

Omar Abdullah calls on LG Sinha CM signals Cabinet reshuffle next week, asks MLAs not to ‘lobby’ as list finalized

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SRINAGAR: With Cabinet reshuffle at his agenda, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha here. The Lieutenant Governor Office posted on X: "Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Shri @OmarAbdullah called on Lieutenant Governor, Shri @manojsinha_ @CM_JnK" Abdullah reached the Lok Bhawan around 11 am to meet Sinha.

After meeting Lieutenant Governor, Jammu and Kashmir CM Omar Abdullah today said his council of ministers would be expanded and reshuffled in the first two to three days of next week and

Congress: No Cabinet entry till Statehood demand met

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Congress on Saturday reiterated its demand for the restoration of full statehood, making it clear that the party would continue to stay out of the Omar Abdullah-led Cabinet until its concerns over statehood and constitutional safeguards were addressed.

J&K Congress working president Raman Bhalla said the party remained firm on its position that the restoration of full statehood was essential to ensuring justice for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and ►P11

urged party colleagues and MLAs not to seek ministerial berths as the list has already been finalised. Speaking to reporters here, Abdullah said he had sought time from Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for the exercise. "Yes, it (reshuffle) certainly was (discussed). I requested time from him for the

expansion and asked him that in the first two to three days of next week, I will carry out the expansion and certain changes in my Council of Ministers," the chief minister said.

He said the lieutenant governor would fix a time for the exercise, following which the expansion would take place.

Abdullah appealed to his party colleagues and MLAs not to approach him or National Conference president Farooq Abdullah seeking ministerial berths, saying the list has already been finalised after consultations.

"After consultations with Dr. Farooq Abdullah Sahib, the list has been finalised. There is no need to knock on Farooq Sahib's door, ►P11

MHA to build 60K-strong civil defence net in 12 states, UTs

NEW DELHI: The home ministry will conduct a first-of-its-kind joint training with the Army to build a civil defence network of around 60,000 volunteers in 12 states and Union Territories (UTs) as part of a pilot project, according to an official statement.

In the first phase, a three-day specialised training will be given for civil defence master trainers from the participating states and UTs, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said in a statement.

The initiative stems from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day speech, in which he announced the vision ►P11

IAS Sajjan Singh Yadav to take over as Chief Secy from Nov 1

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JAMMU: Senior IAS officer Sajjan Singh Yadav, a 1995-batch AGMUT cadre officer, is set to replace Atal Dulloo as the chief secretary of Jammu and Kashmir, according to an order issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Dulloo, a 1989-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, was appointed to the post with effect from December 1, 2023. He is scheduled to superannuate on October 31, paving the way for the change in the top administrative position in the Union Territory.

"With the approval of the competent authority, Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav is hereby transferred from



Delhi to Jammu and Kashmir as chief secretary, Jammu and Kashmir, w.e.f. from 01.11.2026 or from the date of joining, whichever is later," the MHA order said.

Yadav's appointment will see him supersede at least five IAS officers for the top administrative post in Jammu and Kashmir. He is

currently serving as additional chief secretary in the Delhi government.

Over the course of his administrative career, he has held several key positions in the central government and various Union Territories, gaining experience in public administration, financial management, governance and public service delivery.

At the Centre, Yadav has served as special secretary in the Ministry of Finance and joint secretary in the Department of Expenditure.

He also served as joint secretary and mission director of POSHAN Abhiyaan under the Ministry of Women and Child Development. ►P11

Wave of nationalism sweeps Ladakh as RSS@100 in Leh outlines vision and mission for nation-building

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LEH: A wave of nationalism and patriotism was witnessed in Ladakh during an RSS event organised as part of its centenary celebrations. The programme highlighted the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's emphasis on national unity and inclusiveness in the cold desert, following months of reported alienation, bringing the organisation's century-long journey of social service and nation-building into focus at a time when questions of regional identity, social cohesion and Ladakh's relationship with the wider national framework have remained prominent in public discourse.

The event, titled "RSS@100: Vision and Mission — Organising Society, Building Character, Serving Bharat," was organised in Leh on October 24 to mark the completion of 100 years of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). The programme brought together discussions on Bharat's civilisational heritage, national consciousness, cultural values, character-building, social harmony and the collective responsibility of citizens in the process of nation-building.

