

**03** BJP ready, up to EC to decide on J&K Assembly polls: Dr Jitendra

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## Kashi is cultural capital of India: Modi



PM Narendra Modi receives warm welcome by people on his arrival at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Saturday termed Kashi as the cultural capital of India, and said the city is steeped in music and arts.

The prime minister was addressing the closing ceremony of the Kashi Sansad Sanskritik Mahotsav-2023 at the Rudraksh International Cooperation and Convention Centre here. On the occasion, he also inaugurated 16 Atal Awasiya Vidyalayas built across Uttar Pradesh at a cost of around

Rs 1,115 crore.

Modi also announced a tourist guide competition and said that be it a tourist spot or a 'dham' (pilgrimage place), good guides are very necessary.

"The people of Kashi know the most about Kashi. Here,

### PM lays foundation stone of international cricket stadium

VARANASI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday laid the foundation stone of an international cricket stadium in Varanasi and said that through the game, the world is "getting linked" with India.

Highlighting that the design of the stadium dedicated to Lord Mahadev has instilled a feeling of pride among the citizens of Kashi, he said the facility would witness great cricket matches while young athletes would get an opportunity to train at the international level.

Modi said recent sporting successes of India were due to a changed approach as now sports have been linked with fitness, employment and career of youths.

Compared to nine years ago, this year's sports budget has been increased threefold, he said.

"Through cricket, the world is getting linked with India" and many new countries are playing cricket leading to a greater number of matches, he said, adding this stadium will cater to the rising demand for such facilities in

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## LG, Union Minister Giriraj Singh visit Simaria, Begusarai; pay tributes to Rashtrakavi Ramdhari Singh Dinkar Great freedom fighter, writer, parliamentarian continues to inspire young generation: Sinha



LG Manoj Sinha speaking after paying tributes to Rashtrakavi Ramdhari Singh Dinkar during an event at Bihar.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BIHAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Union Minister for Rural Development, Giriraj Singh on Saturday visited Simaria, Begusarai and attended the Rashtrakavi Ramdhari Singh Dinkar's birth anniversary event.

Paying tributes to the Rashtrakavi, the Lt Governor remembered the significant contribution of Ramdhari Singh Dinkar in

the field of literature and his selfless service to society and the nation.

"I bow to the memory of great freedom fighter, writer and parliamentarian, who continues to inspire young generation," the Lt Governor said.

Dinkar ji is undoubtedly one of the greatest poets of India, a giant intellectual, a national icon who played a pivotal role in shaping the genre of heroism and courage

in Hindi literature. His deep commitment to social values, public aspirations and welfare is unparalleled, the Lt Governor observed.

At the commemoration event, the Lt Governor asked the youth to follow the ideals of Ramdhari Singh Dinkar ji, tread the path of righteousness and contribute in nation-building.

Dinkar Ji is the soul of literature and he mesmerized the nation by the brilliance of

his patriotic compositions. Even today we can see the reflection of Dinkar Ji in aspiration of India's strength and courage, in its ideals, resolve and self-confidence, he said.

His words inspire and illuminate our path to progress. History is witness to the fact that as a Member of Parliament, Dinkar Ji's oratory gave voice to the common man and various other issues of national importance, the Lt Governor said.

The Lt Governor also talked about the lifelong campaigns of Ramdhari Singh Dinkar to promote public welfare, women empowerment, and preservation of Hindi and other regional languages.

Giriraj Singh, Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj in his address paid tributes to the

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## Congress seeks polls to J&K urban local bodies, PRIs under single election authority

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Congress on Saturday questioned the Jammu and Kashmir administration's decision to hold urban local body and Panchayat Raj Institution polls under separate election authorities.

Pradesh Congress Committee chief Vikar Rasool Wani, in a letter to Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, demanded holding the elections to municipal corporations and other urban local bodies under the state election commission, like those of panchayats, as mandated by 74th amendment of the Constitution.

