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## Govt focussing on ensuring all members of society participate fully in J&K's dev journey: LG



LG Manoj Sinha addressing 45th Foundation Day of J&K Samaj Kalyan Kendra School for hearing impaired in Jammu on Monday.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: "Inclusion is the key for prosperity," the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Monday. He said in the past few years, the government's efforts were focused on ensuring all members of society participate fully in J&K's developmental journey and people with special abilities are able to unlock their potential and contribute to greater pros-

perity and social stability. The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the 45th Foundation Day of School for the hearing impaired run by J&K Samaj Kalyan Kendra.

The Lieutenant Governor also observed that several forces based abroad and also in India are trying to stop the progress of the country. He said this conspiracy has been hatched by certain elements

but no power can stop our march towards developed India.

"India will emerge more powerful defeating the challenges and hurdles created by certain elements. No one can stop our rise," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, called for implementing inclusive rehabilitation measures for

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## Sinha chairs 36th meeting of Executive Council of SMVDU

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired the 36th meeting of Executive Council of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), at Raj Bhawan on Monday.

The meeting was attended by Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU; Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor Jammu University; Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor Kashmir University; Prof. Pankaj Chandra, Vice Chancellor and Chairman, Board of Management, Ahmedabad University; Prof. A.S.K. Sinha, Director, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology, Amethi; Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director, IIT, Jammu; Dr. Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Sachin Kumar Vaishya, CEO, SMVDSB; Ajay Kumar Sharma, Registrar, SMVDU and other members of Executive Council.

The Executive Council discussed several important academic and administrative issues and gave in-principle approval to various agenda points presented during the meeting.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the University to take a comprehensive review of the various important initiatives and programmes to regularly update the curriculum to meet the objectives of National Education Policy-2020 and transforming SMVDU into a premier educational institute at the National level.

He highlighted the need for a dedicated focus on lifelong learning skill and community engagement, increasing enrolment, industry collaboration and networking, Skill enhancement through short term courses, research, innovation and incubation, patents, strengthening

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## Omar stresses on attracting investment, strengthening manufacturing base in J&K



CM Omar Abdullah interacting with members of Federation of Indian Export Organizations at Srinagar on Monday.

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday reiterated his government's commitment to addressing infrastructural and other constraints to make Jammu and Kashmir a more attractive destination for investment and manufacturing.

He was speaking during an interactive session with the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) held

in Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by FIEO President S.C. Ralhan, Vice President Shrikant Kapoor, DG & CEO Ajay Sahai, regional chairpersons, past presidents, board members and other dignitaries.

The session discussed various opportunities of collaboration between J&K government and key representatives of India's export community.

Welcoming the FIEO delegation to Srinagar, the Chief Minister said that the organization's decision to hold its Board of Management meeting in the city was "an important vote of confidence" in Jammu and Kashmir. "Your presence here is very reassuring for us," he remarked, adding that J&K has always valued its long-standing association with India's

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## NC names 4th candidate for RS polls after Cong declines seat

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The National Conference on Monday named party spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar as its fourth candidate for the Rajya Sabha polls in Jammu and Kashmir after the Congress, which is part of the ruling alliance, declined to nominate anyone.

Biennial elections to fill the seats, lying vacant since 2021, will be held on October 24.

"JKNC state spokesperson @ImranNDar will be the official party nominee for the 4th Rajya Sabha

seat," the National Conference posted on its official handle.

Earlier, the party's three candidates -- Chowdhary Mohammad Ramzan, Sajjad Ahmad Kitchloo and Gurwinder Singh alias Shammi Oberoi -- filed their nominations before the returning officer for the Rajya Sabha polls.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the NC decided to field its candidate for the fourth seat after the Congress declined to field a candidate. The BJP has fielded candidates in three seats.

## Full Bench declines interim relief in pleas against forfeiture of 25 books on Kashmir; Court issues notice

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant development, the Full Bench of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court on Monday declined to grant interim relief in a batch of petitions challenging the Union Territory government's notification declaring 25 books as "forfeited" for allegedly propagating secessionism.

