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STATE TIMES

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09 Cricketer Abhishek Sharma offers prayers at Vaishno Devi shrine

10 J&K Roll Ball teams felicitated for National triumph

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Preserve Jammu's heritage, connect youth to roots: LG

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday urged the practitioners of literature and arts to preserve Jammu division's rich heritage, promote its legacy, and connect the new generation to their roots.

"Jammu's traditions in literature, culture, and spirituality have taught us to rise above divisions of caste, creed, and artificial boundaries. The values embedded in our culture embody an ideology that places humanity above all," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of two-day literary-cultural conclave "Sahitya Sanskriti Samagam", organised by University of Jammu. He commended the University of Jammu for its steadfast commitment to preserving and promoting the region's cultural ethos and making its mark among the country's top universities.



LG Manoj Sinha speaking at the inauguration of literary-cultural conclave at University of Jammu on Friday.

The Lieutenant Governor said the society shaped by our abundant literary and cultural wealth will determine who we are and what we can become.

He urged everyone to reflect in this festival of literature and culture on the true identity that binds us and instills a profound sense of belonging.

"True confluence of culture and literature means engaging with the soil through diverse art forms, infusing new resonance into society's soul," he said.

Paying homage to great luminaries and illustrious literary personalities, the Lieutenant Governor emphasised that a region's identity is not defined merely by economic achievements; it shines through its stories, songs, and the vibrant hues of its artisans. He said that the society's enlightened minds must recognize folk arts and folk literature as Jammu's living vitality.

"Our folk traditions do not dwell in libraries; they thrive in writers' quills, singers' songs, folk dance footprints,

and artists' brushes and pigments.

With deep responsibility, I call upon everyone, especially youth to serve literature and culture. It upholds the living legacy of values passed down through generations, entrusting you not just with an inheritance but with the duty of its cultural-literary bequest. This tradition teaches us the virtue of inclusion," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that safeguarding

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No back-log of contract payments at Treasuries: DGAT

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Directorate of Accounts and Treasuries (DGAT) has completely negated the recent media reports regarding delay in contract payments, terming them false and inaccurate.

In a statement issued here, the DGAT puts on record that all liability on account of contract payment has been cleared and there is no back-log so far as contract payment at treasuries is concerned. "The fact is that

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Live rocket shell found in Kishtwar, defused

STATE TIMES NEWS

KISHTWAR: In a major achievement for security forces, a live rocket launcher shell was found in the Bindraban area of Kishtwar district on Friday afternoon, prompting heightened security measures in the region.

According to officials, a tourist who had come to the popular picnic spot at Bindraban noticed a suspicious object resembling

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Omar chairs cabinet meeting in Jammu; key decisions on governance taken



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chairing Cabinet meeting in Jammu on Friday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday chaired a Cabinet meeting here, paving the way for key decisions aimed at strengthening governance and accelerating development across the Union Territory.

The decisions were taken with a focus on improving administrative efficiency

and public service delivery, the office of the Chief Minister said in a post on X. The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary and ministers, including Sakina Itoo, Javed Ahmed Rana, Javid Ahmed Dar and Satish Sharma, officials said.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo was also present. Separately, the Chief

Minister also chaired a review meeting on the implementation of works under the SASSI scheme.

He stressed the need for timely execution and effective monitoring of projects and directed officers to ensure that the benefits of the scheme reach people on the ground in a transparent and efficient manner within the stipulated time-frame, without any lapse of funds.

Northern Army Commander visits Basantgarh, reviews counter-terror ops



Northern Army Commander, Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma interacting with troops at Basantgarh.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Northern Army Commander, Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, on Friday visited

the Basantgarh hills in Udhampur district to review the prevailing security situation and ongoing

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Consignment dropped by Pakistani drone recovered near IB

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A suspicious consignment allegedly dropped by a Pakistani drone was recovered by security forces near the International Border (IB) in the outskirts of Jammu city on Friday, officials said.

The yellow plastic-packed consignment was recovered from a forward area along the IB in the R S Pura sector, they said.

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RR Swain appointed first Chairman of OUSSSC

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Retired IPS officer Rashmi Ranjan Swain, who earlier served as the Director General of Police (DGP) in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), was appointed on Friday as the first Chairman of the Odisha Uniformed Services Staff Selection Commission (OUSSSC).

Appointment of the former police chief has been approved by the Government of Odisha as part of its initiative to operationalise the newly created staff selection commission that will oversee recruitment for various uniformed services in the State. The government had earlier



decided to establish the OUSSSC as a dedicated recruitment body to streamline and ensure transparency in the selection process for several uniformed services across departments. The commission will conduct

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Assassination bid on Farooq Abdullah: Spl DGP Gillani to head probe panel to report in 3 days

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A day after the sensational firing incident, targeting National Conference President Farooq Abdullah at a wedding function here, the Jammu and Kashmir Government on Friday constituted a high-level probe team headed by Special Director General of Police S.J.M. Gillani to investigate the alleged security lapse.

The panel has been asked to submit its report within three days.

The Court on Thursday remanded the accused, Kamal Singh Jamwal (63), to five-day police custody for detailed

interrogation.

Jamwal was produced before the court amid tight security arrangements. Police sought custody stating that further questioning was required to determine the motive behind the firing and to ascertain

whether the accused had links with any individual or organisation. The court, after hearing both sides, granted the remand and directed police to ensure a medical examination of the



accused every 24 hours during custody.