"The Congress has taken exception to the exercise for the conduct of ULB (urban local body) elections being undertaken without the superintendence and control of the (state election) commission, which is a clear violation of the 74th constitutional amendment," he said.

It is surprising that elections to rural panchayats are being conducted by the state election commission while those to urban local bodies will be under the chief electoral officer, the Congress leader said and called it "illegal and against the spirit of the Constitution".

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## Institutional collaboration precursor to solution finding: CJI

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on Saturday said institutional collaboration is the precursor to solution finding while adjudicating judicial questions and it also plays a significant role in increasing access to justice.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the Bar Council of India's (BCI) two-day 'Institutional Lawyers Conference 2023' here, he said it is utopian to think that there will be a day when "we find perfect solutions with no challenges to the justice delivery".

"However, it is definitively not utopian to aspire for a

world where nations, institutions and most importantly individuals are open to engage with and learn from one another without feeling threatened or belittled," the Chief Justice of India (CJI) said.

He said that while the Constitution provides for separation of power among the legislature, the executive and the judiciary, it also creates a space for institutions to learn from each other and deliver justice.



"Institutional collaboration is a precursor to solution finding not only while adjudicating judicial questions but it also plays a significant role in increasing access to justice," Justice Chandrachud said.

The CJI was the chief guest of the programme which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice of the United Kingdom Alex Chalk

KC, Attorney General for India R Venkataramani, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, Bar Council of India chairman and senior advocate Manan Kumar Mishra and others, including several judges of the apex court, were present at the event.

In his speech, the CJI said that instead of addressing specific challenges to justice delivery, he seeks to present an "umbrella framework" to address these challenges and find innovative solutions.

Referring to engagement between nations, institutions and individuals, Justice Chandrachud said, "It is in this engagement

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## Two LeT terrorists arrested

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Two Lashkar-e-Taiba militants were arrested along with arms and ammunition in Baramulla district, police said on Saturday.

Police on Thursday got an input that a person identified as Yaseen Ahmad Shah, Baramulla's Janbazzpora, is missing from his home and has joined the proscribed terrorist outfit LeT/TRF, a police spokesperson said.

The Resistance Front (TRF) is believed to be a shadow outfit of the LeT.

The spokesperson said that a case in this regard was registered at the Baramulla Police Station and an investigation was taken up.

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## Kashmir's first auto-cross motorsport event being held in Srinagar

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: A three-day auto-cross motorsports event is being held in the Kashmir valley from Friday, which aims to provide a platform for both established and aspiring racers.

The motorsport event, from September 22-24, is through collaboration between the J&K Motorsport Federation (JKMSF) and the Federation of Motorsports Clubs of India (FMSCI).

The event is being held on a two-kilometre long close circuit track at Nowgam, in the outskirts of the city.

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## Govt orders change in record of rights at Village Birpur, Samba

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: On the directions of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and under the supervision of Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, the department of Revenue on Saturday ordered changes in record of rights in respect of Village Birpur of Samba District.

The changes pertain to the delineation and demarcation of land which do not form part of any water course or source but have been recorded as Gair Mumkin Khad, Gair Mumkin Darya, Gair Mumkin Nallah etc in revenue records.

The issue of delineation and demarcation of these areas has been a long pending demand of the people.

Speaking on the issue, officials of Revenue department said that the process has been set in motion and various areas are currently in consideration for delineation and demarcation.

As per order issued by Revenue department, 4150 Kanals and 04 marlas of land in Khasra No. 1734 in Village Birpur have been recorded as Gair Mumkin Khad.

A detailed study conducted by the Revenue authorities

and Irrigation and Flood Control Department and based on spot verification by the Deputy Commissioner and a technical report by the department, flood risk zone maps for the said village has been prepared. Accepting the recommendation of the committees set up for delineation and demarcation, the Government has ordered that 3278.25 kanals of land shall be recorded as 'Banjar Qadeem'.

