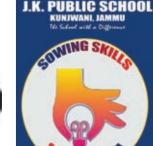


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Congress demanded only 'Home Rule', UU not independence till 1930: Dr Jitendra Arab countries next target of US, Israel: Farooq

Website: www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com

# Manjit Club felicitates Kuldeep for U-19 Bronze

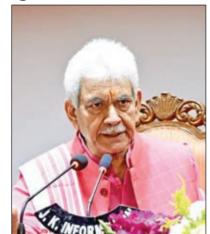
# J&K gets major infra boost; Rs 10,637 Cr worth 19 road, tunnel projects approved LG expresses gratitude to PM, Union MoRTH

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/2025-27

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari for giving approval to 19 mega road and tunnel projects worth 10, 637 crore with length of 296 kms for J&K UT.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has approved the Action plan of 2025-26 in respect of National Highways of J&K and sanctioned major projects include construction of Peer-Ki-Gali tunnel on NH-701A (Rs 3830 Cr), Construction of Sadhana tunnel on NH-701 (Rs 3330 Cr), Construction of Zaznar Shopian section of NH-701A (Rs 852 Cr), 4-L flyover from Lal Chowk to Parimpora (Rs 700 Cr), Construction of Trehgam Chamkote section of NH-701 (Rs 966 Cr), Construction of 4-Lane Magam Flyover on Narbal-Gulmarg section of NH 701-A (Rs 445 Cr), Construction of Qazigund Bypass (Rs 95 Cr), Construction of 2-L bridge over Rambiara at Shopian on NH-444 (Rs 71 Cr) and various other, including road



safety projects. "Many strategically important projects will improve logistical support and troops mobility. Projects will improve Infrastructure in the Union Territory and connect various tourist destinations. Construction of tunnels will reduce the travel time, ensure allweather connectivity and spur economic growth," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Ministry has also sanctioned

>> Says, many strategically important projects will improve logistical support and troops

Projects will improve Infrastructure in UT, connect various tourist destinations

reduce travel time; ensure allweather connectivity, spur economic growth

Major approved projects include construction of Peer-Ki-Gali tunnel, Sadhana tunnel, Zaznar Shopian section of NH-701A, 4-L flyover from Lal Chowk to Parimpora, Trehgam Chamkote section of NH-701, 4-Lane Magam Flyover on Narbal-Gulmarg section and

#### Heavy rains trigger landslide on Mata Vaishno Devi track

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

KATRA: A massive landslide hit the new track to Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills in Reasi district on Monday, forcing the suspension of the battery car service, officials said

No one was injured in the landslide which was triggered by heavy rains, the officials said.

They said the pilgrimage was diverted to the old ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

#### **Terrorist OGW held STATE TIMES NEWS**

# ANANTNAG:

forces on Monday arrested an overground worker (OGW) of terrorists from Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said here.

Burhan Amin Malik was apprehended by a joint team of Army and police from Bijbehara town during an anti-militancy operation.

A hand grenade was recovered from the possession of the OGW, they said.

# PM honoured Mookerjee's sacrifice by abrogating Article 370: Pradhan

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

NEW DELHI: Minister Narendra Modi honoured Syama Prasad Mookerjee's sacrifice by abrogating Article 370 of the Constitution, which had granted a special status to the erstwhile

Jammu and Kashmir, Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Monday.

BJPleaders including Pradhan and Delhi Chief Minister Gupta, paid floral

tributes at the late leader's statue during a memorial meet organised by the Delhi unit of the party at the S P Mookerjee Park here on the occasion of his death anniversary.

Pradhan said for Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Jana Sangh workers,

ing ideology.

person or a leader, but a liv-"Seventy two years ago, he

communalists, communists and nationalists -- and Mookerjee, often disagreeing with prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru's policies, chose to resign from the cab-

> inet. "This moment led him to join hands with the RSS and establish an alternative political ideology in the form of Jana Sangh, Pradhan said.

> He recalled that once Nehru reportedly told Mookerjee, "I will crush you," to which

the latter replied, "I will crush this crushing mentali-Stressing that India is now

close to being free from Naxalism, confined to just a few districts, Pradhan said Modi has steadfastly ensured national security and sovereignty over the last 10

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### ECI begins 2-day capacity building programme for 379 field functionaries



#### **STATE TIMES NEWS** JAMMU: The 13th batch of

training for Booth Level Officers (BLO) Supervisors the atInternational Institute of Democracy and Election (IIIDEM),Management New Delhi on Monday

#### Air India Express flight to Jammu returns to Delhi due to suspected 'GPS interference' STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An Air India Express flight from Delhi to Srinagar via Jammu returned to its origin airport before landing here on Monday afternoon, officials

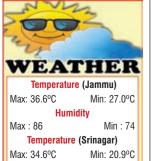
A spokesman of the airline said the flight returned to Delhi as a precautionary measure following a suspected "GPS interference" and an alternative aircraft was later provided to the passengers to reach their destination.

