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J.K. PUBLIC SCHOOL
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SOWING SKILLS
SHAPING INDIA

03 AIIMS Jammu emerges as premier healthcare hub; PRAGATI interventions key to timely completion: Dr. Shakti

10 J&K registers strong start in 72nd Senior National Volleyball Championship

10 CM launches skiing courses, website; unveils calendars

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

CM lays foundation of projects worth Rs 119 Cr, inaugurates projects worth Rs 33 Cr

Reviews PW(R&B) Dept projects; stresses on timely completion, quality execution



CM Omar Abdullah laying foundation stones of projects in Jammu on Tuesday.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday undertook a comprehensive review of the projects being executed by the Public Works (Roads & Buildings) Department at a high-level meeting held at the PWD Conference Hall, Gandhi Nagar.

On the occasion, the Minister laid the foundation stone of R&B projects worth Rs 119 crore through virtual mode and also e-inaugurated R&B projects worth Rs 33 crore.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo,

Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, PWD (R&B) Anil Kumar Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Sheetal Nanda, Engineer-in-Chief, PWD, senior engineers, executive engineers, and representatives of BEACON, SAM-PARK, NHLAI and NHID-

Omar lays foundation stone of Dak Bungalow at Baghe-Bahu

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday laid the foundation stone of a Dak Bungalow of Public Works Department (R&B) at Baghe-Bahu, marking another step towards strengthening public infrastructure.

The foundation-laying ceremony was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, along with senior officers and engineers of the Public Works Department and other dignitaries.

The proposed G+2 Dak Bungalow has been designed as a modern facility, prioritizing functionality. It will comprise well-appointed suites, a VIP suite room, dining area, kitchen, reception and waiting areas, laundry and housekeeping facilities, besides lifts and staircases.

In addition, the facility will also house a gymnasium, a recreational hall and a meeting hall, enhancing its utility and ensuring comfort and convenience for visiting dignitaries and officials.

The Chief Minister emphasized the importance of creating quality infrastructure that meets contemporary standards and serves both administrative and public needs effectively.

CL, besides other concerned officers. All Deputy Commissioners and field officers participated through video conferencing. During the meeting, the Chief Minister

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MoRD approves revised Labour Budget under VB-G RAM G for J&K

Boost to rural employment with 4.45 Cr person-days in 2025-26

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India, has approved a revised Labour Budget of 4.45 crore person-days for Jammu and Kashmir under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA), aligned with the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G RAM G], for the financial year 2025-26.

The approval follows a proposal submitted by the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Development Department seeking an upward revision of the Labour Budget to address the increased demand for wage employment, particularly in flood-affected, far-flung and vulnerable rural areas, and to strengthen livelihood security across the Union Territory. In this connection, the

Ministry of Rural Development convened a meeting of the Empowered Committee, chaired by Secretary, Rural Development, MoRD, Shailesh Kumar Singh, through virtual mode. The meeting was attended by Rohini R. Bhajbhakare, Joint Secretary, Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, Secretary Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (RD&PR), Mohammad Aijaz Asad, and Additional Secretary, RD&PR, Waseem Raja.

The Committee examined the proposal in detail, keeping in view rising employment demand, post-flood recovery needs, and the necessity of ensuring uninterrupted implementation of MGNREGA works across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir. The revised Labour Budget is aimed at strengthening rural livelihoods, ensuring timely wage payments, and facilitating

smooth execution of ongoing and proposed development works.

As per official communication, the Ministry has also sanctioned an additional 50 days of employment for 1,962 flood-affected Gram Panchayats in the Union Territory under the permissible provisions of MGNREGA, providing critical livelihood support to households impacted by recent floods.

Officials stated that analysis of employment trends over the last five financial years indicates an average annual generation of 381 lakh person-days. Further, a comparative assessment of employment generation during the last four months of the previous five financial years, vis-à-vis the anticipated demand in the remaining four months of the current financial year, points to a requirement of nearly 195 lakh person-days to

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Patwari caught red-handed while accepting Rs 5,000 bribe

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested a revenue official in Udhampur district after he was caught red-handed while accepting a bribe for the issuance of land documents, an official said.

The ACB has registered a case against the public servant, identified as Pardhan Singh, Patwari of Patwar Halqa Laddha in Moungrit tehsil of Udhampur district, and the concerned Girdawar (land officer) for demanding illegal gratification from a complainant, the official said.

According to the ACB, the

accused patwari had demanded a bribe of Rs 10,000 from the complainant for effecting a 'Virasati Intkal' (land registration document) and providing its certified copy.

Following a complaint against the official, a discreet verification was conducted, which corroborated the demand of bribe by the public servant concerned and accordingly, a case FIR No 01/2026 U/S 07 of Prevention of Corruption, Act, 1988 and Section 61(2) BNS, 2023 was registered at PS ACB Udhampur and investigation was

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NMC withdraws permission for Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Medical College; students to be shifted to other institutes

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The National Medical Commission's Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB) has withdrawn the letter of permission granted to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi for non-compliance with minimum standards.

An order issued by the MARB on Tuesday said all students admitted to the college during the counselling for the academic year 2025-26 shall be accommodated in other medical institutions in

Jammu and Kashmir as supernumerary seats by the competent authority of the

medical colleges in Jammu and Kashmir over and above their regular sanctioned



Union Territory administration.

This means no admitted student will lose an MBBS seat due to the withdrawal decision. Instead, they will be adjusted in other recognised

intake.

The implementation of this relocation will rest with the Union Territory's designated health and counselling authorities, who have been formally informed of the

decision through copies of the order.

According to the order, the non-compliance came to light during a surprise inspection.

The NMC's decision is effective immediately.

The institute had applied under the NMC's public notices issued on December 5, 2024, and December 19, 2024, for establishing a new medical college with an intake of 50 MBBS seats for the academic year 2025-26.

