

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Preserve Jammu's heritage...

our language preserves our memories; nurturing regional art forms builds self-assurance.

"Let us focus on local tales, dialects, and artistic traditions, for every individual's identity draws nourishment from these roots. When generations gather to exchange experiences, cultural and literary heritage transcends the past-it becomes a living dialogue," he further said.

The two-day literary-cultural conclave features cultural processions, stalls showcasing indigenous attires, handicrafts, traditional cuisines, books and arts, panel discussions, and series of activities highlighting region's unique identity, honouring languages, folklore, customs, creativity and literary heritage.

On the occasion, the first edition of Jammu University's multilingual magazine 'The Litzine' was also released.

Addressing the gathering during the literary event, the Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, Prof. Umesh Rai, expressed gratitude to the distinguished literary personalities who had joined the event and acknowledged the guidance and support extended by Padma Shri Prof. Lalit Magotra in shaping the programme.

Prof. Rai also welcomed the eminent guests who had travelled from different places to participate in the conclave and emphasized that the University deeply values its association with such distinguished literary personalities, many of whom are also alumni of the institution. He suggested that eminent literary figures should be closely associated with the University's Alumni Association as their presence enhances the intellectual and cultural prestige of the institution.

Highlighting the importance of language and culture in shaping identity, the Vice Chancellor observed that pride in one's language and cultural heritage forms the foundation of a vibrant society.

Quoting the noted poet Maithili Sharan Gupt, he remarked that a person who does not take pride in his own language and cultural heritage loses a vital part of his identity. He further reiterated that the University will continue to explore ways and resources to strengthen initiatives aimed at promoting regional languages and literary traditions.

A major highlight of the first day was the panel discussion titled "Jammu Ka Sahitya: Bimb-Pratibimb," which explored the reflection of Jammu's socio-cultural ethos in its literary traditions. The session was moderated by Padma Shri Prof. Lalit Magotra.

The panel discussion featured eminent speakers including Khalid Hussain, Shailender Singh, Dr. Fulail Singh Paddari, Aseer Kishtwari, K. D. Maini, Dr. Javaid Rahi and Manzoor Katoch, who shared their insights on the literary evolution of the region and the role of language in preserving cultural memory.

The discussion highlighted the rich and diverse literary traditions of the Jammu region, emphasizing the need to preserve and promote its regional languages and literary expressions. Speakers reflected on the contributions of languages such as Dogri, Punjabi, Pahari, Gojri, Kishtwari, Pogli, Bhadarwahi, Sarazi and Padri, noting that while these languages possess deep historical and cultural roots, much of their literature still remains confined to regional circles.

The panelists stressed the need to translate regional literary works into Hindi and English so that Jammu's literary heritage can reach wider national and international audiences.

They also underscored the important role of academic institutions, particularly the University of Jammu, in encouraging research, documentation and publication in regional languages to ensure that the region's vibrant linguistic and cultural diversity continues to flourish for future generations.

Adding a dynamic dimension to the event, a spirited student competition followed the panel discussion. Coordinated by Prof. Jyoti, students reviewed books across various regional languages and presented their analysis in regional languages, Hindi and English. The segment served as a bridge between established scholarship and the emerging generation of young thinkers.

The prize distribution ceremony was presided over by Prof. Neeru Rohmetra, who distributed certificates and awards to the participants. Kanika Devi from Kartar Public School secured the first prize, while Prerna Tickoo from Lawrence Public School won the second prize. The third prize was awarded to Deepanjan Singh from Air Force School, Jammu.

The literary engagements were followed by a Multilingual Mushaira, conducted by Irfan Arif, which brought together poets reciting in different languages and reflecting the region's rich linguistic diversity.

The vibrant and passionate Mushaira was followed by folk performances by renowned artists including Padma Shri Romalo Ram and Asha Kesar, whose performances captivated the audience and highlighted the rich folk traditions of the Jammu region.

Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University; Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu; eminent journalists Rajkishor, Consulting Editor, Amar Ujala and Jai Prakash Pandey, Editor, Sahitya Tak India Today Group; Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research studies; Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Registrar; Prof. Sadaf Shah, Coordinator, Sahitya Sanskriti Samagam; Heads of Departments, faculty members of Jammu University, senior officials, prominent citizens and students in large number attended the inaugural ceremony.

