

**BLUE MOON**  
Banquets • Conventions

THE BANQUET WITH A DIFFERENCE

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Dr Jitendra holds online feedback session with Doda BJP team

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HC quashes FIR against MD, J&K Handicrafts Corporation

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Abacus and Vedic Maths educational training sessions organised at JKPS Panjtirthi

LG conducts on-site inspection, reviews construction of Transit Accommodation at Zewan

Multipolar world feasible only by a multipolar Asia: Jaishankar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday conducted on-site inspection and reviewed ongoing construction work of the transit accommodation for PM Package employees at Zewan.

The Lt Governor appraised the progress of works being carried out at the site, and directed the officials for timely completion of the project.

The housing colony at Zewan will have 39 blocks comprising 936 residential units.

Earlier in the month of April this year, the Lt Governor had inaugurated newly constructed 576 residential accommodations for PM Package Employees at Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal and Shopian.

Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary, Public Works (R&B); Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and other senior officials were present.

The Lieutenant Governor had inaugurated the newly constructed 224 residential transit accommodations for PM Package employees, on Thursday at Odina Bandipoa on April 28 this year.



LG Manoj Sinha conducting on-site inspection & reviewing ongoing construction work of Transit Accommodation at Zewan on Sunday.

Sinha had also laid foundation stone of Transit Accommodation for PM Package Employees at Zewan, Srinagar on January 21, 2023.

The housing colony, under PMDP, is being constructed on 113 Kanals of land by R&B Department. It will have 39 blocks comprising of 936 flats..

Earlier in the month of December, the Lt Governor conducted on-site inspection

and took first hand appraisal of the ongoing construction work of Transit Accommodations for PM Package employees at Baramulla and Bandipora.

Meanwhile, Junaid Azim Mattu, Mayor, Srinagar Municipal Corporation called on Lieutenant Governor here, according to an official spokesperson.

Mattu discussed ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

■ AGENCY

**STOCKHOLM/LONDON:** Globalisation is the overwhelming reality of our times and there must be a respective appreciation of multipolarity because a multipolar world is feasible only by a multipolar Asia, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said in his address to the European Union (EU) Indo-Pacific Ministerial Forum (EIPMF) in Stockholm.

He also had discussions with several of his EU counterparts on a range of bilateral issues, including strengthening ties amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

In his address at the EIPMF, Jaishankar called for "regular, comprehensive and candid dialogue" between India and the EU that is not just limited to the crisis of the day. "Globalisation is the overwhelming reality of our times. However, far apart,



regions and nations cannot be impervious to significant events elsewhere. Nor can we cherry-pick them to our convenience," he said.

"Indo-Pacific itself is increasingly central to the direction of global politics. The more the European Union and Indo-Pacific deal with each other, the stronger will be the respective appreciation of multipolarity, and remember, a multipolar world, which the EU prefers, is feasible only by a multipolar Asia," he said.

Jaishankar said that while

ing India, the US, Japan, and Australia as a platform for global growth which is important to any evaluation of the Indo-Pacific, with its "agenda and impact" steadily expanding.

"Geographically, the Indo-Pacific is a complex and differentiated landscape that is best understood through more intensive engagement. Few Indian governments have invested as much energy and effort in engaging the European Union and its member states as the current one," he added.

On the sidelines of the summit on Saturday, the External Affairs Minister also held bilateral discussions with his European counterparts, including French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna, Austrian Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg, Belgium's Foreign Minister Hadja Lahbib, Bulgarian

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SFs fired at by terrorists in Anantnag; combat underway

Terror hideout busted in Sangam area

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**SRINAGAR:** An encounter broke out Sunday between the terrorists and security forces in the Anantnag district, police said.

The security forces had launched a search and cordon operation in Andan in Sangam area of the district following information about presence of militants there, a police officer said.

The operation turned into an encounter after militants opened fire at the security forces.

According to the police, there were no reports of any casualties so far on either

side and the combat was still underway.

