

**03** Central Govt prioritising rapid development of Ladakh's border regions: LG Kavinder

**03** Nagar Kirtan received grand welcome in Jammu before moving towards next halt at Pathankot

**10** Top VJK officials Raj Daluja, Sidharth visit Rajouri

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## J&K Logistics Policy 2025 will be unveiled soon: LG



LG Manoj Sinha addressing Jammu Trade & Logistics Conclave-2025 in Jammu on Thursday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: "Jammu is rapidly emerging as trade and logistics hub connecting Ladakh and Kashmir valley with country's trade corridors," the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Thursday.

"The significant boost in road and rail connectivity in the last five years has unlocked the region's immense potential," the Lieutenant Governor said while speaking at the Jammu Trade and Logistics Conclave-2025, organised by Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

He highlighted that, the National Logistics Policy, under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has accelerated reforms in the logistics ecosystem and revolutionized digital integration, skill development and infrastructure planning.

"Storage, multimodal connectivity, logistics capability, and last-mile connectivity have ensured that remote areas remain connected to the main-

stream of development. Penetration of e-commerce and the growing retail sector is also playing a significant role in expanding the footprint of the warehousing and logistics sector. Jammu Kashmir Union Territory is a living example of this extraordinary transformation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He called for fulfilling developmental needs of Jammu Kashmir through smart logistics infrastructure and improved logistics operations.

"A robust storage, logistics and warehouse ecosystem is the need of the hour to propel our economy towards self-reliance, directly link the producers to consumers and to fulfil the aspiration of our traders, industrialists, farmers, artisans and MSMEs," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also shared key initiatives aimed at making the J&K UT a more competitive and investment-ready destination.

"Jammu & Kashmir Logistics Policy

► Addresses Jammu Trade & Logistics Conclave-2025

► Says, Jammu is rapidly emerging as trade and logistics hub connecting Ladakh and Kashmir valley with country's trade corridors and boost in road, rail connectivity in last 5 years unlock its potential

► A robust storage, logistics and warehouse ecosystem is need of hour to propel our economy towards self-reliance, directly link producers to consumers and to fulfil the aspiration of our traders, industrialists, farmers, artisans and MSME

► New policy intervention will introduce comprehensive framework focusing on multi-modal connectivity, development of dry ports and warehousing zones, and promotion of private sector participation

2025 will be unveiled soon. The new policy intervention will introduce a comprehensive framework focusing on multi-modal connectivity, development of dry ports and warehousing zones, and promotion of private

### 58 JKAS officers transferred

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The government on Thursday transferred 58 JKAS officers.

According to the order issued by M. Raju, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department, Rajinder Singh Tara, JKAS, Controller, Legal Metrology, J&K, has been transferred and posted as Secretary in the Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment; Tariq Hussain Ganai, JKAS, Director General, Estates, Kashmir holding additional charge of Director General, Estates, Jammu and Managing Director, J&K Medical Supplies Corporation, has been

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### Omar meets Union Finance Minister; seeks stronger developmental support for J&K

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday called on Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman and held an extensive discussion on a wide range of developmental matters concerning Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the two leaders deliberated on key developmental priorities of Jammu and Kashmir. The interaction focused on strengthening core infrastructure, enhancing investment opportunities, and ensuring continued financial support for welfare-centric initiatives aimed at improving public services and over-



CM Omar Abdullah calling on Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman at New Delhi on Thursday.

all socio-economic growth in Jammu and Kashmir.

### Nitish sworn in as Bihar CM for record 10th time

Modi, Shah attend ceremony; 26 ministers also take oath

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

PATNA: Bihar's longest-serving Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was on Thursday sworn in for a record 10th term here at a grand ceremony, attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, CMs of several NDA-ruled states, and senior alliance leaders.

Kumar was administered the oath of office by Governor Arif Mohammed Khan at the Gandhi Maidan, where a massive makeshift



stage was erected for the ceremony, also attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP national president Jagat Prakash Nadda, both of whom had arrived in Patna on Wednesday night.

Along with 74-year-old Kumar, 26 ministers took the oath of office: 14 from the Bharatiya Janata Party, eight from Janata Dal (United), two from Lok Jan Shakti Party (Ram Vilas), and one each

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### SIA raids Kashmir Times Head Office, conducts searches

Recovers arms, ammunition; seizes digital devices, incriminating material

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: State Investigation Agency (SIA) J&K on Thursday conducted raids and searches at the head office of the daily Kashmir Times situated at Residency Road Jammu.