The officials said that the flight IX-2564 was supposed to land in Jammu around noon before leaving for Srinagar, but it hovered over the Jammu airport for sometime before its pilot decided to return to Delhi without landing.

The weather and the runway were clear, but it seems the pilot could not find an appropriate landing area,

"Our Delhi-Jammu flight returned to Delhi as a precautionary measure

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Sunset: 19:41 Hours

Sunrise: 05:23 Hours

Max: 66

Min: 20.9°C

Min: 38

66 from Meghalaya and 7 from Chandigarh). Over BLO/BLO 5.000 Supervisors have trained in the last three months by ECI in New In his inaugural address. CEC Gyanesh Kumar said that these training programmes are essential to ensure that the ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 its likely desire to de-esca-Omar expresses gratitude to PM for approving

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

SRINAGAR: Jammu and

Kashmir Chief Minister Omar

Abdullah on Monday thanked

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi for approving Rs 10,637

crore worth road and tunnel

projects for the Union

The road transport and

approved 19 mega road and

tunnel projects worth Rs

10,637 crore for Jammu and

Kashmir. These include the

construction of Peer-Ki-Gali

tunnel, Sadhana tunnel,

Zaznar-Shopian section of

NH-701A, four-lane flyover

Lal Chowk to

ministry

Territory.

highways

Election Commissioner (CEC) of India Gyanesh Kumar inaugurated the programme with an address to the 379 participants (111 from Uttar Pradesh; 128 from Madhya Pradesh; 67 from Nagaland,

# mobility

- Construction of tunnels will
- **Qazigund Bypass**

# Iran launches missile attacks on US bases in Qatar, Iraq

#### AGENCY

DUBAI: Iran launched missile attacks Monday on US military bases in Qatar and Iraq, retaliating for the American bombing of its nuclear sites and escalating tensions in the volatile Qatar condemned the

attack on Al Udeid Air Base attack, but said it successfully intercepted the missiles and no casualties were reported. It said its airspace was now safe. Iran said the attack in

Qatar matched the number of bombs dropped by the United States on its nuclear sites this weekend, signalling

19 mega road, tunnel projects

Chamkote section of NH-701,

four-lane Magam Flyover on

Narbal-Gulmarg section and

"In a major achievement, my

government has got Rs

10,600 crore worth of road

and tunnel projects approved

Trehgam

Parimpora.

Qazigund Bypass.



Iran also said it targeted the base because it was outside of populated areas.

Iran announced the attack on state television as martial music played. A caption on screen called it "a mighty and

by the Union government. I

am grateful to PM Narendra

Modi ji and MoRTH Minister

Nitin Gadkari ii for their con-

tinued support as we try to

steer J-K on a path of

progress, development and

connectivity," Abdullah posted

A similar message was post-

ed on the official handle of

Jammu and Kashmir Chief

Minister. Abdullah said that

the Jammu and Kashmir gov-

ernment will work in close

coordination with the road

transport and highways min-

istry to ensure timely execu-

tion of these vital infrastruc-

on his personal X handle.

response "America's aggression."

The Ain al-Assad base housing US troops in western Iraq was also targeted. an Iraqi security official who was not authorised to comment publicly told The

#### Govt sets up expert panel for income distribution survey

**STATE TIMES NEWS** NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Monday announced the setting up of a technical expert group under chairmanship of Surjit S Bhalla to advise on an income distribution survey tentatively scheduled in 2026.

The technical expert group (TEG) will guide the National Statistics Office towards conducting an all-India income distribution survey, tentatively scheduled for 2026, a ministry statement said. The MoSPI has constituted a TEG

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## tion of anonymity.

It wasn't immediately clear if there was damage to the Iraq base or any injuries.

Qatar's Foreign Ministry said the attack by Iran's Revolutionary Guards was "a flagrant violation of Qatar's sovereignty, its airspace, and international law.

Al Udeid is also home to the Combined Air Operations Center, which provides command and control of air power across the region as well as the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, the largest expeditionary wing in the world. The retaliation came a day after the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 the NIA had on Sunday

#### **Gathered substantial evidence on identities** of terrorists involved in Pahalgam attack: NIA arrested two locals -- Parvaiz

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

Jammu

cept of 'two systems in one

country', which made history.

His sacrifice was honoured

Narendra Modi abrogated

Article 370 in 2019,"

He noted that the country

Prime

opposing the con-

entered

when

Pradhan said.

diverse

Kashmir

and

Minister

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday said that it has gathered a substantial body of evidence regarding identi-

of 2 accused involved in Pahalgam terror attack. It

said the details will be made public at an appropriate The anti-terror agency is

probing the April 22 terrorist attack, which killed 26 people -- all except one tourists -- in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam.

