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INBRIEF

LG, CM extend wishes on Herath, Mahashivratri

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has extended his heartiest greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of Mahashivratri, which will be celebrated tomorrow on February 15.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said: “On the sacred occasion of Mahashivratri, I extend my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all. I pray for the health, happiness, and prosperity of every citizen.

The sacred festival, celebrated as ‘Herath’ by Kashmiri Pandit community, is a symbol of our spiritual tradition and communal harmony. Mahashivratri holds a place of profound significance in our life. The holy festival provides opportunity to pause and reflect the timeless virtues Lord Shiva exemplifies. The teaching Lord Shiva embodies is one of universal service. The holy ► **P11**

Modi makes historic touchdown at NE's 1st emergency landing facility

PM slams Congress over Assam unrest



GUWAHATI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday made a historic touchdown at the Northeast's first Emergency Landing Facility in Assam's Dibrugarh district, and later launched a scathing attack on the Congress at a rally here, accusing the party of ignoring the region and fuelling insurgency during its rule in the state.

He also launched projects worth Rs 5,450 crore during his third visit to the poll-bound Assam in three months.

Modi took off from the Chabua airfield after his arrival and landed at the Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) in Moran on a stretch of National Highway-37.

The PM, after inaugurating the ELF, said, "It is a matter of immense pride that the Northeast gets an Emergency Landing Facility."

"From a strategic point of view and during times of natural disasters, this facility is of great importance," Modi said on X.

The Rs 100-crore ELF, a 4.2-km reinforced stretch on the Moran bypass, will act as a strategic and multi-functional runway for IAF fighter jets and transport aircraft, strengthening defence, logistics and disaster response.

During his day-long Assam visit, the Prime Minister, while addressing a public meeting here that also included BJP workers, launched an all-out attack on the Congress, accusing it of neglecting the Northeast and promoting insurgency in Assam during its rule.

He alleged that the Congress always endangered the nation's security, ► **P11**

'World saw how Indian Govt punished terrorists' Pulwama attack's 7th anniversary: VP, Modi, Shah, LG pay homage to martyrs

NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH: Rich tributes were paid to the soldiers killed in the Pulwama attack, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserting that the world has seen how the government responded to the terror attack that took place seven years ago.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also praised the prime minister at a rally in poll-bound Puducherry for his "decisive leadership" and "resolute action" against terrorism, hailing the Balakot airstrike carried out after the Pulwama attack and Operation Sindoor undertaken after the Pahalgam attack.

Several chief ministers and top Congress leaders paid tributes to the soldiers killed and said their service to the nation would always be remembered.

A suicide bomber crashed his explosive-laden vehicle into a bus ferrying Central Reserve Police Force



DG CRPF: Duty-bound to eliminate terror threats

PULWAMA: On the anniversary of the deadly Pulwama attack, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) chief Gyanendra Pratap Singh emphasised the force's commitment to eliminating all forms of terrorism in the country.

"The CRPF is duty-bound to wipe out all forms of terrorism from the country," Singh told reporters after paying tributes to the 40 CRPF personnel, who were killed in the terror attack at Lethpora here in south Kashmir district.

The CRPF top brass, along with senior ► **P11**

(CRPF) personnel on February 14, 2019, killing 40 jawans.

Days later, India launched a retaliatory attack, which came to be known as the Balakot airstrike.

Vice President C P Radhakrishnan paid homage to the CRPF personnel who lost their lives, saying their sacrifice will forever remain etched in the nation's memory.

In a post on X, Modi said, "Remembering the brave heroes who laid down their lives in Pulwama on this day in 2019. Their devotion, resolve and service to the nation remain forever etched in our collective consciousness. Every Indian draws strength from their enduring courage."

Addressing a public meeting in Guwahati at poll-bound Assam, Modi said the world has seen how the government responded to the terror attack. ► **P11**

Posters of wanted JeM terrorist emerge in Doda



JAMMU: Police in Doda district have pasted posters at several strategic locations seeking information about a Pakistani commander of the banned outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), an official

said on Saturday.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Doda Sandeep Mehta said the Pakistani terrorist, identified as Saifullah, is believed holed up in Chatroo belt of adjoining Kishtwar district with intelligence inputs suggesting that he is ► **P11**

Drone dropped 6.5 Kg heroin seized along IB

JAMMU: A major cross-border narcotics smuggling attempt was foiled along the International Border on Saturday with the seizure of over 6.5 kg of heroin worth over Rs 40 crore in the R S Pura sector here, officials said.

