

# THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K Vol. 30 Issue 300 • Jammu • Friday • October 31, 2025 • Pages 12 • ₹ 3.00

**10** LG Kavinder virtually inaugurates infrastructure projects worth Rs 64 crores

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

**J&K Bank accelerates progress** under Mission YUVA

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

#### Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh JKPS Panjtirthi shines at UT-Level Handball Championship

# LG Sinha terminates two Govt employees over terror links

#### JAMMU: Two government employees were terminated from the service by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday by invok-

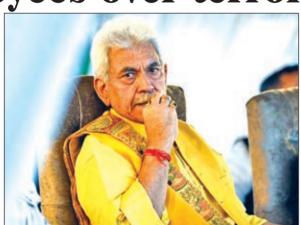
ing Article 311 of the

Constitution of India.

Jammu Kashmir.

The action is part of Lieutenant Governor Sinha's "zero-tolerance" policy against terrorism and a broader crackdown on the ecosystem

The terminated Ghulam Hussain-Teacher Education Department): Ghulam Hussain was appointed as Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) teacher in 2004. He was regularised in 2009 and posted at Govt Primary School, Kalwa, Mahore, Reasi. According to sources, Ghulam Hussain was covertly working for Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) to carry out terrorist activities. As an Over Ground Worker (OGW), he was tasked to



strengthen the terror network in Reasi and surrounding areas

"The evidence collected by the investigators from law enforcement and intelligence agencies have revealed that Ghulam Hussain was in touch with LeT terrorists Mohd Qasim and Ghulam Mustafa through encrypted messaging applications. "Both were his handlers and Ghulam Hussain was carry-

valour, an official statement

The parade, which marks

the 150th birth anniversary

of Sardar Patel, will be

organised at Ekta Nagar,

where the 182-metre-tall

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Statue of Unity stands.

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

JAMMU: The Special Judge

Anti-Corruption, Jammu,

Haq Nawaz Zargar sen-

tenced former Naib Tehsildar

Faryad Ahmed and then

Patwari Yadav Chander to

four years of rigorous impris-

onment and fine, after con-

victing them in a 2019

bribery trap case involving a

demand and acceptance of

The case dates back to

April 16, 2019, when com-

plainant Javed Ashraf

Corruption Bureau (ACB)

Jammu alleging that the two

officials

approached the

ing out the terror activities as per their directions. He received terror funds via local conduit which he subsequently delivered to families of known terrorists as a means to support terrorism and also distributed money for recruitment of terrorists and paid for logistics," the

It has also been revealed that he was receiving regular

Investigators said.

duits. He was arrested in 2023. According to sources it also came to fore during investigation of the case that Ghulam Hussain did not commit terrorist act solely for the greed of money but also due to his sympathies towards terrorism, both as an ideology and a violent campaign. He came to be exposed as an OGW planted within the system in District Reasi to radicalise youth and recruit them in terror fold.

"Ghulam Hussain disdisloyalty, both towards the nation and towards the education department by turning into an accomplice and an OGW of LeT terror outfit. He was engaged in terror activities against the very nation that provided him with employment and fed his families. During investigations carried in the instant case, it was established that

#### LA passes three **Amendment Bills**

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Thursday passed the "Jammu and Kashmir Shops and Establishments (Licensing, Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2025".

The Bill was moved in the House by Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary.

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#### LA passes J&K Tenancy Bill, 2025

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Legislative on Thursday Assembly passed the Jammu and Kashmir Tenancy Bill, 2025.

