

# Vol. 30 Issue 297 • Jammu • Tuesday • October 28, 2025 • Pages 12 • ₹ 3.00

New frontiers in preventive cardiology for older adults: Dr Sushil

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

J&K Bank commences Vigilance Awareness Week-2025 with Integrity pledge across its network

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

Auqib Nabi's devastating spell crushes Rajasthan as J&K seals emphatic innings victory

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

# CM reiterates commitment to equitable relief for flood hit people

"No politics or regional bias in relief distribution"

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday intervened during the Question Hour of the ongoing Autumn Session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, reiterating his Government's stance on land allotment for the landless and the distribution of relief for recent damages across regions.

Responding to a query raised by MLA Pawan Kumar Gupta on behalf of MLA Sham Lal Sharma, the Chief Minister said that the Government is not bringing any fresh policy as the existing framework adequately addresses the issue.

"The Minister has already given the correct answer. The question is not about the absence of a policy but whether there is a need for a fresh one. We are not introducing a new policy because there is no need for it, the Chief Minister stated.

Elaborating on the Government's initiative for the landless, Omar Abdullah said, "We have already announced that five marlas of land will be provided to landless families



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah speaking at the assembly session at Srinagar on Monday.

for construction of houses. The necessary paperwork is underway. For residents, the land will be allotted on a lease basis.

Addressing concerns over regional parity in relief measures, the Chief Minister strongly refuted any suggestion of discrimination.

former CEC has sought 12

weeks' time for conducting the

JKCA polls. The bench also

asked the Board of Control for

Cricket in India (BCCI) to ren-

der all assistance to the former

CEC for conducting the polls

for the cricket body of the

Union territory. Earlier, the top

court upheld the new constitu-

tion of the JKCA, which was

drafted under the supervision

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

SRINAGAR: The Jammu

and Kashmir government on

Monday said it has sought

the National Investigation

Agency's (NIA) nod for

starting work on a cable car

project in Baisaran in the

tourist resort of Pahalgam,

the site of the April 22 terror

The NIA is probing the

In response to an unstarred

question by Pahalgam MLA

Altaf Ahmad Wani in the

Jammu and Kashmir

Assembly, the government

said the project work has

attack, in which 26 people,

mostly tourists, died.

"Our policy is not to seek relief for

one region while ignoring another. This was never our intention," he emphasized

The Chief Minister said that teams from the Government of India, including the Home Minister and Agriculture Minister, visited the affected areas to assess the damage

### **CM tables J&K Rent Authority Bill in LA** SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar

Abdullah on Monday introduced the Jammu and Kashmir Rent Authority Bill, 2025 (LA Bill No. 4 of 2025) in the Legislative Assembly "I rise to introduce a Bill to establish a Rent Authority to regulate the renting of premises, to protect the interests of landlords and tenants and to provide a speedy adjudication mechanism for the resolution of disputes and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The Bill has already been published in an extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette," the Chief Minister said

while introducing the Bill. Subsequently, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather placed the Bill before the House for consideration.

"After a joint assessment, it was observed that Jammu division has suffered comparatively more damage than Kashmir. Accordingly, we have

# We must remain prepared for war-like situation: Rajnath Operation Sindoor led to a

NEW DELHI: India must remain ready for a "war-like situation" as the four-day military conflict with Pakistan in May showed anything can happen anytime along the frontiers, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday.

Addressing an event, Singh said that though India gave a "firm response" to Pakistan Operation during Sindoor, it should serve as a case study to learn and chart the future course of action in dealing with national security challenges.

The defence minister said the effective use of indigenously manufactured military equipment during the May 7-10 operation bolstered India's reputation both regionally and interna-

Singh also suggested that

situation where war was also "knocking at our doorstep". "Although we gave a firm

dent has once again shown us that anything can happen at our borders, anywhere, at any time. We need to be ready for a war-like situation,

and our preparedness must be based on our own foundation," he said. The defence minister emphasised that the

present-day uncertainties call for an in-depth assessment of every domain, with 'indigenisation' being the only way to deal with the challenges. established "The

world order is weakening, and conflict zones are increasing in many

regions. It has, therefore, become necessary for India to redefine its security and strategy," he said.

