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Banquets • Conventions

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Religious places ideal for dissemination of knowledge regarding hale and hearty lifestyle: Dr Sushil

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Udhampur girls new champion, Jammu boys retain trophy

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‘Be aware, be safe-Let’s support a drug free society’

## INDIA bloc has nothing to offer besides corruption, nepotism, appeasement: Modi

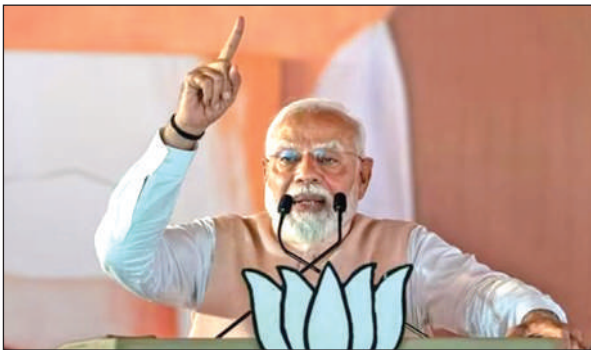
**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
VARANASI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the INDIA bloc leaders have nothing to offer besides corruption, nepotism, and appeasement.

The opposition leaders attack him when people reject them, Modi said during a virtual interaction with party workers from his home constituency of Varanasi via the 'NaMo' app.

During the 'Tiffin Baithak' programme, Modi once again attacked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his 'fight against Shakti' remark.

"The INDI alliance relies on worn-out clichés. They lack both logic and facts. These individuals have nothing else to offer besides corruption, nepotism, and appeasement. That's all they know," Modi said.

"So, when the public rejects them, they resort to criticising Modi. But it's futile as the people have already seen



through their facade. Parivarvadi parties will never appreciate how far India has come. They are of the Parivar, for the Parivar, and by the Parivar," he added.

Modi also reaffirmed the BJP's commitment towards development.

"Ten years ago, you entrusted me with the responsibility of being your representative for the first time. This year, I urge you to once again choose me as your representative and help the NDA win 400 seats in the

Lok Sabha polls," he said.

The prime minister highlighted several projects, including the restoration of the Kashi Vishwanath corridor, women empowerment, infrastructure and health-care development in Varanasi.

"You all have witnessed the remarkable transformation of Kashi over the last 10 years. It's imperative that we make people more aware of the work we have done and help Modi ki Guarantee' reach everyone," he said.

Rakesh Sonkar, a party worker, told the prime minister that women were pleased with the toilets built in the constituency, along with the improved cleanliness in the city.

"The opposition's efforts will falter here (Uttar Pradesh), just as in Varanasi, where people say 'Har Ghar Modi, Ghar Ghar Modi,'" Sonkar said during his interaction with the prime minister.

Later, in a statement issued on his personal website, Modi emphasised the importance of reaching out to first-time voters, urging the party workers to highlight the transformation between old and modern Kashi.

Modi said the first-time voters must understand the hardships their parents faced before his tenure and take note of the progress and infrastructural development in Kashi today.

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## Over 1,000 probationary police officers undergoing training at army's counter-terror facility in J&K

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
DODA: Over 1,000 probationary police officers, including 62 deputy superintendents of police, are undergoing a six-week long training at the Army's counter-terror White Knight Corps battle school in Doda district, officials said.

The integrated training programme -- a first of its kind in the Union Territory grappling with over three decades of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism -- commenced on March 19.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, in a recent interview, said the government has plans to pull back troops from Jammu and Kashmir and leave law and order to the Union Territory's police alone.

"We have plans to pull back troops and leave law and order to the Jammu and Kashmir Police alone. Earlier, the Jammu and Kashmir Police was not



trusted but today they are leading the operations," he had said.

According to police, the integrated training programme was aimed at enhancing the coordination and combined operational capabilities of both forces, which for over three decades have combated terrorism side by side.

"The training is focussed on operational tactics, intelligence sharing, and counter-terrorism strategies, drawing on the Indian Army's extensive experience in these

fields. This joint training marks a continued commitment to security and the well-being of the region's residents," a police official said.

He said it is a stride towards a future where the alignment of the Army and local police play a pivotal role in maintaining peace and safety in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The valour and sacrifices of both forces in the face of adversity have been instrumental in maintaining national security. The synergy achieved during training

will pave the way for the restoration of peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir. This will also facilitate the police in emerging as a more potent and well-trained force," the official said.

Referring to successful counter-terrorism operations in south Kashmir's Pulwama and the strategic containment in north Kashmir's Sopore, considered a transit for infiltrating terrorists, he said these operations have not only disrupted terror activities but also restored law and order, paving the way for peace and stability.