Full Bench comprising Chief Justice Arun Palli, Justice Rajnesh Oswal and Justice Shahzad Azeem refused interim relief but issued notice on the pleas filed under Section 99 read

with Section 528 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNSS). The bench, however, dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) on the same issue, observing that it did not qualify as "public interest" and remarking that "90% of people would not understand the issue."

The petitions, filed by retired Air Vice Marshal Kapil Kak, author Dr. Sumantra Bose, peace scholar Dr. Radha Kumar, and former Chief Information Commissioner Wajahat Habibullah, assail the August 5 notification of the J&K Home Department.

The government had invoked Section 98 BNSS to forfeit 25 books on Kashmir's political and social history, alleging that they "propagate false narratives and secessionism."

The petitioners argued that the impugned order is sweeping, unreasoned and arbitrary, as it does not cite specific passages or portions from the books to establish secessionist content. They relied on Supreme Court precedents, including Narayan Das Indurakhyia v. State of Madhya Pradesh (1972), to contend that merely reproducing statutory

language without underlying grounds does not meet the requirement of a reasoned order.

The government, on the other hand, has maintained that systematic dissemination of such literature has contributed to youth radicalisation, glorification of terrorism, vilification of security forces, distortion of historical facts, and promotion of alienation.

The forfeited books include works by noted scholars and writers such as Sumantra Bose, A.G. Noorani, Arundhati Roy, Seema

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## Police search premises linked to JeI, Hurriyat Conference



### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Police on Monday conducted searches at several locations here linked to persons associated with the banned Jamaat-e-Islami and Hurriyat Conference, officials said.

The searches were carried out at the homes of Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat alias Goga Shahib, Mohammad Ashraf Sehrai, Mehrajuddin Kalwal, and Zameer Ahmad Sheikh.

"Continuing its sustained

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## Retail inflation slips to over 8-yr low of 1.54 pc in Sep

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Retail inflation slowed to an over 8-year low of 1.54 per cent in September and slipped below Reserve Bank's comfort zone mainly due to subdued prices of vegetables, fruits and pulses, showed government data released on Monday.

The consumer price index (CPI) based inflation was 2.07 per cent in August and 5.49 per cent in September 2024. The previous low was 1.46 per cent in June 2017.

It is for the second time that retail inflation has slipped below 2 per cent in 2025. The government has mandated the RBI to ensure CPI remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on the either side.

"There is decrease of 53 basis points in headline inflation of September, 2025 in comparison to August 2025. It is the lowest year-on-year inflation after June 2017," the National Statistics Office (NSO) said.

Year-on-year food inflation during September 2025

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## Chugh slams Chidambaram's lies on Op Bluestar

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: BJP

National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Monday came down heavily on senior Congress leader

P. Chidambaram for his "blatant lies" on Operation Bluestar, asking how it is even conceivable that tanks and cannons were brought into the sanctum of Shri Harmandir Sahib without the express consent and orders of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

"To claim otherwise is to insult the memory of those



dark days and to brazenly whitewash history," Chugh said in a statement.

He reminded the nation

that it was the Congress party that protected and sheltered the perpetrators of the 1984 Sikh massacre for four long decades.

Leaders like Jagdish Tytler, Sajjan Kumar, and HKL Bhagat-accused in the most brutal killings of Sikhs across 52 districts of India-were shielded and rewarded by the Congress establishment, he added.

Chugh also said it is the Modi Government that finally paved the way for justice to the families who

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## Simbal Camp Murder

### Two brothers arrested from Punjab

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two brothers were arrested in Punjab on Monday for allegedly murdering a man over a personal dispute on the outskirts of Jammu city, officials said.

According to the police, the incident occurred at Simbal Camp in the Miran Sahib area on October 9, when Narinder Singh was attacked by Tanveer Singh alias Kalu and Bavneet Singh alias Babby, along with their family members, resulting in his death.