According to officials, Jamwal, a resident of Purani Mandi in Jammu, allegedly opened fire at Farooq Abdullah during a marriage

FOLLOW-UP

ceremony held at a banquet venue in the Greater Kailash area on Wednesday night. Abdullah had attended the function to bless the newlywed couple, the daughter of a party colleague. Security personnel at the venue quickly overpowered the accused before any harm could be

caused.

Speaking briefly to reporters while being taken to court, Jamwal said, "I have not done this at the behest of anyone. I have fired at him." However, senior police officials said preliminary investigations suggest that the accused acted alone, and there is no indication of a larger conspiracy so far. They added that Jamwal was under the influence of liquor at the time of the incident.

Police have registered a case under relevant sections of law, including attempt to murder and illegal use

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Cop, wife killed; children injured in Bharderwah road mishap

STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: A husband and wife died and their two children were injured after the car they were travelling in met with a road accident near Basti Pul Nalthi on the Bharderwah-Bani road, this morning.

Four members of the same family were travelling in the vehicle at the time of the mishap.

The deceased have been identified as Zulfikar Ali (47) son of Abdul Latif, res-

ident of Lawang Bani and his wife Rehana Begum (42). Their two sons, Kamran and



Arish sustained injuries in the accident. The injured were immediately shifted to Sub-District Hospital Bharderwah for treatment and were later shifted to

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Let's hope this war ends soon: Farooq on West Asia conflict

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Friday wished a swift end to the war in West Asia, ascribing the shortage of fuel in Indian markets to the conflict that has led to the closing of the Strait of Hormuz, a key oil route.

"The shortage of fuel and gas is due to a war that is going on. Let's hope and pray that this war ends soon," Abdullah told reporters at Hazratbal shrine here.

The former J-K chief minister was at the

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BJP ensured lasting peace, Cong signed accords for 'selfish political interests': PM

STATE TIMES NEWS

GUWAHATI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that sounds of bombs and gunfire are a thing of the past in the Northeast, and asserted that the BJP ensured long-lasting peace in the region, while the Congress, during its tenure, signed various accords for "selfish political interests".

Addressing a public meeting in Assam's Kokrajhar district virtually from Guwahati after rain disrupted his travel schedule,

Modi said the state was writing a new chapter of peace and development under the



"double-engine" government. Modi alleged that the Congress endangered national security by handing over

the land of indigenous people to infiltrators. "Punish the Congress in the upcoming elections and send a clear message that there is no place for infiltrators in this country," he asked the people.

The elections for the 126-member Assam Assembly are likely to be held in April. Modi alleged that the Congress was always in league with the

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V K Saxena takes oath as LG of UT Ladakh

STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Vinai Kumar Saxena on Friday took oath as the 4th Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh at a ceremony held at the Arya Nagarjuna Auditorium of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies in Choglamsar.

The oath of office and secrecy was administered by the Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Arun Palli. Earlier, Chief Secretary Ashish Kundra read out the warrant of appointment issued by the President of India, following which Vinai Kumar Saxena signed the charge certificate.

Saxena succeeds Kavinder Gupta as the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Following the swearing-in ceremony, Vinai Kumar Saxena was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour by the Ladakh Police.

Interacting with the media after the



Chief Justice Arun Palli administering oath of the office and secrecy to LG Vinai Kumar Saxena at Leh on Friday.

ceremony, the Lieutenant Governor expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union Home Minister Amit Shah for entrusting him with the responsibility of serving the people of Ladakh.

Describing Ladakh as the "crown of India", he assured that he would work

wholeheartedly in accordance with the aspirations and requirements of the people.

Highlighting his development approach, Saxena stated that he intends to visit villages and remote areas across Ladakh to understand the problems faced by people on the

ground and identify practical and sustainable solutions.

He noted that Ladakh possesses tremendous tourism potential and emphasised that one of his key priorities would be to make Ladakh one of the most beautiful and sought-after tourism destinations in the country and the world.

The Lieutenant Governor also stressed the importance of sustainable and environmentally responsible development, noting that Ladakh's fragile ecosystem requires careful planning.

He spoke about the need to increase greenery through plantation drives, afforestation initiatives and the development of water bodies. He also highlighted the importance of improving urban infrastructure, including cleanliness and the expansion of sewage treatment facilities.

Reiterating the commitment of the administration towards the welfare of the people,

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CENTENARY YEAR: RSS plans to expand 'Shakhas', focus on public outreach

STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) Joint General Secretary C R Mukund on Friday said special emphasis is being placed on expansion of 'shakhas' and engagement of society through public outreach programmes to mark the organisation's centenary year.

In Kerala, over 55,000 Muslim and 54,000 Christian homes were covered under the public outreach initiative, he said in a press conference in Samalkha, Panipat.

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale inaugurated the three-day meet of the RSS' top decision-making body -- Akhil Bharatiya Pratimidhi Sabha

(ABPS) -- in Samalkha.

As this year marks the centenary of the right-wing organisation, the meeting will include detailed discussions on major programmes and campaigns organised as part of the celebrations. These include 'grihasampark' (mass contact programme), Hindu Sammelan, youth conferences, gatherings of prominent citizens and social harmony meetings.

In his address, Mukund talked about the RSS' 'panch parivartan' initiative, which focuses on social harmony, preservation of family values, environmental protection, selfhood and self-reliance, and adherence to legal, civic, and constitutional duties.

The RSS has

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ROZA TIMING

SEHR TIME: 05:19 (MARCH 15)
IFTAAR TIME: 06:39 (MARCH 14)

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 31.6°C Min: 14.3°C

Humidity
Max: 78 Min: 50

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 19.2°C Min: 4.4°C

Humidity
Max: 83 Min: 69

Sunset: 18:36 Hours
Sunrise: 06:44 Hours