The operations are also testaments to the collaborative excellence of the Army and police. The integrated training programme is expected to solidify this partnership, leading to even more effective counter-terrorism operations, the official said.

Director General of Police

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## MCC violations to be reported online, tracking complaints made easier

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched an online application for citizens to report Model Code of Conduct (MCC) violations during the election period.

The application is called 'eVIGIL' to denote vigilant citizens of our country who can play a proactive and responsible role in conduct of free and fair elections.

This innovative application 'eVIGIL' allows vigilant citizens to give live reports on incidents of MCC violation within minutes of having witnessed them. They don't have to rush any more to the office

of the Returning Officer in their assembly constituency. Once an incident of MCC violation is reported by eVIGIL, it would be forwarded to a flying squad for investigation. In case of a registered complaint, a unique ID number would be generated to allow the citizen to track their complaint status. Anonymous complaints do not get any identification numbers for tracking purpose.

The citizens can use eVIGIL only to report MCC violation cases. For other complaints, they can use the facility available

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## Kathua developed from small town to promising destination in 10 years: Dr Jitendra

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATHUA: Union Minister and BJP Candidate for Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency Dr Jitendra Singh said here on Sunday that Kathua developed from a small town to a promising destination after 2014 in the last ten years.

Addressing a series of public meetings in different Wards of the city here today, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, those who visited Kathua before 2014 will be taken aback, if they visit now and see the change of face and miraculous transformation cum development.



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing a public meeting during election campaign in Kathua on Sunday.

Those of the opposition leaders, who say that there has been no development in the last 10 years are the ones who themselves are using the facilities to the maximum

extent, he said. Their children are attending the Medical College opened by the Modi government through the Central Fund. They are using the recreation

facilities of Birla Park and Dreamland Park, both of which were rejuvenated after 2014 and they are also sending their children to the centrally funded Engineering College which was opened in Kathua under RUSA Scheme after 2014.

Dr. Jitendra said, it is strange that some of the critics and cynics use the facility provided by Keerian-Gandyal bridge and yet say that they cannot see the bridge. Similarly, they are also using the agriculture facility of the first-ever Seed Processing Plant and the

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## 1 dead, 3 injured as car falls into gorge in Udhampur

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A person was killed and three others were injured on Sunday when a car skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge in Udhampur district, police said.

The incident occurred at Kharangal on the Chenani-Ladha link road reportedly due to rash driving, they said.

A rescue operation was immediately launched and the car's driver, Rinku (32), died on

the spot, while three other people were shifted to a



hospital with serious injuries, officials said.

## Sadanand Vasant Date, 26/11 hero, takes over as NIA Chief

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Sadanand Vasant Date, who bravely fought terrorists during the 26/11 Mumbai attack, on Sunday took over the reins of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), according to an official statement.

Date, a 1990 batch Indian Police Service officer of Maharashtra cadre, succeeded Dinkar Gupta, who superannuated on Sunday.

Before joining the NIA, Date was serving as the chief of Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) in Maharashtra.

He has held several important positions in Maharashtra, including those of Police Commissioner of Mira-Bhayandar Vasai-Virar, Joint Commissioner Law and order, and Joint Commissioner Crime Branch Mumbai, said the statement issued by the NIA.

Date has served two tenures in the Indian government -- in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) as Deputy

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## CBI records statement of family of J&K man tricked into fighting for Russian army

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has recorded the statements of the family members of Azad Yousuf Kumar, a Kashmiri man, who was allegedly unwittingly thrust into the Russia-Ukraine conflict after being deceived.

The agency recorded their statements recently after filing an FIR against 19 people and visa consultancy firms linked to the exploitation of Indian youth.

Azad's elder brother Sajad Ahmed Kumar told PTI that the CBI questioned him about his brother's situation

and wanted his presence at their New Delhi office. However, he was unable to comply due to current financial circumstances.

Sajad also said the families of 12 other affected Indian men have been contacted by the CBI and they emphasised their desire for the safe return of their loved ones.

The CBI had on March 8 dismantled a human trafficking network funnelling Indian individuals into the war zone and identified key facilitators, including agents based in Russia.

These agents' allegedly enticed Indian youths with

promising job offers in Russia, only to coerce them into military involvement in the conflict.

Azad, a 31-year-old engineering graduate from Pulwama, initially sought job opportunities in Dubai but was misled by false promises, ultimately finding himself embroiled in the war as a mercenary for the Russian army.