Singh asserted that the world witnessed the

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### SC orders JKCA polls in 12 weeks under supervision of former CEC

### STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday directed that the elections to the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) be held within 12 weeks under the supervision of a former chief election commissioner. A bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran took note of the submissions that A K Joti, a former CEC, has agreed to supervise the JKCA polls.

The bench ordered that irrespective of whether the constitution of the JKCA is registered, the polls will be held as per the provisions of the constitution. It was apprised that the

### to review proposal for Kishtwar airport STATE TIMES NEWS

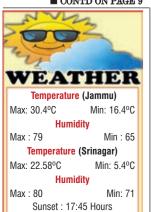
JAMMU: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Monday said a five-member team from the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Airports Authority of India will evaluate the status of the proposal for developing the airport in the Kishtwar district, during their two-day visit beginning Tuesday.

The minister earlier announced that Kishtwar in Jammu and Kashmir will get a full-fledged airport facility with provisions for aircraft landing and take-off, for which an upgraded airstrip will be constructed adjacent to the Chaugan ground in the town. Upon returning to Delhi,

the team will submit its report to higher authorities, following which a further roadmap will be charted out. he said, in a post on X. "As a result of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi's special priority for far-flung regions, it is gratifying that each of our requests and initiatives for the

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Sunrise: 06:44 Hours

# Pakistani drone drops over 5 kgs heroin worth Rs 25 Cr along IB

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Security Forces on Monday foiled a major narcotic smuggling attempt from across the International Border here with the recovery of two bags, dropped by a Pakistani drone and containing over five kg of heroin worth over Rs 25 crore in the international market, officials said.

J&K Govt seeks NIA nod for starting work

on cable car project in Pahalgam

been allotted to a company

but it has not begun "in view

of the post-Pahalgam sce-

The alignment for the 1.4-

km project has been identi-

fied by the Jammu and

"The lower terminal point is

located near the Yatri Niwas

in Pahalgam and the upper

terminal point is located in

Baisaran. The total length of

the project would be 1.4 km.

The... 9.13 Hects (land

required) for the project

belongs to the Forest

Department," Chief Minister

Omar Abdullah, who holds

Corporation (JKCCC).

Kashmir

Cable

To implement the constitu-Briefing media, SSP Jammu Joginder Singh said, tion, the BCCI appointed a sub-committee in June 2021, "The recovery of narcotics was made near Border consisting of Brigadier Anil Gupta, former cricketer and Outpost Jatinder in R S present BCCI president Pura sector during a joint Mithun Manhas, and senior search operation by the Security Force



SSP Jammu Joginder Singh addressing press conference.

(BSF) and police.

a written reply.

The search operation was launched at around 6 am after a Pakistani drone was seen hovering over the Indian side, the officials said.

the tourism portfolio, said in

The government said the

Jammu and Kashmir Cable

Car Corporation (JKCCC)

has floated tenders for

engagement of a consultant

for the preparation of a

detailed project report

(DPR) and a tender docu-

The tenders have been

finalised and the work has

been allotted to a qualified

agency -- Ronmas India Pvt.

An agreement has been

signed between the JKCCC

ment for the said project.

A BSF spokesman said acting on precise intelligence, troops foiled vet another attempt by Pakistan-based smugglers to push

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### J&K Board of Technical **Education re-constituted**

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The government on Monday re-constituted J&K Board of Technical Education (JKBOTE).

"In supersession of all previous orders issued on the subject, J&K Board of Technical Education is herere-constituted with Minister, Skill Development Department as its Chairman and Secretary, J&K Board of Technical Education as Member-Secretary," read an order issued by M. Raju, Commissioner/Secretary, Administration General Department.

Administrative Secretary, ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### Security, intelligence officers review border monitoring along IB JAMMU: A joint team of

officers from different security and intelligence agencies on Monday visited Border Outpost Octroi along the International Border here and reviewed the infrastructure and technological assets deployed for effective border monitoring, an official spokesperson said.

The cross-establishment team's visit in Suchetgarh sector was organised by the Border Security

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### Phase-II of SIR of electoral rolls in 12 states, UTs from Nov 4 Puducherry, Kerala, and

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS NEW DELHI: The Election

response with a firm resolve

and our forces are fully pre-

pared to defend the country's

borders, we must continue to

"Operation Sindoor should

serve as a case study from

which we can learn and chart

introspect," he said.

Commission will conduct phase two of the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in 12 states and Union Territories between November and February, Chief Election Commissioner Gvanesh Kumar announced on Monday.

The states and Union Territories are: the Andaman Nicobar and Islands. Lakshadweep, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Among these, Tamil Nadu,

West Bengal will go to the polls in 2026. Kumar clarified that in Assam, where polls are also due in 2026, the revision of electoral rolls will be announced separately.

Phase two of the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise will begin on November 4 with the enumeration state and continue till December 4. The EC will release the draft electoral rolls on December 9, and the final electoral rolls will be published on February 7.

Kumar said a separate provision of the Citizenship Act was applicable to Assam.

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### HC strikes down blanket reservation in J&K Colleges

### Non-domicile students can now fill vacant BPT, AYUSH seats; Court says wasting seats is against national interest

## ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a landmark ruling, the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has ruled that 100% domicile-based reservation in admissions to private medical and paramedical colleges is unconstitutional if it leads to wastage of seats. The Court directed that once local quota is exhausted, unfilled seats must be opened to students from outside the Union Territory.

The verdict, pronounced by Justice Sanjay Dhar, came while deciding petitions filed by the Jammu College of

Physiotherapy and Institute Jammu Ayurveda and Research, both of which had challenged government orders restricting admissions exclusively to J&K domiciles. The petitioners argued that insisting on NEET scores for Bachelor of Physiotherapy admissions, despite no statutory requirement, along with the domicile rule under S.O. 175 of 2020, left a majority of seats vacant each year, causing financial strain and loss of resources.

Justice Sanjay Dhar upheld the government's

right to regulate admissions through NEET, saying merit-based selection is essential to maintain academic standards. However, it ruled that forcing 100% domicile reservation violates Articles 14 and 19(1)(g) of the Constitution. Citing earlier Supreme Court rulings, the judgment stressed that domicile-based reservation cannot exceed 70 percent and that leaving seats vacant amounts to "a national waste of resources" detrimental to both institutions and society. The Court ordered

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skills, discipline, and valour,

"Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

symbolises India's unity,

an official statement said.

# We invested in transforming education ecosystem to make J&K 'Oasis of Talent': LG

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: "Government schools will lead the future of India's learning reforms," the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Monday. He said the Robotics Lab, STEM innovation centres, smart classrooms, advanced digital infrastructure, professional development for teachers, and holistic learning spaces will unlock the potential of every child. The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the inauguration of DREAM School Project at the prestigious Government Girls Higher Secondary Bagh, Kothi School.

Srinagar. The project- Developing Resilient Education and Aspirational Mindsets

LG Manoj Sinha addressing gathering after inaugurating Dream School Project in Srinagar.

(DREAM) is a collaboration between the Government of Jammu & Kashmir and the and Shabana Foundation that was initiated through an MoU in March As per the MoU, the Faizal

and Shabana Foundation has constructed the middle school block with state-ofthe-art facilities such as Robotics and STEM Lab, ACs for all the rooms and a dedicated lunchroom with separate kitchen and a store-

room. The DREAM School Project was committed by Faizal Kottikollon, Chairman of the UAE India Business Council-UAE Chapter (UIBC-UC), during a highlevel UIBC-UC delegation visit to Srinagar in 2023

The project aimed to transform public education in Jammu Kashmir, builds on the success of the Nadakkavu School model in Kerala, which has been ranked among the top 3 best Government Day schools in India for the past five years.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor said the project is a testament to our commitment to ensure global standard education to every child and a progressive environment for them to aspire and dream big. He further stated that his goal is to ensure that every school in Jammu Kashmir becomes a hub of innovation, inclusion, and inspiration - nurturing

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## Modi to lead Sardar Patel's 150th birth anniv celebrations on Friday

### STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the 150th birth anniver-

tions Vallabhbhai Patel at Ekta Nagar Gujarat's Narmada district Friday, where

sarv celebra-

the 'Statue of Unity', the tallest figure of the country's first home minister, stands.

This year's Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations, which commemorate the birth anniversary of the 'Iron Man of India', will include a cul-

tural festival and a 'National

Unity Day' parade by securi-

ty forces showcasing their

integrity and national solidarity. This year's celebrations are particularly special, marking the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Patel,' the statement said.

The prime minister has urged citizens to join a 'Run for Unity' on October 31 to celebrate the occasion,

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