The police said the arrests were made within hours of the incident, reflecting

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## Ex-PRO, kin to face trial in Rs 3.5 Cr Disproportionate Assets Case

### Spl Judge Anti-Corruption frames charges; Court finds prima facie case of benami deals, illegal wealth

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a high-profile corruption case, the Special Judge Anti-Corruption, Jammu, has ordered framing of charges against Kewal Krishan Sharma, former Additional PRO to the then Deputy Chief Minister, along with his son Ishant Sharma and brother Babu Ram Sharma, for amassing assets disproportionate to known sources of income to the tune of over Rs 3.5 crore.

Delivering the order, Special Judge Anticorruption Jammu Haq

Nawaz Zargar held that there exists prima facie material to proceed against the accused under Section 5(1)(e) read with Section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act and Sections 109, 120-B of the RPC.

The case originated from an ACB probe into allegations that Sharma, originally a Forest Guard, amassed huge wealth while serving as Additional PRO between 2010 and 2015. The investigation revealed a fleet of luxury and commercial vehicles, multiple residential houses, a

flat in Ghaziabad worth Rs 75 lakh, expensive electronic items, gold, and cash transactions linked to Sharma and his family. Many of these were allegedly acquired through benami transactions in the names of close relatives and associates.

The Court noted that during the check period (2010-2015), Sharma's assets skyrocketed from about Rs 10 lakh to over Rs 3.5 crore, whereas the legitimate family income stood at only Rs 92.5 lakh. This represented

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## Sat Sharma, among 3 BJP candidates file nominations for RS polls

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Three candidates of the BJP on Monday filed their nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha elections being held for four seats of Jammu and Kashmir. The BJP has fielded candidates in three seats.

BJP Jammu and Kashmir president Sat Sharma, Ali Mohammad Mir, and Rakesh Mahajan filed their nominations here, before the Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Manoj Kumar Pandita, who is the Returning Officer for the polls.

The BJP candidates were accompanied by Union Minister of State in PMO Jitendra Singh and Rajya Sabha member Ghulam Ali Khatana, among others.

Talking to reporters, senior BJP leader and Leader of



BJP president Sat Sharma flanked by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh and Rajya Sabha member Ghulam Ali Khatana filing nomination papers.

Opposition in J-K Assembly Sunil Sharma said his party has fielded candidates for three of the four Rajya Sabha seats and all efforts would be made to win all three of them.

"We will do whatever it takes to win all three seats on which we have fielded candi-

dates," he said.

Earlier, the BJP candidates left the party headquarters at Jawahar Nagar in a procession towards the returning officer's office.

The candidates were accompanied by most of the party MLAs and other

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## Hope MLAs vote by conscience for Valley's future: Dr Jitendra

SRINAGAR: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Monday said the BJP will not use any unfair means to win the Rajya Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir, but hoped that MLAs will vote by their conscience for the party's candidates in the interest of the union territory.

"It is wrong to say that we (BJP) will incite cross-voting or indulge in buying votes. The BJP is a democratic party, we believe in and follow democratic principles," Singh said.

If the MLAs listen to their conscience, it will tell them that the future of Jammu and Kashmir is safe in the hands of the BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he added.

The Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office was speaking after accompanying the three BJP candidates who filed their nominations for the October 24 polls to four Rajya Sabha seats.

Singh said MLAs are expected to support leaders who are experienced and work for public welfare.

"Today, three BJP candidates - Sat Sharma, Ali Mohammad Mir and Rakesh Mahajan - have filed nominations. All three are experienced and have long been in public life. We expect the MLAs will help our candidates win as there is no whip in these polls," he said. The minister said welfare of Jammu and Kashmir has been a

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**WEATHER**

**Temperature (Jammu)**  
Max: 30.7°C Min: 17.7°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 64 Min: 54

**Temperature (Srinagar)**  
Max: 25.8°C Min: 7.7°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 78 Min: 49

Sunset : 18:01 Hours  
Sunrise : 06:33 Hours