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# STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

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Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

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

## Modi to inaugurate year-long commemoration of 150 years of 'Vande Mataram' today



**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the year-long commemoration of the National Song, "Vande Mataram", at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium here on Friday and also release a commemorative stamp and coin.

The programme will mark the formal launch of the year-long nationwide commemoration -- from November 7, 2025 to November 7, 2026 -- cele-

brating 150 years of the timeless composition that inspired India's freedom movement and continues to evoke national pride and unity.

Modi will inaugurate the year-long commemoration of the National Song, "Vande Mataram", at around 9:30 am on Friday at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

"We celebrate 150 glorious

years of Vande Mataram, a stirring call that has inspired generations and ignited an undying spirit of patriotism across our nation," the prime minister said in a post on X.

Modi will also release a commemorative stamp and coin on the occasion, the statement added.

"The celebrations will witness Mass Singing of the full version of 'Vande Mataram' at around 9:50 AM across public places with participation of citizens across all segments of society, in conjunction with the main programme," it said.

This year marks 150 years since "Vande Mataram" was composed.

"Vande Mataram" was written by Bankimchandra Chatterji during the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Navami, which fell on November 7 in 1875.

"Vande Mataram" first appeared in the literary

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## Illegal immigrants grab jobs, pose security threats: Shah

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
BETTIAH/MOTIHARI (BIHAR): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that illegal



Bangladeshi immigrants snatch jobs and pose security threats to the country, while asserting that the Bihar assembly election is for making the eastern state "infiltrator-free".

Addressing election rallies in West Champaran and Motihari districts, he alleged that the RJD indulged in massacres and rapes while in power, while asserting that

there is no place for 'bahubalis' (strongmen) in the NDA government.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi established Makhana Board... if 'Lahu & co' come to power, 'infiltrator ghusao board' will be set up," he alleged.

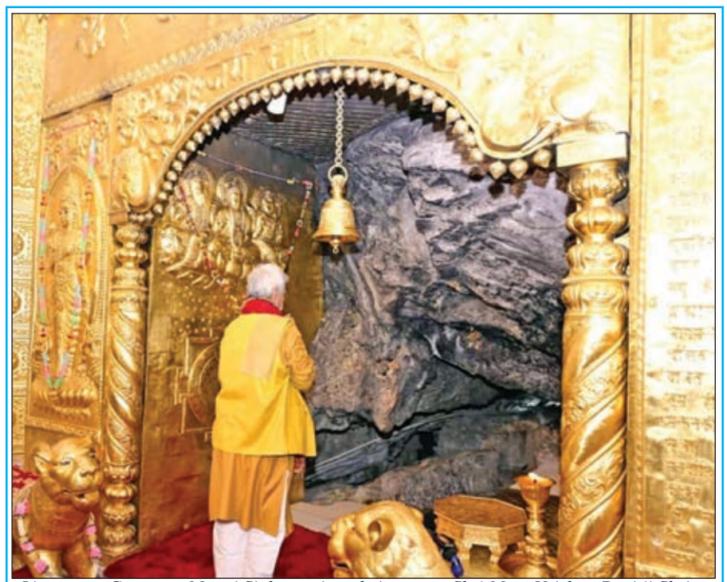
Asserting that only the pair of Narendra Modi and Nitish Kumar can prevent 'jungle raj' in Bihar, he alleged that

Lalu Prasad and Rahul Gandhi were trying to pave the way for infiltrators.

Hitting out at the Mahagathbandhan, he said Champaran would turn into 'mini-Chambal' if 'thagbandhan' comes to power in Bihar.

"Bihar waged a war against Indra Gandhi's corruption, opposed the Emergency, but now Congress is seeking

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Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paying obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi ji Shrine on Thursday. He prayed for the well-being of all and peace and prosperity of J&K UT.

## Search operation underway to track down terrorists in Kishtwar

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A cordon and search operation is underway to track down at least two to three terrorists believed to be

hiding in a forested area of Kishtwar district, officials said on Thursday.

The operation follows an encounter that broke out

between terrorists and security forces in the heavily forested Chatru belt on Wednesday in which a

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## Govt launches CM's Scheme for Introduction of Heritage Courses

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, has approved the "Chief Minister's Scheme for Introduction of Heritage Courses" aimed at preserving and promoting the rich traditional crafts of J&K through structured vocational education.

capacity of 500 students-20 students per unit-across 15 Government ITIs and Polytechnics in Jammu and Kashmir.

Under the scheme, students enrolled in these courses will receive a monthly stipend of Rs 1,000, while instructors conducting theory and practical classes will be paid a monthly remuneration of Rs 15,000 and Rs 12,000, respectively.

The initiative, approved by the Council of Ministers in its meeting chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was held on October 15, 2025. The decision underscores

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## Com Secy FCD, others ordered to appear before court for defying decree

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: An Anantnag court has summoned a senior bureaucrat to appear before it in person for non-execution of its decrees, and also ordered attachment of his salary.