Dr. Manmohan Vaidya, National Executive Member of the RSS, delivered the keynote address, placing particular emphasis on Panch Parivartan, or the Five Transformations, and the need to connect individual character with wider social change. His address linked patriotism with practical responsibility, arguing for a national commitment reflected in conduct, service, respect for others and contributions to collective well-being.

His Eminence Palga Rinpoche, who attended as the chief guest, spoke about nation-building, Bharat's ancient civilisation and the importance of cultivating respect for the nation and its

CENTENARY EVENT IN LEH HIGHLIGHTS NATIONAL UNITY AND INCLUSIVENESS AMID MONTHS OF REPORTED ALIENATION; DR. MANMOHAN VAIDYA EMPHASISES PANCH PARIVARTAN, CHARACTER-BUILDING, CIVILISATIONAL AWARENESS, INDIGENOUS CAPABILITIES AND SERVICE TO BHARAT



cultural values. He also highlighted the sacrifices of Indian Army personnel in protecting the country and

appreciated the RSS's century-long journey of service to society and the nation.

The programme was introduced by Padma Shri Dr. Padma Gurmeet, Vibhag Sanghchalak, Ladakh Vibhag, while Dr. Dawa Wangmo, Assistant Professor in the Department of International Relations at the University of Ladakh, moderated the proceedings.

The centenary gathering was framed around three interconnected ideas: organising society, building character and serving Bharat. Together, these themes provided the basis for a broader discussion on how individuals, families, communities and institutions can contribute to national development while preserving cultural heritage, strengthening social relationships and preparing younger generations for future challenges.

The programme also brought national unity into focus through discussions on civilisational continuity, indigenous knowledge, women's contributions, respect for the armed forces and the importance of social cooperation. The message was that national consciousness must be accompanied by a sense of responsibility towards society and an appreciation of the cultural traditions and experiences that shape communities.

The completion of 100 years of the RSS provided the central occasion for the Leh programme, offering an opportunity to reflect on the organisation's stated vision, mission and journey of service, as well as the continuing relevance of social organisation in contemporary India.

The centenary theme, "Organising Society, Building Character, Serving Bharat," placed social responsibility at the heart of the deliberations. ►P11

CAT holds Circuit Sitting at Leh; above 30 cases heard

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LEH: In continuation of the established practice of taking the justice delivery system closer to the people of the Union Territory of Ladakh, the Jammu Bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) on Saturday held its Circuit Sitting at the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Centre, Melongthang, Leh.

The Circuit Bench was presided over by Sanjeev Gupta Member (Judicial), and Pragya Sahay Saksena Member (Administrative).

The sitting was exclusively devoted to cases per-

taining to applicants and petitioners from the Union Territory of Ladakh, providing them an opportunity to access to justice at doorstep.

At the commencement of the sitting, the Members of the Tribunal were warmly accorded

welcomed with traditional Khataks by Shahnawaz Ali, OSD, Law on behalf of Administrative Secretary, Law, Jatinder Singh Jamwal, along with the staff members of the Department, on behalf of UT Administration.

The traditional welcome reflected the customary hospitality of Ladakh and set the tone for the proceedings, which were ►P11

Drone found abandoned near IB, probe in progress

JAMMU/SAMBA: A drone was discovered in a paddy field near the International Border in Jammu on Saturday evening, prompting the police to launch an investigation.

Officials have not yet determined whether the drone originated from Pakistan or was operated by a local.

The object was spotted at around 4.40 PM in a field belonging to Vijay Kumar, a resident of Makhyal village.

Upon noticing the object, Kumar informed the Kana Chak Police Station.

A police team quickly responded to the scene, ►P11

LG Sinha pays ‘tributes’ to Dr Raza on his centenary celebration event



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SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha paid rich tributes to eminent litterateur Dr. Razi Masoom Raza on the occasion of his birth centenary

celebration event and highlighted his immense contribution to Indian literature and cinema.

In a message delivered for the commemorative programme organised in Ghazipur, the Lieutenant

Governor noted that Razi Sahab's writings reflected the spirit of Ghazipur, Puvanchal, and India, while carrying a universal vision rooted in humanity and cultural harmony.