The Bill was moved in the House by Minister for Health, Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo on behalf of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

"A Bill to establish Rent Authority to regulate renting of premises and to

## Justice Surya Kant appointed as 53rd CJI Art 370, OROP among his key verdicts

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Justice Surya Kant, who was on Thursday appointed as the 53rd Chief Justice of India, has been part of several landmark verdicts and orders on abrogation of Article 370 removing Jammu and Kashmir's special status, Bihar electoral

rolls revision, Pegasus

spyware case, corrup-

tion and gender equali-

Justice Kant, the second senior-most judge of the apex court, will take the oath of office on November 24 and remain CJI for nearly 15 months. He will demit office on February 9, 2027 on attain-

The Department of Justice in the Union Law Ministry a notification announcing Justice Kant's appointment.

ing the age of 65 years.

The process to appoint

incumbent CJI B R Gavai tance and constitutional was set in motion last week by the Law Ministry. He was tinction of standing 'first elevated to the top court on

May 24, 2019.

On October 27, Justice

Gavai recommended to the

Centre the name of Justice

Born on February 10, 1962

in Hisar district of Haryana

to a middle-class family,

Justice Kant went from

being a small-town lawyer to

the country's highest judicial

office, where he has been

part of several verdicts and

orders of national impor-

LG to lay foundation for reconstruction of cloudburst-damaged houses at Chasoti

Kant as the next CJI.

class first' in his Master's degree in law in 2011 University. Justice Kant, who penned several notable

judgments in the Punjab and Haryana HC, was appointed the chief justice of Himachal Pradesh HC on October 5, 2018. His tenure as an SC

matters. He also has the dis-

Kurukshetra

judge is marked by verdiets on the abrogation of Article 370, free speech and citizenship rights.

The judge was part of the recent presidential reference on the powers of the Governor and President in dealing with bills passed by a state assembly. The verdict is keenly awaited with potential ramifications across states.

He was part of the bench that kept the colonial-era sedition law in

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#### PM to lead grand celebration of Sardar Patel's 150th birth anniversary today

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

AHMEDABAD: Minister Narendra Modi will lead the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on Friday at Ekta Nagar in Gujarat's Narmada district, home to the 'Statue of Unity', the world's tallest statue honouring India's first home minis-

This year's Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations, which commemorate the birth anniversary of the 'Iron Man of India', will include a cultural festival and the National Unity Day parade by security forces, showcasing their skills, discipline and

#### J&K recorded 121 pc rise in domestic violence cases in 2024-25: Data STATE TIMES NEWS

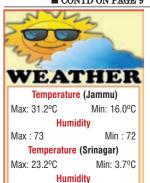
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has registered more than 2,800 cases of domestic violence in the last two years. with a 121 per cent spike in reported incidents in the last financial year, the legislative assembly was informed on Thursday

Responding to a question National Conference MLAfromShamim Habbakadal, Firdous, Minister for Social Welfare Sakina Itoo said 2,872 domestic violence cases were registered during the last two years at One Stop Centres for Women and on the Mission Shakti dashboard in Jammu and Kashmir.

Out of these, 893 cases were registered in 2023-24, while 1,979 were lodged in 2024-25, the minister said.

According to the data, an additional 1,086 domestic violence cases -- 121.61 per cent -- were registered in the last financial year compared to 2023-24. The government said One Stop Centres

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Sunset: 17:42 Hours

Sunrise: 06:46 Hours

Min: 56

Max: 82

# BJP MLAs walkout from Assembly over

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS** SRINAGAR: The opposition

BJP MLAs staged a walkout from the Jammu and Kashmir assembly Thursday to protest the rejection of their adjournment motion for a discussion on the situation in the aftermath of the recent floods in the Union territory.

The BJP MLAs staged a walkout after remaining standing for the entire Question Hour.