No back-log of...

the Department has released full funds under Capex", the statement reads.

The DGAT has further requested the media organisations that in the interest of balanced and professional reporting, Finance department's version regarding these matters may also be included.

Live rocket shell...

a rocket shell and immediately informed the security forces.

Acting swiftly on the information, security personnel rushed to the spot and secured the area. The suspected rocket launcher shell was taken into custody to prevent any potential danger.

Later, a Bomb Disposal Squad was called to the scene. The team carefully shifted the live shell to a safer location where it was destroyed in a controlled operation.

Meanwhile, security forces have cordoned off the area and launched a search operation in the surroundings to rule out the presence of any other explosive material.

Authorities have urged the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious objects or activities to the nearest security agency.

Cop, wife killed...

government medical college Hospital Doda. As per doctors, the victims sustained multiple injuries but are stable and are presently under observation.

The District Administration Doda promptly ensured that the injured persons received immediate medical attention and all required treatment.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed grief over the loss of lives in a tragic road accident in Doda district. He has conveyed his condolences to the family of Zulfiqar Ali, Head Constable, J&K Police. Zulfiqar Ali and his wife Rehana Begum succumbed to their injuries and died on the spot.

The Lieutenant Governor prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls and wished a speedy recovery to those injured.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh telephonically spoke with Deputy Commissioner Krishan Lal and directed the district administration to ensure proper care of the injured and extend all possible assistance.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner visited the Government Medical College here to enquire about the condition of the injured.

The hospital authorities briefed the Deputy Commissioner about the condition of the injured and the treatment being provided to them at the hospital. He directed the Chief Medical Officer and attending doctors to ensure the best possible medical treatment and proper care for the injured.

Interacting with the injured and their attendants, he wished them a speedy recovery and assured all necessary support from the district administration.

Assassination bid on...

of a firearm, and have begun a comprehensive probe into the accused's background. Investigators are examining his personal, social and possible organisational connections as well as his recent movements to establish the exact motive behind the attack.

Officials said that Jamwal told interrogators he had been waiting for an opportunity for nearly 20 years to target Abdullah, though he did not explain the reason behind the alleged grudge.

Jamwal reportedly earns his livelihood from rent generated by a few shops owned by him in the city.

Police are also reviewing the security arrangements at the venue to determine how the accused managed to enter the function carrying a weapon. The incident has triggered widespread concern and condemnation, prompting the government to order the high-level inquiry headed by Spl DGP S.J.M. Gillani to examine possible lapses.

Investigators said Jamwal had earlier been associated with Jagran Manch, a socio-political group, and later joined the National Panthers Party. He had also unsuccessfully contested a municipal election from his ward in the past.

Father of three children, including two daughters, Jamwal had accompanied the Baraat to the venue as a close relative of the groom's family when the incident occurred.

Meanwhile, senior officers continue to question him as part of the ongoing investigation while the government-appointed panel begins its probe into the circumstances and security lapses leading to the firing.

Northern Army Commander...

counter-terrorist operations in the militancy-affected mountainous belt.

During the visit, the Army commander was also briefed on the intelligence grid and enhanced security measures in the region.

"Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, Army Commander, Northern Command, visited Basantgarh to review the prevailing security situation and ongoing counter-terrorist operations," Northern Command headquarters said on X.

"Focused deliberations were held on reinforcing the security architecture in coordination with all stakeholders."

Lt Gen Sharma interacted with the troops and commended them for their work towards a terror-free Jammu and Kashmir.

Basantgarh in Udhampur district lies along a traditional infiltration route used by Pakistani terrorists who reportedly enter Indian territory through Kathua before moving into the mountainous districts, officials said.

The area shares boundaries with both Kathua and Doda, giving it significant strategic importance. Several encounters between security forces and terrorists have taken place in Basantgarh in recent years, they added.

BJP ensured lasting peace...

infiltrators and never legally granted land rights to the state's indigenous population.

