the streets and in the political arena.

Helping Hands Jammu's Scholarship students shine with outstanding marks

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Helping Hands Jammu continues to support underprivileged students, particularly those without parents or from single-parent households, by providing them with educational scholarships.

This year, several scholarship recipients have achieved remarkable academic success, proving that determination and the right support can lead to excellence.

Among the top achievers, Pihu Gupta from JIMS, Jammu, secured an impressive 98%, Jasmeet Singh from Akhnoor scored 86%, and Meenu Sharma from Cluster University achieved 64%. Many other students have also performed exceptionally well in their respective examinations.

Helping Hands Jammu remains steadfast in its com-

mitment to empowering such students through continuous educational support.

The organisation is always ready to provide scholarships to deserving students so they can continue their education without financial burden.

On this proud occasion, the Founder of Helping Hands Jammu, Sourav Sharma shared a heartfelt message, "Education is the strongest tool for change, and we will always stand by these bright students. Their achievements inspire us to expand our scholarship programmes and support even more children in need."

The organisation congratulates all the successful students and encourages society to contribute towards the education of underprivileged children, ensuring a brighter future for all.

31st Chhari Mubarak Yatra to Purmandal Shrines taken out

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The "31st Holy Chhari Yatra" was taken to the historic religious shrines of Purmandal after performing Pooja at Shri Ranbreshwar Ji and Shri Raghunath Ji Mandir, Jammu, by the representatives of Dharamarth Trust, J&K, Management Trust, Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, and Dogra Sadar Sabha at 7:00 AM. Thereafter, the Holy Maces were taken to Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, by Mahatnas and renowned Pujaris led by Mahant Rishiban Ji, where a grand Pooja was performed in the presence of Vikram



MLA Vikram Randhawa and others during the Charri Mubarak Yatra in Jammu.

Randhawa, MLA Gandhi Nagar, and Th. Gulchain Singh Charak (Former Minister) and President of Shri Lakshmi Narayan

Mandir Management Trust, along with Members of 667 of devotees and saints also participated.

After that, the

Holy Chharis were taken to Purmandal in a profusely decorated vehicle via Shri Mahadev Mandir, Gandhi Nagar, Shiv Mandir, Trikuta Nagar, Shiv Mandir, Greater Kailash, Data Ranpat Dev Ji, and Shri Narsingh Dev Ji Mandirs in Birpur and Kharah Madana before reaching the Holy Shrines at Purmandal. En route, a befitting reception was given by a large number of people from all communities. A special reception for the Holy Chharis was organized at Kharah Madana and Mandal, where a true spirit of communal harmony was observed as Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and prominent Moulvis of

the area welcomed the Holy Maces and offered heavy refreshments to the pilgrims accompanying the Yatra.

Th. Gulchain Singh Charak, while addressing the people, explained the significance of these historical shrines and the Holy Chhari Yatra, which started 30 years ago. He also thanked the members of all organizations participating in the event for their full support in making it a grand success. Additionally, he expressed gratitude to the District Administration Samba for taking a keen interest in the development of these historical shrines. He urged the government and Dharamarth Trust to

ensure the all-around development of these holy places on a war footing.

Vikram Randhawa, MLA, after performing Pooja Archana of the Holy Maces, appreciated Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Management Trust for their consistent efforts over the last 30 years in making this Chhari Yatra a grand success by bringing together people from all walks of life, which is the uniqueness of this Chhari Yatra.

Prominent among others who expressed their views on the occasion included Mahant Rishiban Ji, Th. Gulchain Singh Charak (Former Minister) and Ashok Sharma, Secretary, Dharamarth Trust.