In a major breakthrough,

Ahmad Jothar -- for sheltering three Pakistani terrorists involved in the attack. The trio are associated with ties of the NIA gets 5-day remand Pakistanbased terror-

Ahmad Jothar and Bashir

outfit ist Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), the NIA said. The arrested duo were pro-

duced before a Jammu court on Monday and they have been remanded to five days custody, the NIA said in a statement.

"The NIA has gathered a substantial body of evidence regarding the identities

CONTD ON PAGE 9

# Employment generation, self-employment, improving employability our top priority: LG

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday addressed Mega Job Fair-2025 organised by Cluster University of Jammu in collaboration with Desh Bhagat University Punjab, at Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government PG College for Women Gandhi Nagar Jammu.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor commended the significant initiative by Cluster University Jammu and Desh Bhagat University Punjab for bringing together a wide array of reputed national companies,



LG Manoi Sinha distributing job offer letters to selected candidates during CLUJ's Mega Job Fair on Monday.

offering employment opportunities to youth of J&K UT. He also extended his felicitations to the companies that participated in Mega Job

Fair and conveyed his best wishes to the selected candidates. "Cluster University's job fair aims to bridge ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

#### Undermining Jammu, humiliating Hindus will prove to be Congress' waterloo in J&K



Assembly elections Jammu and Kashmir have brought the Congress Party a few seats in the Kashmir Valley, but the debacle in the

Jammu region in 2024 and successive routs in Lok Sabha elections have exposed a deeper malaise: the systemic neglect and underestimation of Jammu's political significance by the Congress high command. Despite ammu being the electoral backbone of the party for decades, it continues to be sidelined in favour of tokenism and appeasement politics, all in the name of showcasing 'secular' credentials at the cost of humiliating nationalistic Hindu

Historically, Jammu has remained a Congress constituency since the independence of the country - loyal, vibrant, and ideologically aligned with the party's broader vision. Yet, instead of

acknowledging this unflinching support, the Congress leadership has consistently overlooked Jammu's leaders, choosing instead to promote individuals from the Kashmir Valley, often with questionable records. This favoritism is not just political negligence-it is a grave injustice that has alienated the party's core support base in Jammu.

Even more troubling is the manner in which Congress has handled serious allegations against its Valley-based leadership. Several Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) presidents from Kashmir have faced accusations, ranging from involvement in sex scandals to corruption. Some have even made statements that appeared to justify or defend Pakistan's actions, especially in moments of heightened Indo-Pak tensions. Despite these controversial records, the Congress top brass-Nehru Gandhi family- has not only failed to reprimand such figures but has, in many cases, elevated them to more prestigious roles within the organization.

Contrast this with the treatment

from Jammu. Often ignored or humiliated, these leaders have faced backlash for simply asserting their democratic rights or expressing opinions rooted in national interest. One cannot forget how a senior Vice President from Jammu-a Hindu-was unceremoniously sidelined for the mere suggestion that a Hindu from Jammu also deserved a shot at becoming the Chief Minister of the erstwhile state. His statement was neither provocative nor communal-it was a legitimate demand for inclusivity in leadership. Yet, his political career paid the price for voicing an inconvenient truth.

The problem lies not in electoral strategy, but in a deeply entrenched mindset that associates secularism with the appeasement of one community at the cost of the other. The Congress party's brand of secularism has, over the years, evolved into a dangerously skewed framework where any assertion of Hindu identity or demand for equitable representation is treated with suspicion or outright hostility. This has led to a perception-rightly so-that the Congress leadership, especially the Nehru-Gandhi family, harbours a discomfort for Hindu faces occupying leadership roles in sensitive or top posts, especially in Jammu and Kashmir.

Remember, the Congress's modest gains in the Kashmir Valley during the 2024 Assembly elections must also be seen in context. These gains were not the result of any ideological revival or mass support for the Congress. Rather, they came courtesy of its alliance with the National Conference, which capitalized on the anti-BJP sentiment prevalent in the Valley. The voters were more interested in defeating the BJP than supporting the Congress. The real beneficiary of this sentiment was the National Conference, and Congress was merely riding pillion.

The writing on the wall is clear: if the Congress hopes to reclaim its lost ground in Jammu and Kashmir, it must shed its biases and begin treating Jammu not as a subsidiary region but as a pivotal part of its political strategy.

The leadership must wake up to the reality that secularism does not mean alienating any particular community.

The Nehru-Gandhi family must intro spect. Is the Congress truly serving national interest by favouring tainted leaders from the Valley while silencing the loyal voices from Jammu? Why must a region that has always stood by the Congress be punished for its integrity nationalism, and refusal to bend before separatist rhetoric?

Jammu deserves its due - not as a favour, but as a matter of democratic right. The Congress party must understand the sensitivities and politica dynamics of Jammu and Kashmir, and acknowledge that national integration begins at home, by respecting its own grassroots leaders. It must abandon its outdated model of appeasement and adopt a more inclusive and accountable approach.

The time has come for the Congress to stop being a party that merely tolerates Jammu - and start becoming a party that (CONCLUDED) truly represents it.