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NDA elects Modi its leader, passes resolution lauding him



PM Narendra Modi along with BJP-led National Democratic Alliance's members after meeting at New Delhi on Wednesday.

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Preparing to take oath for a third straight term as the head of a coalition government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance's members who unanimously elected him as its leader.

(Secular) leader and former Bihar chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi said after attending the meeting. The new government may be sworn in over the weekend, some sources said, adding that there is a view to wrap up the formalities quickly to not allow any mood of uncertainty to build up, something a buoyant opposition may push. How soon the BJP and its allies reach an agreement on matters like the share of ministries each party may get

and other terms of negotiations could also be a factor in deciding the timing of the swearing-in or they could put off the tricky issues for resolution at a later stage. TDP leader N Chandrababu Naidu, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, LJP(R) leader Chirag Paswan, JD(S) leader H D Kumarawamy, Jana Sena's Pawan Kalyan, AGP's Atul Bora and NCP's Praful Patel were among the 21 leaders

from 16 parties who attended the meeting besides Modi and BJP's Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh and J P Nadda. Janata Dal (United) leader Sanjay Jha, who was present in the meeting, said the formalities related to the formation of the government at the Centre under Modi are expected to be over soon. All parties expressed confidence in Modi's leadership, he added. A resolution passed at the meeting

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World leaders congratulate Modi

NEW DELHI: Over 50 world leaders have congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he is set to take oath this week for a third straight term at the top office following victory of the National Democratic Alliance in the Lok Sabha polls. From India's neighbourhood and extended neighbourhood, presidents of Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Iran, Seychelles and prime ministers of Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Mauritius have sent congratulatory greetings to Modi. A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson also posted a message on X congratulating Modi and said Beijing was looking forward to a "healthy and stable China-India relationship". Among G20 countries, prime ministers of Italy and Japan and president of South Korea have congratulated Modi on the electoral victory. "Congratulations to @narendramodi on the new electoral victory and my warmest wishes for good work. Certain that we will continue to work together to strengthen the friendship that unites Italy and India and consolidate cooperation on the various issues that bind us," Italian PM Giorgia Meloni said on X. Singapore's Prime Minister Lawrence Wong described Modi's victory as "historic" and said he was looking forward to working with his Indian counterpart to celebrate the 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two nations next year. "Congratulations @narendramodi on the historic victory by the NDA for the third consecutive term. Look forward to working with you to deepen the Singapore-India partnership and to celebrate the 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties next year," Wong said on X. Chinese ambassador to India Xu Feihong also congratulated Modi

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PM tenders resignation to President, likely to take oath on June 8

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday tendered his resignation to President Droupadi Murmu, who accepted it and asked him to continue till the new government assumes office, reports PTL. "The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, met the President today and tendered his resignation along with the Council of Ministers. The President has accepted the resignation and requested Narendra Modi and the Council of Ministers to continue till the new Government assumes office," the communique said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will take oath for third term on June 8, reports ndtv.com.



14 DySPs placed as Incharge SPs; Shahzad posted in J&K ACB

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Home Department has ordered the stop-gap placement of 14 Deputy Superintendents of Police (DySPs) as Incharge Superintendents of Police (SPs). The promotees include Syed Zabeer Abbas Jafari, Mohd Aslam, Ravinder Singh, Chhabil Singh, Mohan Lal, Mohd Aftab Awan, Farooq Ahmad Wani, Mohammad Usman, Navaz Ahmad, Govind Rattan, Bikram Kumar, Garu Ram, Nihar Ranjan and Fahim Ali. "This arrangement is made purely in the interest of administration and shall not confer any right on the incumbent to claim preferential treatment for promotion, as and when the same is made in accordance with the relevant rules," the order reads. The above placements shall be without prejudice to the outcome of Writ Petition(s), if any, pending consideration before the Court(s)/Tribunal of competent jurisdiction or any existing or future orders of the Courts, the order states. In another order issued by GAD, Shahzad Kabir Matoo, DySP, PC Pulwama, has been transferred from his present place of posting and posted as Deputy Superintendent of Police in Anti Corruption Bureau, J&K with immediate effect.

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Committed to secure future of 70 pc population dependent on agriculture, allied sectors: LG

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday reiterated the commitment of the Union Territory Administration to secure the future of 70 per cent population dependent on agriculture and allied sectors. Inaugurating key infrastructure projects and launching new academic programmes of SKUAST Kashmir, including Shalimar Convention Centre, Kohimaran Hostel and Discovery Building, the Lt Governor said the new Discovery Building will provide facilities of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to students and is crucial to achieve the vision of developing sustainable agriculture technologies to improve farmers' income. The Lt Governor commended SKUAST Kashmir for adding "Innovation and Entrepreneurship" in its academic programs and creating an ecosystem of innovations. He said the new academic UG and masters programs launched today will



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurating key infra projects at Srinagar on Wednesday.

build a skilled-trained human resource for agro-based industry and agri-tourism in the future. "SKUAST Kashmir is poised to emerge as a 'Top Innovation Led Farm University' in the country to transform subsistence and low enumerative agriculture into a technology driven agri-economy," the Lt Governor said. The University has earned 25 Patents in the past 4 years and established 26 startups, out of which 17 are registered as Pvt. Ltd. Companies. In collaboration with IIT Mandi, SKUAST-K is also starting a B.Tech Artificial Intelligence course from this year, he observed. The Lt Governor highlighted the significant

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Pak intruder held near LoC in Poonch