The Congress handed over Adivasi land to the infiltrators, and in districts like Dhubri and Goalpara, the situation was grim, affecting Kokrajhar's demography, he said.

"I am happy that Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is leading a big drive to clear land from encroachment, and the BJP government has handed rights to the indigenous people. I am also grateful to people from the tribal communities for extending their cooperation in this regard," the PM said.

Modi alleged that Kokrajhar has witnessed the betrayal of the Congress for decades, as the opposition Congress had made false promises.

"The Congress signed peace accords just for show and for selfish interests, but the BJP worked for permanent peace, and ensured the development of Bodoland," Modi said.

He said that hills of Bodoland echoed for decades with sounds of guns and bomb blasts, but "now those days are over, and it is moving ahead in the path of peace and development".

"The people have suffered and lost a lot over the years....we have seen those difficult days, but now the beats of the 'kham' (drum) and 'siphong' (flutes) are heard," he said.

Only when the people removed the Congress from both the state and the Centre, "we were able to begin the region's development honestly and sincerely", Modi said. In an apparent reference to Rahul Gandhi's 'Mohabbat ki Dukaan' (shop of love) slogan, the Prime Minister claimed: "The Congress is a 'jhute vaido ke dukkan' (a shop of false promises), and with one lie it gives four more 'super lies' as a gift, as they do not have the intention of fulfilling any promise."

In contrast, the model of the 'double engine' government is before the people and an honest effort is made to fulfil all the promises made, he said.

The BJP's double-engine government is committed to preserve cultural traditions and speedy development of the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), he said.

He said that he was indebted to the people of BTR for their love and added, "I have always tried to repay it with my service and speedy development of the region."

Modi also mentioned that he had witnessed the grand spectacle of 'Bagurumba dwhou', a Bodo cultural event, at Guwahati in January.

"I feel proud that the Bodo society has kept its language, culture and traditions with such care- whether it is the spiritual traditions of Bathou or the Bwisagu festival, which strengthens Indian civilisation," he said.

The NDA government is also working to preserve Assam's heritage and ensure speedy development, Modi said.

"In today's programme itself, projects worth more than Rs 4,750 crore have been launched with over Rs 1100 crore to be spent on the development of road infrastructure in Bodoland, which will further strengthen road connectivity in the state," he said. Trains have also been flagged off, which will not only be convenient for the people but also promote trade and tourism, the PM said, adding that a railway workshop will be set up here and help the region to be a major logistics hub.

Work on railway connectivity with Bhutan is also progressing along with the modernisation of several stations, he said.

Let's hope this...

famous shrine for Juma'atul Vida prayers.

Abdullah said some forces were trying to destroy Islam. "May Allah destroy them (who want to destroy Islam)," he said. The party president urged the people to stay united. "We can move forward only when we are together."

RR Swain appointed...

Members) Rules, 2026. These rules outline the procedure for appointing the Chairman and Members of the commission and define their service conditions.

Earlier, the OUSSSC Rules, 2025, notified by the Odisha General Administration and Public Grievance Department, had laid the framework for conducting recruitment examinations for uniformed services.

As per the provisions, the OUSSSC will consist of a Chairman and two Members appointed by the State government. Officials say the establishment of the new recruitment body aims to strengthen transparency and efficiency in the hiring process for key uniformed services across Odisha.

CENTENARY YEAR: RSS...

reached out to more than 10 crore homes under "grihasampark", he said, adding that more than 3 lakh villages have been covered and the organisation is also seeing a positive impact in society of "sabbhag gosti" and the "pramukh nagrik gostis".

In Kerala, RSS reached out to several households including Muslims, Christians and also those belonging to individuals with communist leanings.

We received a warm welcome everywhere we went. Our 'swayamsevaks' reached out to 55,000 Muslim and 54,000 Christian homes, Mukund said, adding that the Sangh also reached tribal regions through its public outreach initiative.

Elaborating on the Sangh's plan of action to mark its centenary year, Mukund said there are two main dimensions to various initiatives -- organisational growth, focused on expansion of 'shakhas', and concerted effort to engage with society, foster harmony within it, and mobilize all the virtuous forces of the community to dedicate themselves to the work of social transformation, and public awakening.

