

03 LG Ladakh flags off delegates for National Youth Festival 2026

03 PM Modi has been first to give idea of promoting a 'one state, one global standard tourist destination'

10 KKR releases Bangladeshi cricketer Mustafizur Rahman amid tensions

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

US strikes Venezuela, captures its President

■ AGENCY

CARACAS (VENEZUELA): The United States hit Venezuela with a "large-scale strike" early Saturday and said its president had been captured and flown out of the country after months of intense pressure on Nicolas Maduro's government - an extraordinary nighttime operation announced by President Donald Trump on social media hours after the attack.

The legal authority for the strike - and whether Trump consulted Congress before hand - was not immediately clear. The stunning, lightning-fast American military action, which plucked a nation's sitting leader from office, echoed the US invasion of Panama that led to the surrender and seizure of its leader, Manuel Antonio Noriega, in 1990 - exactly 36 years ago Saturday.

US Attorney General Pam Bondi said Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, would face charges after an indictment



in New York. Bondi vowed in a social media post that the couple would "soon face the full wrath of American justice on American soil in American courts."

Maduro was indicted in 2020 on "narco-terrorism" conspiracy charges, but it was not previously known that his wife had been.

Early Saturday, multiple explosions rang out, and low-flying aircraft swept through the Venezuelan capital. Maduro's government accused the United States of

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Trump says US 'going to run' Venezuela

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said on Saturday that US is 'going to run' Venezuela until safe transition of power can take place.

The US captured Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and flew him out of the country in a stunning military operation early Saturday that plucked a sitting leader from office - the culmination of months of escalating Trump administration pressure on the oil-rich South American nation.

Maduro and his wife, taken overnight from their home on a military base, were aboard a US warship on their way to New York, where they were to face criminal charges.

Trump said the US planned to run Venezuela until a transition of power can take place. He claimed the American presence was already in place, though there were no immediate signs that the US was running the country. "We're going to run the country until such time as we can do a safe, proper and judicious transition," Trump said at a Mar-a-Lago news conference where he boasted that this "extremely successful operation should serve as warning to anyone who would threaten American sovereignty or endanger American lives."



AC State Taxes reviews GST enforcement

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a significant push towards enhanced revenue mobilization and stricter GST compliance, Additional Commissioner, State Taxes (Administration and Enforcement), Kashmir Division, Parvez Ahmad Raina, on Saturday chaired a comprehensive review meeting with senior officials of the department.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Enforcement (Central), Deputy Commissioner IT, State Taxes Officers, and other key functionaries from across the Kashmir Division.

The deliberations covered

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Eight Rural Development officers promoted to Time Scale of JKAS

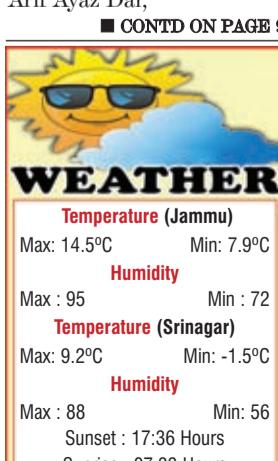
■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Saturday ordered appointment (by promotion) of the eight officers of J&K Rural Development (Gazetted) Service to the Time Scale of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service.

"In terms of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service Rules, 2008, sanction is accorded to the appointment (by promotion) of eight officers of J&K Rural Development (Gazetted) Service to the Time Scale of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service [(Level 11 (67700-208700)], notionally from January 1, 2025 and on regular basis, prospectively," read the order issued by M.Raju, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department.

As per order, the officers include Hilal Arafat, Abdul Rashid Sheikh, Abdul Rashid Ganaie, Mohd. Akbar Wani, Sanjeev Kumar, Arif Ayaz Dar,

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Capacity building in judicial infrastructure crucial to meet emerging demands: CJI

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PATNA: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Saturday said that capacity building in judicial infrastructure is crucial to "meet the demands of a growing population, increasing litigation and disputes of rising complexity".

Justice Kant, who is on a two-day visit to Bihar, was addressing dignitaries after laying the foundation stone for seven infrastructure projects on the Patna High Court

The seven projects include an ADR building and auditorium, an IT building, an



administrative building, a multi-level car parking, a hospital, a residential block for ministerial staffers of the Patna High Court, and an annexe building of the office of advocate general.

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Cyber crime has robbed senior citizens of thousands of crores of rupees

PATNA: CJI Surya Kant on Saturday said he was "shocked" to note the high incidence of cyber crimes in the country, which have led common people, especially senior citizens, to be robbed of thousands of crores of rupees.

He was addressing a function in Pothahi, on the outskirts of Patna, where he laid the foundation stone for a new campus of the Bihar Judicial Academy.

