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# STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

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**SOWING SKILLS**  
SHAPING INDIA

**03 ISRO's 100th launch marks quantum leap in India's Space journey: Dr Jitendra**

**03 IIM Jammu's Centre for Diversity and Inclusion Commended for BGA Business School Impact Award 2025**

**10 Ace cricketers Samad, Jasia among J&K Govt awardees for Outstanding Sportspersons**

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

## CJ rolls out activity calendar of J&K Legal Services Authority for 2025

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In a significant step towards strengthening legal awareness and ensuring access to justice for all, Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh & Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority, on Wednesday rolled out an Activity Calendar (Wall Hanging) 2025 of the J&K Legal Services Authority in the august presence of Justice Atul Sreedharan, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, who joined the simple but impressive ceremony virtually from Srinagar.

The Activity Calendar 2025 serves as a comprehensive roadmap for legal awareness programs, legal aid initiatives and outreach activities planned for the current year across the Union Territory of J&K. Besides highlighting key dates for National and Special Lok



Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan inaugurating Judicial Enclave at Kathua on Wednesday.

**Rabstan inaugurates Judicial Enclave at DCC Kathua**  
KATHUA: Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Tashi Rabstan, on Wednesday inaugurated the Judicial Enclave, comprising five well furnished apartments for Judicial Officers, at District Court Complex, Kathua in presence of Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Administrative Judge, Kathua district.

Shahzad Azeem, Registrar General, High Court; MK Sharma, Principal Secretary to Chief Justice; Amit Gupta, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and Judicial Officers posted at District Headquarters Kathua were also present on the occasion. **■ CONTD ON PAGE 9**

Adalats, it outlines awareness campaigns on social justice issues, training programs for legal aid functionaries, helpline numbers for enhanced accessibility and initiatives aimed at strengthening alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

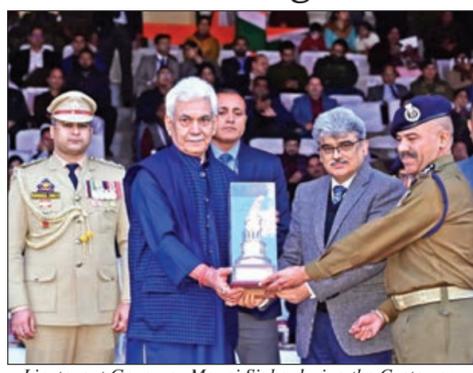
While releasing the calendar, the Chief Justice commended the J&K Legal Services Authority for its commitment in bridging the gap between legal institutions and the legal aid seekers, particularly those from marginalized and underprivileged sections of society. The Chief Justice emphasized that the calendar will act as a guiding document for all stakeholders, including judicial officers, legal aid counsels, paralegal volunteers, and legal services institutions, to effectively execute their responsibilities in ensuring access to justice. **■ CONTD ON PAGE 9**

**PM lauds ISRO's 'incredible' milestone as it launches 100th mission**  
**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday congratulated the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on its 100th launch, lauding it as a historic feat and asserting that the "incredible milestone" illustrates the vision, dedication and commitment of scientists and engineers. "This incredible **■ CONTD ON PAGE 9**

**UAPA case: Multiple raids in Rajouri**  
**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAJOURI/JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday conducted raids at 25 places in Rajouri district on the houses of terrorists operating from across the Line of Control, officials said.

A police spokesperson said that incriminating materials and important documents were recovered and seized during the massive searches. The officials had **■ CONTD ON PAGE 9**

## Republic Day celebrations culminate with Beating Retreat ceremony



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha during the Customary 'Beating Retreat' ceremony in Jammu on Wednesday.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Customary 'Beating Retreat' ceremony marked the culmination of the four-day-long Republic Day celebrations, at the MA Stadium, on Wednesday. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha was the Chief Guest for the ceremony. Enchanting patriotic

Kashmir Police and Security Forces; Parade Commander, Dy Parade Commander, Ex-Servicemen, officials of Civil Administration; marching contingents of cadets from NCC (Boys & Girls), cultural performers, children with special needs and Tableaux of different departments by the Lieutenant Governor for their outstanding display at the grand event.

The Lieutenant Governor also awarded the winners of the Patriotic Song Singing competition organized by the Department of Information and Public Relations.