STATE TIMES NEWS
MENDHAR/JAMMU: An elderly man from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir was apprehended after he illegally crossed over into the Indian territory along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Wednesday. The man was identified as Munir Hussain, a 72-year-old resident of Battal village of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), they said. He was taken into custody at Nangi Takarai forward area near Ghora post in Mankote sector of Mendhar sub-division on

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Fire engulfs forest areas of Rajouri, Poonch

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Fire engulfed two forest areas in the border districts of Rajouri and Poonch in the Jammu region on Wednesday, causing damage to vast tracts of land, officials said. In Poonch, the fire erupted in Bhatadurian area near the Line of Control (LoC) in Mendhar belt and spread to nearby areas, they said. The administration, forest officials, army and locals are working to douse the flames, they added. Another blaze broke out in Rajouri's Nowshera forest, prompting locals and forest department officials to launch a firefighting operation, the officials said. Teams are working tirelessly to control the blaze and prevent further damage to the ecologically sensitive area, they said. The twin forest fires destroyed large areas of plantation and other forest wealth, according to the officials.

Notorious 'blackmailer' Amit Kapoor arrested for extortion

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu police on Wednesday evening arrested notorious blackmailer Amit Kapoor while demanding and accepting money from a government employee in Jammu. The complainant Avinash Kumar, an employee of Jammu Development Authority (JDA) lodged a complaint with the Bus Stand police that Amit Kapoor had threatened him to expose some documents to media if he does not pay him Rs 10 lakh. According to complainant, he paid Rs five lakh to Amit



Amit Kapoor being taken to police station after his arrest.

again started demanding Rs 5 lakh more from the complainant, regarding which he today lodged the FIR with the Bus Stand police. ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

FIR lodged against minibuss driver for overloading

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Acting tough against overloading of vehicles, Traffic Police City Jammu on Wednesday lodged a FIR No.96/2024 U/S 279/336 IPC at WS Akhmoor against the driver of the Mini Bus bearing Regd. No. JK02Q5997. Traffic Police has taken cognizance on receiving information wherein a Mini Bus was grossly overloaded and many passengers were seen hanging on back of the mini bus in the Akhmoor area there by posing threat to the lives of the passengers despite clear directions to the drivers

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Devotees visiting Vaishno Devi Shrine to get plants as 'Prasad'

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Devotees visiting the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine will now get a plant as a "prasad", the shrine board said on Wednesday. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) launched a new initiative under which they will offer plants to pilgrims from a newly established nursery 'Vaishnavi Vatika'. The nursery was launched by Board's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Anshul Garg in Katra, the base camp of the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, on the occasion of the World Environment Day. Situated in the Trikuta hills of Reasi district, the Mata Vaishno Devi cave shrine is one of the most revered sites in Jammu and Kashmir, attracting nearly one crore devotees annually. Garg highlighted the board's ongoing commitment to ecological preservation, including water



CEO SMVDSB Anshul Garg presenting saplings to kids.

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Woman drug peddler detained under PIT NDPS Act

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: An alleged woman drug peddler was detained under the stringent Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT NDPS) Act in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, police said. Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, Abdul Qayoom said the detention of Mahfooza Begum, a resident of Sarkoot village, is part of a multi-pronged strategy to address "rampant" drug abuse in the district. Investigations revealed Begum's involvement in numerous drug peddling cases, leading to her detention under the PIT NDPS Act to halt her activities

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Collective efforts to reverse ecosystem degradation will boost livelihoods, food security: LG

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Asserting that 'Environment First' is our vision, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday said, "We are committed to revive the damaged ecosystem". "Our collective efforts to reverse the degradation of ecosystems will boost livelihoods, food security and prevent extreme weather situation", the Lt Governor said while addressing a conference "Our Land, Our Future" on World Environment Day, at Sazgaripora, Srinagar. The event was organized by Nigeen Lake Conservation Organisation (NLCO). The Lt Governor highlighted the need for land restoration to reverse the challenges of land degradation, drought



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha addressing conference on 'Our Land, Our Future' on World Environment Day at Srinagar on Wednesday.

and desertification. He called upon NGOs, financial institutions, business organizations, volunteers, civil society members and individuals to act as 'Agents of Change' and dedicate themselves towards ecological preservation and restoration. Pollution prevention, increasing green cover and conservation of natural resources should be our common goals, he said. On the occasion, the Lt Governor reiterated the commitment of the UT Administration towards environmental conservation and promotion of sustainable-liv-

Management System. He also appealed to the people living in rural areas to identify such works in their villages which can help restore the ecosystem and prevent land degradation. Appreciating the contribution of Nigeen Lake Conservation Organization in transforming the Gilsar-Khushalsar waterbody, the Lt Governor assured all possible support from the administration to the organization in its endeavours. Environment protection pledge was also administered to the people on the occasion. This year, the theme for World Environment Day focuses on Land Degradation, Desertification and Drought resilience.

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Mortar shell blast: 76-yr-old woman succumbs to injuries

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A 76-year-old woman, who was among three people injured in a mortar shell blast, died at a government hospital here on Wednesday, officials said. Semroo Devi, Rameet Singh (66) and Suriya Bibi (58) were injured after the rusted mortar shell exploded in Khada Madana village in the Purmandal area of Samba district on May 27. Devi had suffered critical head injuries and succumbed at Government Medical College here in the early hours of Wednesday, the officials said. The condition of the other two is stated to be stable, they said. They said Devi's body was handed over to her relatives after the completion of legal and medical formalities.

WEATHER
Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 41.9°C Min: 30.5°C
Humidity
Max: 25 Min: 22
Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 22.3°C Min: 12.6°C
Humidity
Max: 85 Min: 78
Sunset : 19:35 Hours
Sunrise : 05:22 Hours