Hindu Sammelans have been held at more than 36,000 places in the country and more are going to take place including urban, rural areas and remote corners, Mukund said.

The Sangh's ongoing endeavour involves engaging prominent citizens across various localities to serve as key community leaders, he added.

BJP chief Nitin Nabin and presidents and other senior functionaries of its 32 sister organisations, among others, will attend the key three-day meet.

"To foster harmony within society, we are collaborating at the block level with local community leaders, heads of spiritual organisations, and heads of religious centres, Mukund said.

"Together, we aim to deliberate upon and implement positive initiatives that bring about necessary social reforms. Specifically, the Sangh has identified five transformations. Five key themes representing the changes currently desired within society," he said.

On the Naxal-affected regions, the Sangh said that the situation is gradually returning to normal due to the government's efforts

Mukund said political stability is coming in Manipur. Moreover, the ongoing effort wherein individuals from all communities and castes, along with prominent figures, come together to deliberate collectively, is yielding results, an endeavour in which the Sangh, too, has a role.

He added that a difficult situation arose in Bangladesh, one that persists to this day. Therefore, the Sangh urges the government there to undertake whatever efforts are necessary to safeguard the rights and interests of Hindus.

Asked about the West Asia conflict, he said the crisis should end soon, this is what we and the Indian society believe.

Sunil Anbekar RSS' Akhil Bharatiya Prachar Pramukh said this year marks the centenary year of the Sangh.

Anbekar on Wednesday said the three-day meeting will review the activities of the Sangh during 2025-26 and present reports on significant initiatives carried out across various regions.

The meeting is being attended by RSS senior office-bearers, along with members of the national executive body. A total of 1,487 'karyakartas' will participate, including elected representatives and key office-bearers from various parts.

In addition, presidents, general secretaries, and organising secretaries of 32 affil-

iated organisations will also be present.

V K Saxena...

Saxena said that, as entrusted to him by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he would ensure that the people of Ladakh are never disappointed.

He added that he would work in close coordination with the people and seek their cooperation in transforming Ladakh into a developed and progressive Union Territory. He further stated that he would make every effort to meet people from different sections of society and address their concerns.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also interacted with people from diverse backgrounds who had gathered to greet him and convey their best wishes on assuming charge as the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh. The ceremony also featured a cultural performance in his honour, showcasing Ladakh's rich cultural heritage.

Vinai Kumar Saxena brings with him over three decades of extensive experience in the corporate and social sectors. Prior to this appointment, he served as the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, where he initiated several measures aimed at strengthening urban governance, environmental conservation and public infrastructure.

During his tenure in Delhi, he was credited with restoring urban forests such as Sanjay Van, developing green public spaces along the Yamuna riverfront, initiating land management reforms, strengthening citizen-centric civic amenities and overseeing city beautification initiatives.

Among those present at the swearing-in ceremony were Chief Executive Councillor, LAHDC Kargil, Dr Mohd Jaffer Akhoo; Member of Parliament from Ladakh, Mohamad Haneefa Jan; Drukpa Thuksey Rinpoche; DGP Ladakh, Mukesh Singh; GOC 14 Corps Lt Gen Hitesh Bhalla; Founder of Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre, Bhikkhu Sanghasena; former Member of Parliament from Ladakh, Jamyang Tsering Namgyal; Principal District and Sessions Judge Leh, Spalzes Angmo; Executive Councillors from LAHDC Kargil, Administrative Secretaries, Deputy Commissioner Leh, Romil Singh Donk; Deputy Commissioner, Kargil, Rakesh Kumar; SSP Leh Shree Raam; Directors and Heads of Departments, representatives from various political, religious and civil society organisations, state awardees, prominent citizens, senior government officials, law officials and officers from the Indian Army, ITBP and Ladakh Police.

Consignment dropped by...

Acting on the information, teams of the BSF and Police rushed to the spot, and the consignment was recovered at around 11 am in a forward area following information from locals, officials added.

Preliminary reports said that the consignment was wrapped in a package weighing approximately 1.5 kilograms and was lying in the border belt. The package has not been opened yet, they said.