The Lieutenant Governor said that Dr. Razi Masoom Raza, through works such as Aadha Gaon, Topi Shukla, and Katra Bi Arzoo, as well as his contribution to the screenplay of Mahabharat, conveyed the message that India's culture, heritage, and future belong to every citizen.

Highlighting the relevance of Razi Masoom Raza's message and vision in present time, the ►P11

BJP slams Farooq's seditious comment

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SRINAGAR: Pakistan has saved Kashmiris by keeping the issue alive at international forums, National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah said on Saturday, sparking a row, with the BJP castigating the comment as "seditious and anti-national."

Abdullah said there is little hope for Kashmiris from the Centre.

"What hope will you (people of J-K) have from them (Delhi)? Will you expect that they will do justice for you?" the three-time chief minister said while addressing a party event in Baramulla district of north

Kashmir.

He urged Kashmiris to have courage so that they can confront Delhi.

"If you don't keep it, you will be erased. Even our trace and identity will disappear. Nothing will be left. They are silent today because there is noise in the world, and our neighbour is constantly behind this. Everywhere they say, 'the decision regarding Kashmir has not been made'. That is what is saving us. Otherwise, their intentions are not good," he said.

Abdullah also alleged that Muslims are being oppressed in BJP-led states.

"Do you see how their mosques are being razed? Their homes are ►P11

Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurates world's first 'air pollution analysis' facility for Delhi-NCR

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Dr. Jitendra Singh on Saturday inaugurated the world's first-of-its-kind 'Air Pollution Analysis' facility for Delhi NCR. Known as 'Integrated Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosol Toxicity Analysis Laboratory' (AATAL), it is also equipped to identify real-time sources of air pollution.

Describing it as a first-of-its-kind integrated facility in the world, the Minister said Delhi-NCR had been chosen in view of the serious public concern over air pollution. He said the facility would take air-quality assessment beyond simply reporting pollution levels to identifying the composition of pollutants, their sources, their relative contributions and their potential health implications, while providing real-time information and advance forecasts to support timely action.



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Prison “radicalization” module busted: Police

SRINAGAR: An alleged prison-based radicalisation module linked with a proscribed organisation which targeted women to circulate separatist ideology and propaganda has been busted in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district, with police arresting six persons in this connection, officials said on Saturday. Police have allegedly uncovered a clandestine module, said to be associated with the banned Ittihad-ul-Muslimeen and operating under directions of a Pakistan-based handler, a spokesman said. He said investigation has revealed suspicious activities involving prison-based coordination, covert meetings for the purpose of propagating separatist ideology and financial transactions. A case under provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act has been registered in this connection at Bandipora police station, and six persons, including four women, have been arrested, the spokesman said. ►P11

BJP seeks Cong's clarification on calls to separate Kashmir

NEW DELHI: The BJP on Saturday asked the Congress to clarify whether it endorses the demands for separating Kashmir from India and releasing the 2020 Delhi riots accused Sharjeel Imam.

This came a day after Congress MP Imran Masood visited Jamia Millia Islamia university to express solidarity with the students agitating for the restoration of the students' union.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, party MP Ravi Shankar Prasad said the university campus boundary wall was covered with slogans like 'Free Kashmir' and 'Release Sharjeel Imam'. "What

was he doing there?" he asked, adding, "We condemn it." Prasad said Masood's visit to the campus amid such a situation raises "serious questions" because he is not just a Congress MP but also the working president of the party's Uttar Pradesh unit. "Does the Congress party endorse the demand, boldly written at Jamia Millia Islamia, to separate Kashmir from India? What is the Congress party's stand on Sharjeel Imam?" he asked. Delhi Police detained Masood near Jamia Millia Islamia on Friday after he visited the university. The agitation began on October 12, with protesters demanding an official no-

tification announcing a schedule for the students' union elections. The last elections were held in 2005, and the union was dissolved in 2006. Prasad said Jammu and Kashmir has been progressing since Article 370, which gave a special status to the erstwhile state, was scrapped. "The transformation that has taken place across Kashmir is being praised globally. We strongly condemn any conspiracy to incite unrest on the issue of Kashmir, and we advocate for strict action (against any such move)," the BJP leader said. Kashmir is an integral part of India and would remain so forever, Prasad added.