Meanwhile, security forces have busted a terrorist hideout after a brief exchange of fire with the ultras in Anantnag district, police said.

The security forces had launched a cordon and search operation in Andan in the district's Sangam area following information about the presence of terrorists there, a police officer said.

The officer said the militants opened fire on the security forces and a gunfight ensued.

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■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**JAMMU:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National General Secretary, Tarun Chugh on Sunday alleged that Pakistan was involved in pushing in drugs into Jammu and Kashmir.

Chugh said that the neighbouring country was resorting to such tactics to divert the attention of people here from the remarkable developmental progress being undertaken in the nation.

Citing intelligence reports, Chugh traced a connection between Pakistan's irritation with India's rapid advancements and its purported



involvement in the drug trade.

He said that the BJP remains steadfast in its commitment to national development and will take all necessary

measures to curb the menace of drug trafficking, which threatens the well-being of the local population here.

In Rajasthan, he said that

Man from UP found dead in Rajouri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**RAJOURI/JAMMU:** A 41-year-old man from Uttar Pradesh has been found dead in a stream in Rajouri district, police said on Sunday. Prem Pal, an ice-cream vendor hailing from Aligarh, was reported missing on Friday by his family. He lived in a slum near Thichka bridge in the Sunderbani area, a police official said.

Police said Pal's body was fished out of the stream on Saturday and shifted to the sub-district hospital Sunderbani for post-mortem examination. Inquest proceedings have been initiated to ascertain the cause of death, the official said.

Karnataka: Cong MLAs authorise party president to pick CM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**BENGALURU/NEW DELHI:** The Congress Legislature Party (CLP), which met at a private hotel in Bengaluru on Sunday evening, passed a unanimous resolution authorising All India Congress Committee (AICC) President M Mallikarjun Kharge to pick its leader, who will be the next chief minister of Karnataka.

The CLP meeting was attended by AICC General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal and three central observers.

Before the meeting,

Venugopal and the central observers held a meeting with Leader of Opposition in the outgoing Assembly Siddaramaiah and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D K Shivakumar -- the two front-runners for the chief minister's post.

"The Congress Legislature Party unanimously resolves that the AICC President is hereby authorised to appoint the new Leader of the Congress Legislature Party," according to a one-line resolution passed at the CLP meeting. Siddaramaiah moved the resolution.

With the ball now in Kharge's court, lobbying for the top post is set to shift to Delhi with both the contenders expected to arrive in the national capital on Monday to meet Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and the AICC chief.

After the CLP meeting, Randeep Surjewala, AICC in-charge for Karnataka, said: "The MLAs will meet the central observers after dinner tonight and their decision will be conveyed to the party president for taking a decision to appoint a new CLP leader."

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Alarm bells ring among scientists, authorities after Alligator Gar Fish found in Dal Lake

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**SRINAGAR:** The discovery of a carnivorous Alligator Gar fish in Kashmir's famous Dal Lake has set the alarm bells ringing among scientists and authorities as its presence poses a great threat to the native fish species.

The ray-finned euryhaline fish having a mouth like that of an alligator was caught during a dewatering operation in the famous lake.

"This is an Alligator Gar fish which is normally found in North America and some parts of India like Bhopal upper lake and Kerala backwaters. Being a predator fish and a carnivore, it poses a threat to native species of Dal Lake," Dr Shafeeqa Peer, a scientist at the Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) told PTI.

Peer said it was a matter of concern as to how this fish has invaded the water system of Kashmir: "What will be the fate of our native

Agriculture returns after 2 decades to buffer zone on India-Pakistan border in Chakrohi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**CHAKROHI:** Farmers and harvesters are working against time to reap 13 varieties of wheat sowed on 50 acres in the buffer zone between the three-tier fencing and the zero-line on the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir's Chakrohi that was off limits till a year ago due to Pakistani shelling.

The crops were sown after India and Pakistan agreed on a ceasefire in 2021.

Farm Manager Dr Rakesh Khanjuria told PTI, "For the first time, wheat crops were grown on these farmlands.