The opposition members also demanded the resignation of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and an apology from him for "unfulfilled

Anti-Corruption Court sentences Ex-Naib Tehsildar,

Patwari to 4 years jail in Rs 90,000 bribery case

demanded ?90,000 for issu-

ing Fard Intikhab of two

marlas of land at Jhajjar

Kotli along the National

Highway. Acting on the com-

plaint, ACB registered FIR

No. 11/2019 under the J&K

Prevention of Corruption Act

A trap team headed by

DySP Abdul Wahid Giri was

constituted and, after pre-

trap proceedings in presence

of two independent witness-

es, the team accompanied the

complainant to the office of

Naib Tehsildar. There, both

accused reiterated their

demand for money. The com-

handed

plainant

and Section 120-B RPC.



demand for discussion on floods

promises"

As soon as the House assembled, BJP leaders stood on their feet, demanding adjournment of the Question Hour and a half-

?90,000 to Naib Tehsildar

Faryad Ahmed in presence of

Patwari Yadav Chander, fol-

lowing which the trap team

rushed in and apprehended

them. The tainted money

was recovered from Ahmed's

office drawer, while chemical

tests on his hand wash con-

firmed traces of phenolph-

During trial, the prosecu-

tion led by APP M.A.

Almansoor for the Union

Territory of J&K produced

15 witnesses, including inde-

pendent officials and trap

team members, whose testi-

monies corroborated

thalein powder:

affected areas of Jammu. Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather asked the BJP members to take their seats and let the Question Hour pro-

"We will see after Question

SP (Rural) Jammu Brijesh Sharma said the march was part of standard security measures to ensure law and

"Personnel from the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and local police, along with election

Hour. I will allow him to speak after the Question Hour," the Speaker said. However, the BJP mem-

tinued with their demand. "Don't you want the Question Hour," the Speaker

bers did not relent and con-

asked, and said, "I promise I will find some way.' Rather said the adjournment motion has been disallowed as Rule 58 (12) puts a bar on admitting an adjourn-

lowed in the session. Responding to that, BJP MLA from Jasrota,

#### JAMMU:

STATE TIMES NEWS

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will reach out to the people of cloudburst-hit Chasoti in Kishtwar district and lav the foundation for rebuilding houses and other infrastructure damaged in the mountainous belt, officials said on Thursday.

cloudburst struck Chasoti - the last motorable village en route to the Machail Mata temple - on August 14, leaving a trail of those of three CISF personand Kashmir Police. A total of 167 people were rescued, while 35 were still reported missing, officials said.

Fulfilling the government's commitment, "Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will lay the foundation stone for the reconstruction of damaged houses and other infrastructure at Chasoti", a senior official told PTI.

Sixteen houses and several other structures, including temples, were damaged in the floods triggered by the cloudburst in the hamlet, the official mentioned further.

In line with the upcoming

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### Employees suspected of narco-terror links should be prosecuted through courts: CM

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Abdullah Thursday said employees suspected of narco-terror links should be prosecuted through courts, as the current system of dismissals does not allow them the opportunity to present their case.

Earlier in the day, Governor Lieutenant Manoj Sinha dismissed two government employees for their alleged links with terrorists.

"I have always maintained that the termination should happen through the courts



selves, Abdullah reporters in Handwara area of north Kashmir's Kupwara

only. Everyone should get an district. The Chief Minister said the

process used by the Lieutenant Governor to terminate employees does not give them any opportunity to present their case. "These employees often

get reinstated through the courts. So, it is better to punish the guilty through the courts. But, those who are terminated on mere suspicion, I think that would be harmful for all,' Abdullah added.

The Chief Minister expressed hope that Rajya Sabha MP-elect

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# How

For decades, the people of Jammu have remained the silent contributors to Jammu and Kashmir's conomy-paying their taxes on time, settling electricity bills, and adhering to civic responsibilities far more diligently than the other region(s). Yet, instead of being rewarded for their law-abiding nature, they eem to be paying the price for it. The discrimination against Jammu in allocation of resources, infrastructure, and institutional development continues unabated, raising a painful question; is this the reward for peing responsible citizens?