The Beating Retreat ceremony was concluded with the ever-popular 'Saare Jahan Se Achha' with simultaneous display of spectacular fireworks and sound & light display followed by the National Anthem.

## Parliamentary panel adopts report on Waqf bill by majority

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: A parliamentary panel examining the Waqf Amendment Bill on Wednesday adopted by a majority vote its report that contained changes suggested by ruling BJP members, prompting the opposition to dub the exercise as an attempt to destroy the Waqf boards.

The Joint Committee of Parliament (JPC) on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, chaired by BJP member Jagdambika Pal, adopted the report on the draft legislation by a 15-11 majority vote. Opposition members were submitting dissent

notes to the report.

BJP members insisted that the bill, introduced in Lok Sabha in August last year, seeks to bring modernity, transparency and accountability in the management of Waqf properties, while the opposition termed it as an attack on the constitutional rights of the Muslim community and interference in the functioning of the Waqf boards.

Speaking to reporters after the 38th sitting of the committee, Pal said the report will be presented to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday and tabled in **■ CONTD ON PAGE 9**

## DGP visits forward operating bases in Kathua, Doda

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat on Wednesday visited forward operating bases on Kathua-Doda border and appreciated the special security teams for their proactive approach to wipe out terrorism.

Accompanied by Additional DGP (Jammu Zone) Anand Jain, DIG (Jammu-Kathua-Samba Range) Shiv Kumar Sharma and Kathua SSP Shobhit Saxena, DGP Prabhat interacted with all ranks of various security



DGP Nalin Prabhat during visit to Kathua.

forces during the visit, a police spokesperson said.

The police chief was briefed on the current security scenario and the attendant challenges. The DGP emphasised on the need for operational alertness, focussed execution

## Shantmanu gets addl charge of School Edu Deptt, Saurabh IT Deptt

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Government on Wednesday assigned additional charge to IAS officers Shantmanu and Saurabh Bhagat, and Alyaz Ahmad Naisroo, KAS officer and transferred one IFS officer.

As per an order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), Shantmanu, IAS (AGMUT:1991) Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Higher Education Department (additional charge of the post of Administrative Secretary, Information Technology Department) shall hold the charge of post of the

Administrative Secretary, School Education Department, in addition to his own duties, relieving Suresh Kumar Gupta, IFS (AGMUT:1991), Principal Secretary, Culture Department of the additional charge of the post.

Saurabh Bhagat, IAS (AGMUT:2002) Commissioner/Secretary, Science and Technology Department shall hold the charge of the post of Administrative Secretary, Information Technology Department in addition to his own duties, it reads. K Ramesh Kumar, **■ CONTD ON PAGE 9**

## 4 Bengaluru-based company executives chargesheeted for duping doctor

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Crime Branch of Jammu and Kashmir Police has filed a chargesheet against four officials of a private company based in Bengaluru, Karnataka, for duping a doctor here of Rs 30.50 lakh on the pretext of setting up a gym in a joint venture.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Crime Branch, Benam Tosh, said the case against the office-bearers of Messrs Chisel Fitness LLP was filed on February 20, 2023 following a written complaint by dental doctor Anuj Arora (Dentist), son of K.K Arora, resident of C-3 Extension, Gandhi Nagar Jammu.

The chargesheet in the case has been filed in the court of law for judicial determination, the SSP said.

The officials said those chargesheeted in the case include founding director of Chisel Fitness LLP Satya Shardul Sinha, her **■ CONTD ON PAGE 9**

## Maha Kumbh stampede: Yogi constitutes 3 member Judicial Commission

30 killed, 60 injured

Announces ex gratia of Rs 25 lakh each for kin of deceased

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
MAHAKUMBH NAGAR: At least 30 people were killed and 60 injured in a pre-dawn stampede at the Sangam area of the Maha Kumbh early Wednesday as millions of pilgrims jostled for space to take a holy dip on the occasion of one of the most auspicious days of Mauni Amavasya.

Several hours after the incident took place between 1-2 am, Maha Kumbh DIG Vaibhav Krishna gave the details of the casualties at a press conference here in the

**Tragedy extremely saddening: Modi**  
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday offered his deepest condolences to the devotees who lost their family members in the stampede at the Maha Kumbh, describing the tragedy as extremely saddening.

In a post on X, he said the local administration in Prayagraj is giving all possible help to the victims and wished a speedy recovery to the injured.

He said, "I have been speaking to Chief Minister Yogi ji and am in constant touch with the state government."

"PM Modi spoke to Yogi Ji about the situation at the Kumbh Mela, reviewed the developments, and called for immediate support measures," an official said.

evening.

"The incident took place due to the pressure of the

**LG Sinha offers condolences to victims**  
JAMMU: LG Manoj Sinha on Wednesday expressed his condolences to the devotees who lost their loved ones in the Mahakumbh Incident. In a post on X, LG Sinha wrote, "The accident that happened at prayagraj Maha Kumbh is extremely unfortunate and tragic. I express my Deepest condolences to the devotees and their families who lost their loved ones in this and wish for the speedy recovery of the Injured."

## CM holds strategic meetings with industry leaders at MICE event in Mumbai

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
MUMBAI: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah engaged in a series of high-profile one-on-one meetings on Wednesday evening during the MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Exhibitions) event in Mumbai.

The discussions focused on fostering collaborations across diverse sectors, including sports, fashion, culinary arts, wellness, healthcare, and technology.

Among the key interactions, golf legend Vijay Amritraj and his team discussed promoting golf tourism and sports infra-



CM Omar Abdullah at MICE event in Mumbai on Wednesday.

structure development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Anita Dongre and her team explored opportunities to revive Kashmir's traditional textiles and craftsmanship on global platforms through her label Kashmiri Fashion. Meanwhile, Michelin-starred Chef Vikas Khanna and his team deliberated **■ CONTD ON PAGE 9**

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 22.4°C Min: 11.2°C

Humidity  
Max: 86 Min: 51

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 13.7°C Min: 1.9°C

Humidity  
Max: 70 Min: 37

Sunset: 18:00 Hours  
Sunrise: 07:26 Hours

## WHY I KILLED MAHATMA GANDHI?

The Growing Debate: Gandhi, Partition, Congress and Kashmir Crisis



JAMMU: A heated debate is unfolding across India over Mahatma Gandhi's perceived softness toward Pakistan during Partition, allegedly compromising the nation's interests. At the same time, the All India Congress is being accused of weaving a politi-

cal web that ultimately led to the Kashmir conflict.

Frustration runs deep, with many dejected over what they see as the marginalization of Hindus in their own homeland. This sentiment has fueled a rise in voices glorifying Nathuram Godse, Gandhi's assassin.

STATE TIMES neither endorses nor subscribes to this view. However, Godse's final courtroom statement strongly implicates both Gandhi and the Congress in the challenges India faces today. Ultimately, the people are the best judges, free to draw their own conclusions from his confessional statement in the Court of Law.

On 20th February 2017, the Central Information Commissioner ruled that the statement of Nathuram Godse, along with other relevant records related to the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, should be "proactively disclosed" on the website of the National Archives. Information commissioner Sridhar Acharyulu said, "One may disagree with Godse and his co-accused, but we cannot refuse disclosure or circulation of his opinion. At the same

## The Trial: A Verdict Sealed In History

Nathuram Godse was arrested immediately after assassinating Mahatma Gandhi, following an FIR lodged by Nandlal Mehta at the Tughlak Road Police Station in Delhi. His trial, conducted in camera, began on May 27, 1948, and concluded on February 10, 1949, with a death sentence.

An appeal to the Punjab High Court, then in session at Simla, was rejected, and the sentence was upheld.

The intensity of Godse's courtroom statement left a profound impact. Judge G. D. Khosla later reflected on the moment, writing: "The audience was visibly and audibly moved. A deep silence followed as he ceased speaking. Many women were in tears, while men coughed and searched for their handkerchiefs. The silence was only broken by the occasional subdued sniff or muffled cough..."

I have, however, no doubt that had the audience of that day been constituted into a jury and entrusted with the task of deciding Godse's appeal, they would have brought in a verdict of 'not guilty' by an overwhelming majority".

and other left-wing political parties are blaming RSS openly and the BJP in a veiled manner on the murder of Mahatma Gandhi. This quite often assumes huge controversy and the people have the right to know the truth.

Nathu Ram Godse appeared before the Court on May 5, 1949. He deposed: **■ CONTD ON PAGE 9**