Harvesting is going on in full swing."

He added that 70 per cent of the farmland has been cultivated and the crops due to peace in the border belts," Khanjuria said.

The Agriculture department's Seed Multiplication Farm is spread on nearly 1,000 acres on two sides of the border fencing in the Chakrohi-Jorafarm belt about 40 kilometres from Jammu.

The farm, one of the biggest seed multiplication farms in the Union Territory, is said to grow the best seeds of wheat, basmati, oil, fodder and vegetables.

"This is the first time in 25

years that fertile land lying ahead of the fencing up to the zero-line has been cultivated and the crops due to peace in the border belts," Khanjuria said.

The Agriculture department and the Border Security Force are overseeing the farming activity.

"While wheat is being harvested on 815 acres on this side of the fencing, this is the first time in decades that the crop is being grown on over 50 acres," he said.

Harvest from the 50 acres has already passed the 2,000-kilogramme mark, Khanjuria said.

Indian Navy test fires BrahMos missile

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**NEW DELHI:** A BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was successfully test-fired from the Indian Navy's frontline guided missile destroyer INS Mormugao, officials said on Sunday.

The missile firing demonstrated the Indian Navy's firepower at sea, they said.

"INS Mormugao, the latest guided-missile destroyer, successfully hit 'bulls eye' during her maiden BrahMos supersonic cruise missile firing," a Navy official said.

"The ship and her potent weapon, both indigenous, mark another shining symbol of 'AatmaNirbharta' and

Indian Navy's firepower at sea," the official added.

The location of the test-firing of the missile is not



immediately known.

BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd, an India-Russia joint venture, produces the supersonic cruise missiles that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms. BrahMos missile flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three

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CJ reviews progress on One Stop Centre, DHWE, Khawaja Bagh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

**BARAMULLA:** On second day of his visit to Baramulla, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, N Kotiswar Singh, on Sunday visited One Stop Centre and District Hub for Women Empowerment (DHWE) at Khawaja Bagh and reviewed functioning of both the centres. He had interaction with the staff there and was apprised of the various success stories of women victims.

Registrar General, Shahzad Azeem, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice, Mahinder Kumar Sharma, Deputy Inspector General of Police, North Kashmir, Vivek Gupta, Senior Superintendent of Police, Baramulla, Amod Ashok Nagpure, ADDC, Ajaiz Abdullah Saraf besides functionaries of all concerned departments were present on the occasion.

Chief Justice interacted with the women victims and got appraisal of their concerns and issues. He also listened to various success stories of the



Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, N Kotiswar Singh during visit to One Stop Centre and DHWE at Khawaja Bagh on Sunday.

women who were facing domestic violence. He was informed that Baramulla has recorded 236 cases registered with OSC including domestic violence, human trafficking, divorce, black mailing and others.

During interaction, Chief Justice was satisfied with the working of the centres and extended appreciations

to district administration for achieving marvellous progress by resolving cases through counselling and legal advice. He asserted that the center facilitates effective disposal of complaints received by OSC and also helps in collecting information about the problems faced by women in the district.

Chief Justice also held a separate interaction with the staff and reviewed the functioning of the centre. He assessed issues being faced by them while carrying out the working of the centres.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Justice said that various initiatives have been launched with an aim to uplift women and bring in gender sensitivity especially by reaching out to women who have been victims of domestic violence. The initiative aims to prevent conflicts within families and curb violence against women, he added.

He said that all the recommendations discussed with the victims and staff will be forwarded to ensure that all necessary steps are taken to improve the welfare of women of Baramulla. He emphasised that women need to be confident in empowering themselves as they are the ones who shape the society.

Further, Chief Justice also exhorted upon the officers ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 36.5°C Min: 22.0°C

Humidity  
Max: 41 Min: 28

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 23.2°C Min: 10.6°C

Humidity  
Max: 72 Min: 47

Sunset : 19:22 Hours  
Sunrise : 05:35 Hours