The delineation / demarcation exercise has been conducted in a scientific manner, ensuring robustness

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## 10 arrested for 'vitiating peaceful atmosphere' outside Srinagar's Jamia Masjid

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Ten youths were arrested on charges of vitiating peaceful atmosphere outside the historic Jamia Masjid here during the congregational prayers a day earlier, police said on Saturday.

"10 Hooligans arrested for trying to vitiate peaceful atmosphere outside Jamia Masjid Yesterday after Friday prayers. They shall be booked under relevant section of law," Srinagar Police wrote in a post on X.

Police urged the public not to indulge in such acts. Sources said the youths

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## Co-operative sector is not irrelevant, was hurt by political interference: Amit Shah

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
MUMBAI: Union minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the co-operative sector was "not irrelevant", but it was hurt by political interference in the past. The Narendra Modi government's decision to de-link it from the agriculture ministry gave the sector a tremendous boost, he said.

Shah, who also handles the co-operation portfolio alongside the home ministry, was delivering the Laxmanrao Inamdar Memorial Lecture at Mumbai University.

Co-operation is a human-centric model where people with minimum capital can con-

tribute to the economy by coming together and compete with those who have access to more funds, he said.



He also said that the Modi government brought into mainstream some 60 crore people who did not have bank accounts and were part of the informal economy.

The cooperative movement must absorb modern technologies, he said, adding that "mass production and production by masses" is required.

## Ex-IAS officer Sudhanshu Pandey takes oath as Ladakh's first SEC

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
LEH: Former IAS officer Sudhanshu Pandey took oath as the first state election commissioner of the Union Territory of Ladakh on Saturday, an official spokesperson said.

Lieutenant Governor Brigadier (retired) B D Mishra administered the oath of office to Pandey at the Raj Niwas here, he added.

Pandey, a 1987-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Jammu and Kashmir cadre, is the first election commissioner of Ladakh after it became a Union Territory in 2019.

Retired last year as the Union secretary, department of food and public distribution, Pandey is the common election commissioner

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## Maharaja Hari Singh's birth anniversary celebrated across Jammu

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The 128th birth anniversary of last Dogra ruler Maharaja Hari Singh was celebrated with enthusiasm across Jammu on Saturday with various political and social groups holding public events to pay rich tributes to the "great social reformer" of his times.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration had last year declared the last Dogra ruler's birth anniversary as a public holiday in response to a long agitation headed by the Yuva Rajput Sabha (YRS).

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid his tributes to the maharaja and expressed hope that his "legacy continue to guide us towards a brighter future".

"Humble tributes to Maharaja Hari Singh Ji on his Jamm-Jayanti. He was a towering man of ideas & ideals, a harbinger of change, who dedicated his life to welfare of people & made remarkable reforms to uplift society. May his legacy continue to guide us



People in large number gathered near Maharaja Hari Singh's statue on Tawi bridge to celebrate his birthday on Saturday. (More pics on page-9)

towards a brighter future," Office of LG J&K wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

Ranvijay Singh, the trustee of Dharmarth Trust, founded by

Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1846, visited the life-size statue of Hari Singh near the main Tawi bridge in the heart of the city and celebrated the birth anniversary of his great grand-

father with 128 kg laddu.

"I am praying to god to help us tread the path shown by the Maharaja and keep Jammu and Kashmir prosperous," he said.

The YRS activists, attired in their traditional dress with some carrying swords, took out a huge motor rally from Bantalab to Tawi bridge, covering a distance of over 10 km and garlanded the maharaja's statue amid chants of "Maharaja Hari Singh Ji Amar Rahe" (Long live Maharaja) and "Jai Duggar Jai Dogra".

Besides social organisations, the leaders and workers of different political parties, including the BJP, Congress and Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) visited the venue separately and paid floral tributes to the maharaja. They also organised cake-cutting ceremonies amid drum beats.

"Maharaja is a torch-bearer for us and we will continue to follow his path," Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder

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