Officials noted that, as a precautionary measure, the package will be examined using a metal detector and other safety protocols to rule out the presence of any explosive material before it is opened.

Further investigation and technical examination of the recovered consignment are underway, they said.

Cricketer Abhishek Sharma offers prayers at Vaishno Devi shrine

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Swashbuckling opener of the Indian T20 squad, Abhishek Sharma, on Friday paid obeisance at the Vaishno Devi cave shrine in Jammu and Kashmir's Katra, days after the Men in Blue won the ICC T20 World Cup at home.

The top-ranked batter in the ICC T20 rankings, 25-year-old Sharma took to Instagram and shared pictures of his visit with the caption: "Jai Mata Di."

In the photographs, Sharma can be seen standing on the pilgrimage route with folded hands and a tilak on his forehead, dressed in a traditional white kurta-pyjama.

Several videos showing the Punjab cricketer walking on foot, taking a battery car ride, and interacting with people en route the cave shrine surfaced on social media.

Sharma, who had a poor run in the matches leading to the final, given his lofty standards, dazzled in the title clash against New Zealand in Ahmedabad last Sunday with a blistering 21-ball 52 as India posted an imposing 255/5.

India eventually won the match by 96 runs to clinch back-to-back titles and a record third T20 World Cup crown.

Rajnath praises CM Adityanath for acting against criminal elements

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LUCKNOW: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday praised Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for acting against criminal elements in the state, saying the government has "cleaned the filth of the society".

He also asserted that a "bulldozer also prepares land for development".

Speaking at a programme in Lucknow for the inauguration and foundation-laying of projects worth Rs 1,519 crore under the Green Corridor initiative, Singh said the chief minister's tough action against mafia and criminals has helped pave the way for development.

"People know Yogi ji by the name Bulldozer Baba. Indeed, people recognise Yogi ji as Bulldozer Baba - "and Yogi ji has deployed bulldozers against the homes of mafias and goons, teaching them a fitting lesson. However, those people tend to view only one side of the bulldozer. A bulldozer does not merely demolish; rather, in the wake of demolition, it also paves the way for development," Singh said, drawing applause from the audience.

Praising the state government's action against criminals, he said, "Our honorable chief minister has, simultaneously, undertaken the equally satisfying task of cleansing society of those elements that spread filth - "the garbage of society itself."

Singh said the newly inaugurated Green Corridor and other infrastructure initiatives will significantly ease traffic congestion and boost connectivity in Lucknow, asserting that the city has emerged as one of India's most liveable urban centres due to sustained development efforts.

Addressing the gathering at the inauguration of the Green Corridor's second phase and foundation-laying ceremony, Singh said, "Lucknow today is being discussed across the world for its development. It has been recognised among the most liveable cities, and this transformation has come under the double-engine government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath."

He said the 28-km Green Corridor project, estimated to cost more than Rs 7,000 crore, will connect Shaheed Path and Kisan Path, reducing travel time and easing traffic congestion in the state capital.

"This corridor passing through the city will save travel time and help people avoid traffic jams. It will also remain environmentally friendly with green belts and trees along the route," Singh said.

The defence minister also highlighted that more than 150 trees that came in the alignment of the project were transplanted instead of being cut. "If a tree came in the way of construction, it was not cut but carefully transplanted elsewhere. This reflects the government's commitment to development without harming the environment," he said.

Referring to defence infrastructure in the region, Singh said Lucknow is playing a growing role in strengthening India's national security.

"The integration and testing facility for the BrahMos missile has been established in Lucknow. This will not only strengthen the country's defence capabilities, but also create new technological opportunities for our youth and give further strength to Make in India," he said. The defence minister also spoke about the city's improving transport network, including the upcoming Lucknow-Kanpur Expressway, a 62-km corridor being developed at a cost of about Rs 4,500 crore. "Once operational, the travel time between Lucknow and Kanpur will be reduced to about 35-40 minutes," he said. Singh said urban development in the city is being carried out through planned initiatives, including an agreement between the School of Planning and Architecture and the Lucknow Development Authority for scientific and integrated city planning. He added that the proposed State Capital Region model around Lucknow will ensure coordinated development of surrounding districts, similar to the National Capital Region.