His family narrated his perilous situation at the Ukraine border and implored the government to intervene for his safe return. According to the family, Azad

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## Sambar deer rescued from Udhampur village

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A Sambar deer was rescued by authorities from a remote village in Udhampur district on Sunday, officials said.

The deer had fallen into a canal in Pukhlai village, around 30 km from Udhampur district headquarters, and was rescued by a team from the Department of Wildlife Protection with the help of local villagers, they said.

They said the animal had suffered injuries and was shifted to a rescue centre for treatment.

## Jammu-Srinagar NH reopens for traffic after multiple landslides

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BANIHAL: Traffic on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway was suspended for over 15 hours on Sunday due to landslides triggered by overnight rains at a few places in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, officials said.

Hundreds of stranded vehicles were allowed to move towards their respective destinations after the route was cleared around 4 pm, the traffic department officials said.

The 270-km-long highway is the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the

rest of the country.

The highway was closed for vehicular movement following a massive landslide at Kishtwari Pather near Banihal around midnight, and a mudslide and shooting stones at Mehar-Cafeteria Morh near Ramban town, the officials said.

A truck was damaged after it was hit by a rock that rolled down a hillock at Kishthwari Pather late on Saturday evening. The truck driver and his helper escaped unhurt, they said.

The traffic department has said that no heavy motor vehicles (HMTVs) will be

allowed on the highway from 4 am on Monday to 7 am on Tuesday in view of "urgent repairs and upgradation of the airstrip stretch" near Bijbehara in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

"Light motor vehicles (LMV) shall be diverted to the old national highway alignment between Alistop and Doonipora, including Wanpoh, Khanabal, Batengoo, Padshahi Bagh and Bijbehara. Truck drivers are advised to avoid their journey on the highway from 4 am on April 1 (Monday) to 7 am on April 2 (Tuesday)," the department said.

**WEATHER**

**Temperature (Jammu)**  
Max: 28.5°C Min: 14.5°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 63 Min: 44

**Temperature (Srinagar)**  
Max: 16.9°C Min: 4.8°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 85 Min: 46

Sunset : 18:49 Hours  
Sunrise : 06:19 Hours

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu conferred Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian honour, on BJP stalwart and former Deputy Prime Minister L K Advani at his residence on Sunday.

The ceremony was attended by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah and the family members of Advani, the Rashtrapati Bhavan said in a post on X.

Prime Minister Modi sat next to Advani as the President honoured the veteran leader with Bharat Ratna.

Modi said on X that it was very special to witness the conferring of the Bharat Ratna on Advani and this

honour is a recognition of his enduring contributions to the nation's progress.

"His dedication to public service and his pivotal role in shaping modern India have left an indelible mark on our history. I am proud to have got the opportunity to work with him very closely over the last several decades," the prime minister said.

The Rashtrapati Bhavan described Advani as a doyen of Indian politics and said that he has served the nation with unwavering dedication and distinction for over seven decades. As a parliamentarian, his emphasis on dialogue enriched parliamentary traditions, it said.

Whether as home minister or as deputy prime minister, Advani always prioritised national interest above all, earning him respect and



President Droupadi Murmu conferring Bharat Ratna on veteran BJP leader L.K Advani at his residence in New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is also seen.

admiration from across party lines, it said in a series of posts on X.

"His long and tireless struggle for India's cultural regeneration culminated in

the reconstruction of Shri Ram Temple in Ayodhya in 2024," it said.

Among the handful of post-Independence political leaders who succeeded in reshap-

ing the national agenda and placing it on the path of development, Advani's accomplishments provide the best articulation of the genius of India and its inclu-

**Advani's life full of sacrifice, tenacity, dedication: Amit Shah**  
NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said former deputy prime minister L K Advani remained selflessly dedicated to national welfare and social upliftment throughout his life.

Expressing happiness over the BJP patriarch being conferred with Bharat Ratna, Shah also said that Advani's life is "full of sacrifice, tenacity and dedication" and is an "unlimited source" of strength and inspiration to crores of people.

"Today, being a witness to this historical moment, I am both happy and emotional. Honourable Shri LK Advani being honoured with 'Bharat Ratna' by Honourable President Smt. Droupadi Murmu is a proud moment for all of us.

"Advani remained selflessly dedicated to national welfare and social upliftment throughout his life," he wrote on 'X' in Hindi.

sive traditions, the Rashtrapati Bhavan said and shared pictures of the ceremony on X.

Born in Karachi (now in Pakistan) in 1927, Advani migrated to India in 1947 during Partition.

The 96-year-old BJP stalwart served as deputy prime minister from June 2002 to May 2004 and as Union home minister from October 1999 to May 2004. He was BJP president

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