The searches conducted in presence of Executive Magistrate were carried in continuation of the investigation into the case registered against the media house Kashmir Times (kashmir-times.com) for their involvement in criminal conspiracy with secessionist and other anti-national entities operating within and outside Jammu and Kashmir.

The FIR indicates that this particular media platform has been allegedly disseminating terrorist and seces-



SIA sleuths carrying on raid at Kashmir Times office in Jammu.

sionist ideology, spreading inflammatory, fabricated and false narratives, attempting to radicalise the youth of Jammu & Kashmir, inciting

disaffection and separatist sentiments, disturbing peace and public order, and challenging the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India

through print and digital content.

In the raid and search were conducted at the office premises of Kashmir Times, located at Residency Road, Jammu, the incriminating arms and ammunition were recovered including one revolver, 14 empty cases of AK-series weapon, three live AK rounds, four fired bullets, three grenade safety levers, and three suspected pistol rounds (apparently).

All recovered items were seized on the spot following due legal procedures. These recoveries indicate possible unlawful possession and suspected linkages with extremist or anti-national elements, warranting further detailed investigation, according

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### Jammu's tourism neglect: A region of potential overshadowed by Kashmir-centric policies

For decades, Jammu has remained a silent sufferer of systematic neglect in the tourism sector, despite its immense scenic beauty, cultural richness, ecological diversity, and religious heritage. These qualities place Jammu on par with - and at times ahead of - many of India's most celebrated tourist destinations. Yet, instead of being promoted for its strengths, Jammu has been largely reduced to a transit point, a mere gateway to the "Paradise on Earth" Kashmir and the "Moon-land" of Ladakh. The irony is evident; first-time tourists heading towards the Valley or Ladakh begin wearing woollens the moment they reach Jammu Railway Station, even during scorching summers, because they know nothing about the climate and culture, least to speak of treasures that Jammu itself holds. Beyond Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, Patnitop, Surinsar and Mansar, the people outside Jammu and Kashmir know very little about the region.

Since 1992, not a single new location in Jammu has been notified as an offi-

cial tourism destination. This prolonged administrative indifference sharply contrasts with the steady, structured, and generously funded tourism development in Kashmir, where new circuits, festivals, sports events, infrastructure projects, and promotional campaigns are launched year after year. The imbalance is stark and raises a valid question: why has Jammu's vast tourism potential remained unmapped and ignored for so long? The comparison with Kashmir is not a routine rhetoric of discrimination. It is necessary to highlight a fundamental fact: Jammu's tourism should have been developed alongside Kashmir, not at its cost. Growth in Kashmir should never have meant stagnation in Jammu. Yet policy choices over the years have produced precisely that outcome.

The neglect becomes even more glaring when one considers the sheer variety of attractions scattered across Jammu. Take Basohli - globally known for the Basohli School of Pahari Miniature Painting and often called the "land of miniatures." Its spectacular river views and quiet landscapes offer enormous potential for river tourism, art tourism, eco-resorts, and heritage circuits. Despite this, Basohli remains missing from the official tourism map. There is no branding, no infrastructure support,

and in many areas not even basic facilities such as roadside eateries, good Dhabas in common parlance. While every lakefront and meadow in Kashmir receives government focus, Basohli's riverfront stays undeveloped.

Jammu has enormous untapped potential in adventure, pilgrim and spiritual tourism. Manthal is one such spot that can be developed as a promising destination if the government and the private sector show any interest. Manthal may be a small area near the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra, but it holds quiet promise as a peaceful, spiritually rich stopover for visitors. Away from the rush of the main pilgrimage route, Manthal offers a calm environment, natural beauty and the charm of an untouched rural setting. With thoughtful development like better road connectivity, basic tourist facilities and promotion of its serene landscape, Manthal can easily grow into an attractive destination for pilgrims and tourists seeking tranquility, short nature walks, and an authentic local experience alongside their visit to the holy shrine.

Similarly, Mantalai has all the prerequisites needed to become an international-standard yoga and wellness destination. Its clean environment, serene landscapes, spiritual

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