The contraband was recovered during a joint operation of the 166th battalion of Border Security Force (BSF) and police from Nai Basti Karotana village in Baspur area, following information about a drone dropping material from across the border, they said.

Police received information about the suspected drone ► **P11**

US trade deal to affect J-K: CM hopes for better India-Bangladesh relations

Omar inaugurates GON’GUL-2026 at SKUAST-K

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday expressed hope that the new government in Bangladesh will improve relations with India, and said having stable neighbours benefits our country.

He also said the India-US trade deal will adversely affect the Union Territory.

"The more stable our neighbouring countries are, the more it benefits us. No one wants to have wars and fights, or to have unstable neighbours -- be it Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal or any other country," Abdul-



lah told reporters after inaugurating the annual agritech festival 'GONGUL' at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Tech-

nology here.

Abdullah said India wants democracy in Bangladesh and wants it to remain stable and prosper.

"We hope that after their government formation, both the countries will improve their relations, which had otherwise witnessed some bitterness," he added.

To a question about the Indo-US trade deal, the chief minister said that while he does not know how the deal would benefit the rest of the country, for Jammu and Kashmir "as of now, we can only see losses".

"The items that will be allowed to enter here duty-free are all what Jammu and Kashmir produces -- almonds, walnuts, apples, fresh fruit, dry fruit. You (government) are saying there will be no ► **P11**

DM imposes curbs along 5 km IB zone

KATHUA: Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Saturday imposed restrictions on "unnecessary movement" within a five-kilometre belt along the International Border, citing the possibility of cross-border firing and the need to prevent anti-national activities and safeguard villagers.

Kathua District Magistrate Rajesh Sharma issued the order under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), which empowers executive magistrates to take preventive measures in urgent cases of apprehended danger to maintain public order and safety. "The security situation in the border ► **P11**

Army Cdr reviews security grid, operational readiness in Valley



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Northern Army Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma reviewed the security framework and operational preparedness of the forces deployed in the Kashmir valley, the Army said.

The Army commander also visited a strategic logistics echelon in Kashmir to review its operational preparedness, it said.

"Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, #ArmyCdrNC, conducted a comprehensive review of the security framework and operational readiness of forces deployed in North & South #Kashmir," the Army's Northern Command said on X.

It said the commander was briefed in detail on the integrated intelligence grid, updated operational protocols and enhanced joint ► **P11**

NSG holds specialised anti-IED drill

JAMMU: The National Security Guard (NSG) successfully conducted a two-week advanced training programme on Counter Improvised Explosive Devices (CIED) for personnel of Jammu and Kashmir Police in Udhampur district, officials said on Saturday.

A total of 53 officers, officials belonging to Bomb Disposal Squads (BDS) of all the revenue and Police districts, Government Railway Police, Police Control Room Jammu and ► **P11**

CDS: Tibet's recognition led to border row

DEHRADUN: Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan said the border dispute with China followed India's recognition of Tibet as part of the that country in 1954 with the signing of Panchsheel Agreement.

The chief of defence staff (CDS) was delivering a lecture on 'Frontiers, Borders and LAC: The Middle Sector' under the India Himalayan International Strategic Forum think tank at Lok Bhavan here on Friday.

Chauhan said, "In 1954, India officially recognised Tibet as part of China, the two countries signed the Panchsheel Agreement."

Following the agreement, "India considered itself to have ► **P11**

Media's role goes beyond reporting facts to shaping opinion: IAS Rajora

DIPR organises workshop for media persons

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) on Saturday organised a day-long workshop on 'Ethical Journalism and the Evolving Landscape of Journalism', for media persons of Jammu at Media Complex here.

The objective of the workshop was to sensitise the media professionals and communication practitioners about the changing dynamics of journalism and the critical importance of ethical standards in the present digital age.

During the workshop, Re-



gional Director IIMC Jammu, Dr Dilip Kumar and Assistant Professor, Vishav were the resource persons.

The resource persons enlightened the participants on emerging trends in journalism, challenges posed by mis-

information, and the growing influence of digital platforms on news consumption and dissemination. ► **P11**