Anti-

The irony is that while Jammu forms the fiscal backbone of the Union Territory, it receives crumbs in return. The figures speak for themselves. During 2024-25, Jammu district alone contributed Rs 4,367 rore in GST, making it the single largest contributor to J&K's Goods and Services Tax revenue; Srinagar, the second highest, contributed only Rs 1,497 crore, while Kathua, another Jammu region district, stood third with Rs 303 crore. When it comes to excise revenue, the disparity becomes even starker-Jammu contributed Rs 2,259 crore, compared to just Rs 226 crore from Kashmir.

Yet, when one compares the development indices, healthcare infrastructure, and institutional investments, Jammu appears to be lagging far behind. This contradiction defies both logic and justice. The pling with inadequate hospitals, crumbling civic amenities, poor power supply, and congested infrastructure. It is as if economic contribution is inversely proportional to developmental attention.

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Adding insult to injury, Jammu produces over 70 per cent of J&K's total electricity, courtesy its rivers

and hydropower potential. However, this power flows northward-literally and metaphorically. Jammu residents frequently face erratic power cuts, even as the energy they generate lights up homes and industries in other parts of the Union Territory. The injustice is glaring: those who produce power are denied its consis-

This paradox isn't confined to electricity. It extends to healthcare, education, tourism infrastructure, and administrative focus. Major medical and engineering institutions, universities, and development projects continue to cluster in the Valley. Yesterday itself, a private member's bill for establishing a National Law University at Srinagar was adopted in the Legislative Assembly. Why not a similar facility for Jammu?

Jammu people still remember how their demands for equitable distribution of premier institu-

hubs like Central or Cluster varsities, or industrial clusters-were often deferred, diluted, or dismissed.

This is ironic. Last year's elections Jammu region gave 29 Assembly seats to the BJP, the highest ever, a figure celebrated as a sign of unprecedented solidarity to a party that has been ruling the Centre for 11

years now as also indirectly running the affairs of Jammu and Kashmir as well. But has it translated into empowerment? Unfortunately no! Despite a numerical gain, Jammu's political leadership has failed to channel this representation into tangible relief for its people. The rhetoric of "justice to Jammu" has remained just that-

Discrimination has almost become faitaccompli for the Jammu. While the people continue to pay their dues with integrity, their leadership seems content with symbolic victories. There is no sustained political pressure, no coordinated effort to demand proportionate allocation of funds or projects. The absence of assertive representation has allowed political imbalance to persist, leaving Jammu's citizens feeling abandoned and unheard.

are not grounds for justice, what else is? A comparative glance at district development paints a disturbing picture. Srinagar, despite contributing less than half of Jammu's GST share, continues to enjoy superior infrastructure-better urban amenities modernized hospitals, improved connectivity, and heavy inflow of central and state projects. Even small er districts in the Valley are being prioritized in new industrial and tourism policies, whereas districts like Jammu, Samba and Kathua, the industrial engines of J&K, are struggling for basic civic upgrades and reli-

The resentment is no longer about mere regional rivalry; it is about structural inequity. When a region that generates the lion's share of revenue, power, and excise is deprived of proportionate benefits, i amounts to economic injustice. Jammu's taxpayers rightfully expect transparency and fairness in the dis tribution of resources.

Jammu's demand is not for charity, but for equitable returns on its contribution. The political dispensation in the Union Territory must institute a transparent formula-based mechanism for resource allocation linking development expenditure to actual revenue generation and population needs. Moreover, political representatives from the ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

The time has come to ask the uncomfortable question-how long shall Jammu suffer this step-motherly

ment motion on a subject which has already been disaldeath and destruction that claimed 65 lives, including nel and one Special Police ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9 Officer (SPO) of the Jammu

#### SFs conduct route march ahead of Nagrota Assembly bypoll STATE TIMĚS ŇÊWS JAMMU: Security forces on Thursday conducted a route

march and briefing exercise in the Nagrota Assembly constituency ahead of the November 11 bypoll to build public confidence and familiarise the deployed personnel with the area.

order during the by-election.

observers, participated

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**SPECIAL**