Tahir Khurshid Raina, Principal District Judge Anantnag, in his order last week, summoned the Irrigation and Flood Control Department's (FCD) Commissioner Secretary to personally appear before the court to explain why he should not be sent to civil prison for defying his orders.

The court also summoned the department's Chief Engineer, Kashmir, Superintendent Engineer of Hydraulic Circle, and Executive Engineer of Flood Control, to appear before it on November 17.

## ED raids in narco-terror case; premises of ex-minister Babu Singh searched

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday conducted simultaneous searches in Jammu and Kashmir, including at the premises of former minister Babu Singh, as part of a drugs-linked money laundering investigation, official sources said.

Six premises in Srinagar and two in Jammu are being covered under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The case pertains to a narcotics-linked money laundering case, first detected by the UT Police in March 2022,



where a man named Mohd Shareef Shah was apprehended while attempting to deliver Rs 6.9 lakh hawala money from Kashmir to

Jammu to one Jatinder Singh @ Babu Singh alias Jatinder Singh, the sources said.

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## DGP calls for advanced surveillance, inter-agency coordination

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Nalin Prabhat on Thursday called for strengthening the security grid in Srinagar city through advanced surveillance, effective inter-agency coordination, and proactive field engagement.

Prabhat, the Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police (DGP), chaired a high-level security review meeting at the police control room in Srinagar to assess the prevailing security situation in the Valley and strategise further boosting of the security and intelligence grid, a police spokesperson said.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of Police, Central Reserve Police Force, and Sahasra Seema Bal, he

said.

At the outset of the meeting, the participating officers briefed the DGP on the current security scenario and operational preparedness in their respective jurisdictions.

The DGP issued directions to enhance overall coordination, efficiency and field readiness. He emphasised the need for strengthening the city's security grid through advanced surveillance, effective inter-agency coordination, and proactive field engagement.

Prabhat directed officers to establish dynamic and surprise nakas, or check-points, at strategic and vulnerable points to enhance area domination and deterrence.

He also instructed the officers to maintain

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## Vote for someone with govt access in Nagrota bypoll: Omar seeks support for NC candidate

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: National Conference leader and Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah hit the campaign trail here on Thursday for the upcoming November 11 Nagrota bypoll.

He asked the electorate if they would like to be represented by someone with access to the government or by someone who would remain outside it.

Seeking votes for party candidate Shamim Begum, he said, "This is not an election to form the government. This election is not to choose a Prime Minister at the Centre or a Chief Minister in Jammu and Kashmir; Those decisions have already been made."



CM Omar Abdullah at election rally in Nagrota on Thursday. (Pic by Ashok Anand)

The chief minister said the people of Nagrota and Budgam would not be casting their votes to form or change the government. Instead, their votes would decide what their "relationship" with this government

## Bhagwant Mann-Kejriwal Govt cheating, looting Punjab: Chugh

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
CHANDIGARH: The BJP on Thursday launched a frontal attack on the Bhagwant Mann government "led by Arvind Kejriwal" for cheating and looting the people of Punjab.

BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh, in a statement on Thursday, highlighted a glaring example of the State Power Department, where a provision has been made to purchase power at the rate of Rs 5.14 per unit, whereas the market rate happens to be Rs 3 per unit.

While asserting that this would put an extra burden of



Rs 12,500 crore annually on the state exchequer, Chugh said it was deplorable that the Bhagwant Mann-Kejriwal government was trying to benefit private play-

ers in the field for political reasons.

He said the AAP government in Punjab has completely failed to fulfill the 'fake' promises it made before coming to power, and is now trying to fleece the state in a deceptive manner.

Chugh added that the Bhagwant Mann government has already ransacked Punjab through continuous illegal mining in the Kandi area, including Talwara, Pathankot, and Ropar belts.

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## Bihar records highest-ever voter turnout of nearly 65 pc in first phase of assembly polls

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Bihar recorded its "highest-ever" voter turnout in the first phase of polling for the Assembly election on Thursday, with 64.66 per cent of an electorate of more than 3.75 crore turning up at polling stations to exercise their franchise.

In a statement issued here, the Election Commission (EC) said the first phase of the Bihar polls concluded peacefully, with the "highest-ever voter turnout of 64.66 per cent" recorded in the history of the state.

A total of 121 constituencies in 18 districts went to polls in the first phase, with an electorate of more than 3.75 crore.

During the first Bihar Assembly polls in 1951-52,

the recorded turnout was lowest in the state's history at 42.6 per cent.

The previous highest voter turnout in Bihar was recorded in 2000 at 62.57 per cent.

In the 2020 Assembly polls held under the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, the polling percentage was 57.29.

In the first Lok Sabha polls in 1951-52, Bihar recorded a voter turnout of 40.35 per cent -- the lowest.

In the 1998 parliamentary polls, the state recorded its highest ever turnout of 64.6 per cent.

Officials said Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar has congratulated the voters of Bihar for the historic voter turnout in the first

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**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 27.1°C Min: 11.6°C

Humidity  
Max: 82 Min: 71

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 16.6°C Min: 4.5°C

Humidity  
Max: 82 Min: 60

Sunset : 17:36 Hours  
Sunrise : 06:52 Hours