After processing the application, the MARB

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Drug peddler booked in Kathua; 2 held in Samba

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A notorious drug peddler was booked under the stringent Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act in Kathua while two others were arrested along with heroin in Samba district on Tuesday, police said.

Mohd Sadiq alias Siku, a resident of Galak village of Ramkot, is a habitual drug peddler named in three FIRs registered at police station Billawar between 2023 and 2025 and was detained under PIT-NDPS Act, a police spokesperson said.

"The accused is a repeated

offender and had created a sense of fear among the public by his illegal activities. His detention under PIT-NDPS will send a strong message to other drug peddlers and anti-social elements," he said.

After completion of necessary legal formalities, he said the accused has been lodged in Central Jail Kot Bhalwal Jammu.

In another operation, the spokesperson said two drug peddlers were arrested along with 9.72 grams of heroin in Vijaypur area of Samba district this morning. The drug peddlers -- Deepak

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Cold conditions return to Kashmir

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Light snowfall was recorded in a few areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir, causing night temperatures to drop and bringing back cold conditions to the region, officials said on Tuesday.

Gulmarg in north Kashmir's Baramulla district was the coldest place in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday night with a minimum temperature of minus 8.6 degrees Celsius, they said.

Under the influence of a feeble western disturbance, there was light snowfall in a few areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir, including the Mughal Road and the upper areas of Ganderbal, on Monday night, the officials said.

They said the minimum temperatures at most places in Kashmir dipped last night.

Srinagar recorded a low of minus 4 degrees Celsius, a slight drop from minus 3.6 degrees Celsius on Sunday night. In south

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 15.4°C Min: 5.2°C

Humidity
Max: 94 Min: 70

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 10.0°C Min: -4.0°C

Humidity
Max: 93 Min: 75

Sunset : 17:39 Hours
Sunrise : 07:33 Hours

Four-tier integrated roadmap to transform skilling ecosystem in J&K finalised

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a major initiative aimed at making the population of J&K future-ready for emerging employment opportunities, the Skill Development Department on Tuesday presented a comprehensive and forward-looking roadmap to Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo to transform the skilling ecosystem of the UT.

The meeting was attended by Vice-Chancellors of local Universities, Director IIM Jammu, Managing Director, J&K Bank, Secretary, Education; MD, Skill Mission and representatives from premier institutions



CS Atal Dulloo chairing meeting in Jammu on Tuesday.

including IIT, NIFT and other reputed academic and professional institutions.

While reviewing the roadmap, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need to explore the concept of

Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in Jammu & Kashmir for the creation of better and high-quality employment opportunities. He also suggested developing fellowship programmes to

create a strong pool of skilled human resources within the UT.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the overall framework of the plan, stating that it incorporates all essential constituents required for skilling different sections of the population, making it inclusive and forward-looking in character.

He, however, stressed that the roadmap should be made more practical, outcome-driven and implementable, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities of all participating institutions.

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Controversial slogans at JNU: FIR registered; BJP condemns incident

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: A protest at JNU sparked a controversy as objectionable slogans targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah were allegedly raised over the denial of bail by the Supreme Court to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in the 2020 riots conspiracy case, prompting the Delhi Police to launch a probe into the matter.

Asserting that "any unlawful conduct or anti-national activity will not be tolerated", the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) said that

an FIR has been registered in the Monday incident and the strictest action will be taken against students found raising objectionable slogans.

"Universities are centres for innovation and new ideas, and they cannot be permitted to be converted into laboratories of hate. Freedom of speech and expression is a fundamental right.

"But any form of violence, unlawful conduct or anti-national activity will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Students involved in this incident will also face disciplinary measures including immediate suspension,

expulsion and permanent debarment from the University," the JNU said in a series of posts on X on Tuesday night.

The University also ordered an internal inquiry, as BJP leaders, including Union and Delhi ministers, expressed anger over the incident, alleging that the slogans reflected the "Urban Naxal mindset that is supported by Rahul Gandhi and the Congress".

The event -- "A Night of Resistance with Guerrilla Dhaba" -- was organised at Sabarmati Dhaba to

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EC has power, competence to undertake SIR of electoral rolls: Poll panel to SC

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Election Commission (EC) told the Supreme Court on Tuesday that it has the power and competence to undertake a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls, besides there is a constitutional duty to ensure that no foreigners are registered as voters.

The submissions were made by senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi on behalf of the EC before a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymaya Bagechi.

The bench resumed final hearings on a batch of petitions challenging the EC's decision to undertake the SIR exercise in several states, including Bihar, rais-

ing significant constitutional questions on the scope of the poll panel's powers, citizenship and the right to vote.

Dwivedi pointed out that all key constitutional functionaries across the three organs of the State must be Indian citizens, citing provisions such as Article 124(3) of the Constitution relating to the appointment of Supreme Court and high court judges.

He said one of the key conditions for the appointment of top constitutional func-

tionaries like the president, the vice president and the prime minister is that the person has to be an Indian

citizen.

"All vital appointments ... no appointments can be made unless the person is a citizen, so our Constitution is citizen-centric predominantly," Dwivedi said.

The poll panel is not supposed to respond to political parties' rhetoric, the senior advocate said. "I am not commenting on the political parties, as the Election

Commission, our duty is that no foreigner should be there.... It is to be seen that the power is there and the competence is there," he added.

Resuming his arguments, Dwivedi posed a central constitutional question and asked "whether Article 324 of the Constitution, which vests the Election Commission with powers of superintendence, direction and control over elections, is entirely displaced by statutory provisions, or whether its application must be examined on a case-to-case basis".

He said Articles 324, 325 and 326 of the Constitution, read with section 16 of the Representation of the People Act, do not foreclose

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