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Ladakh LG launches new sports policy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Ladakh Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta on Saturday launched the Union Territory's sports policy, which seeks to establish a Sports Council for focussed talent identification and infrastructure development.

A key feature of the policy is the establishment of the Ladakh Sports Council, which will provide a strong institutional framework for coordinated development of sports, an official spokesman said.

He said the council will work closely with sports associations on infrastructure development,

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Mercury plummets below freezing point in J&K, HP; dense fog grips plains

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: A biting cold gripped the northern states, with the mercury dipping below freezing point in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh on Saturday, while cold conditions prevailed along the plains, accompanied by dense fog during early morning hours.

Cold wave conditions are likely to affect isolated places in the national capital between January 4 and January 7, the weather office has forecast, issuing a yellow alert for dense fog in the city on Sunday.

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Efforts to prevent 'Love Jihad' must begin at home: Bhagwat

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BHOPAL:

Rashtriya

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Jihad' is used by right-wing groups to allege a conspiracy by Muslim men to lure Hindu women into relationships and marriage to convert them to Islam. Families

must reflect on how a girl can be influenced by a stranger, Bhagwat said in this regard, and cited the lack of dialogue within households as a

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Nagar Kirtan taken out in Jammu ahead of Prakash Parv of Guru Gobind Singh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An impressive and spiritually vibrant Nagar Kirtan was taken out by the Sikh community in Jammu on Saturday in connection with the Prakash Parv (Gurpurab) of Guru Gobind Singh Ji Maharaj, the tenth Guru of the Sikhs. The grand religious procession witnessed enthusiastic participation from thousands of devotees, turning the City of Temples into a spectacle of devotion, discipline, and communal harmony.

The Nagar Kirtan was organised by the District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (DGPC), Jammu, on the eve of the Prakash Parv. A large number of members of the Sikh community, including



women, children, students from various schools, and Ragi Jathas from Jammu &

Kashmir and outside the Union Territory, participated in the procession with religious fervour.

Since early morning, devotees began assembling at Gurdwara Yadgar Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Lower Guman, near the Samadhi of Bibi Chand Kour (Chand Nagar). DGPC Jammu members, along with organisers from various Sikh bodies, jointly coordinated the arrangements to ensure the smooth conduct of the religious event.

A vehicle was exquisitely decorated and converted into a chariot, where the Holy Guru Granth Sahib was respectfully placed. The chariot was adorned with flowers and bunting.

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Shah chairs Parl consultative panel meeting, national security issues discussed

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRI VIJAYA PURAM: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday chaired a Parliamentary Consultative Committee meeting of the Ministry of Home Affairs in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on Saturday.

The meeting, which started at 11 am and ended around 2.40 pm, focused on issues regarding national security, disaster management, cyber security and regional infrastructure, sources said.

The meeting also stressed using latest technologies to fight crime and having more state-of-the-art centres, such as the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) and the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU), at the regional level, they said.

A separate session on the strategic importance of Andaman and Nicobar Islands was also held, the sources said.

Union Ministers of State for Home Affairs Nitin Jayant Rai and Bandi Sanjay Kumar, members of the committee, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, and other officials attended the meeting.

In the afternoon, Shah will inaugurate an exhibition on 'Naveen Nyaya Sanhita' (new criminal laws) at the ITF Ground in Sri Vijaya Puram, formerly Port Blair. Later, he will also lay the foundation stones for various projects at the Netaji Stadium.

Shah arrived in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on Friday night on a three-day visit. His plane landed at INS Utkrosh, adjacent to Veer Savarkar International Airport, in Sri Vijaya Puram around 10.45 pm. He was received by Lieutenant Governor D K Joshi, among others.

This is Shah's second visit to the islands in less than a month. He visited the archipelago on December 12 to commemorate the 116th anniversary of V D Savarkar's iconic

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ACB arrests clerk for accepting Rs 2,000 bribe

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Saturday trapped and arrested a clerk of the Tehsil Office Central, Shaltang, Srinagar, for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 2,000 from a complainant.

According to an official spokesperson of the ACB, the bureau received a written complaint alleging that the complainant had been detained under preventive action under Section 126/170 of the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) by orders of the First Class Executive

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The accused public servant allegedly demanded a bribe of Rs 2,000 for erasing the detention entry from official records. The complainant, unwilling to pay the bribe, approached the Anti-Corruption Bureau Srinagar seeking legal action," the spokesperson said.

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A cold wave is declared when the minimum temperature drops 4.5 to 6.5 degrees below the seasonal average.

Delhi logged a minimum temperature of 8.1 degrees Celsius, 1.2 notches above the seasonal average, while the maximum temperature settled at 17.3 degrees Celsius, 2 degrees below the seasonal average.

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LG unveils poster of film 'The Last Dose'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS