


**03** Pension reforms introduced with sensitive concern for elder citizens, women: Dr Jitendra

**03** 'We' must remind 'Ourselves' that it is now 77 years of POJK lands being under Enemy/Foreign occupation

**10** JK Public School Kunjwani organises blessing ceremony, exam briefing session for classes X & XII


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## Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee

### Prosperous Farmers, Prosperous Nation

- 1,389 mandis and 1.8 crore farmers connected with e-NAM
- Farmers getting better prices for agricultural products through 'Beej se Bazar tak' initiative



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## Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat

## AC approves Start-up Policy 2024-27 for J&K

### Seven new industrial estates to come up in UT

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, has approved the J&K start-up policy 2024-27 in supersession to the Start-up Policy notified in the year 2018. The policy has the objective of setting up 2000 new Start-ups in Jammu & Kashmir in the next 5 years. Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lieutenant Governor; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor attended the meeting. The Government of Jammu & Kashmir will setup a Venture Capital Fund of Rs. 250 Crores and will infuse

maximum of Rs. 25 Crores as an initial fund to this venture capital fund. The venture capital fund so created shall invest primarily in recognized start-ups of Jammu & Kashmir. The Department shall work out detailed modalities for creation of venture fund and its usage in consultation with Finance Department. The department may also work out a mechanism to facilitate allotment of land to start-ups having good potential for growth. There is also a provision of one-time assistance as Seed Funding up to Rs.20 lakhs ( 4 equal instalments) to be provided to start-ups recognized by JKEDI which is nodal agency for start-ups. For seed funding there is capping of 25 start-ups per year

which is a decision based upon available budget and desire to support a manageable number of start-ups effectively. The Government is committed to establish 2000 start-ups in three years but by providing seed funding to a smaller number of carefully selected start-ups, the Government can prioritize quantity over quality for long term economic growth. This will also ensure that the resources are utilized efficiently. The budgetary support for implementation of Start-up Policy for a period of three years will be Rs. 39.60 Crores. In order to nurture and inspire entrepreneurial talent of J&K by creating a vibrant and robust start-up eco-system in the UT. The

Government felt that there is a need to re-furbish the existing start-up policy issued in the year 2018 and bring new policy suited to meet model challenges in this sector in the UT of J&K. The feedback received from various stakeholder consultations by Industries and Commerce Department, need was felt to strengthen the incubation and acceleration eco-system for start-ups which has been addressed in the current policy. The implementation of this scheme in UT shall be monitored by a High Powered Committee headed by Chief Secretary and implemented by a Task Force Committee headed by

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## Drone-dropped IED found near IB in Kathua

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: The Border Security Force (BSF) found a drone-dropped improvised explosive device (IED) near the International Border (IB) in Kathua district on Thursday, an official said. The IED was found in the Manyari post area, near the zero line, during a search operation that was launched after the BSF troops noticed the movement of a Pakistani drone in the morning hours and opened fire to bring it down, the official said. He said the search operation was going on when last reports were received. The drone is believed to have returned to the Pakistani side, the official said, adding that the IED that was dropped in a forward village is being examined by experts.

## Backward Welfare Deptt to be established in J&K: LG



LG Manoj Sinha interacting with the delegation of OBCs at Srinagar on Thursday.

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that justice has been delivered to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Jammu and Kashmir for the first time since India's Independence. "We are also planning to establish a Backward Welfare Department like

## Govt committed to empowerment of tribal communities: Sinha

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government is committed to empowerment of tribal communities. "It is a new era of progress, prosperity, stability and hope for the tribal population of the Union Territory," the Lt Governor said while interacting with the 160-member delegation of Pahari Community from Kashmir division at Raj Bhawan, Srinagar. The community members from different parts of Kashmir Division thanked the

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## ACB conducts searches in DA case registered against Insp (s) Ameet Kumar Koul

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday conducted searches in Srinagar in connection with a Disproportionate Assets (DA) case. An official spokesman said that ACB conducted searches at Srinagar in connection with a case under FIR number 01/2024 under Section 13(1)(b) Police Station ACB Central, J&K, Jammu owing to the Disproportionate Assets of Inspector (S) Ameet Kumar Koul.

"Based on reliable input, searches were immediately conducted by the team of ACB at Bhatt Guest House, Rajbagh, Srinagar wherefrom, 58 bottles of liquor of various brands were found in a room being used by Inspector(S) Ameet Kumar Koul," the spokesman said, adding that the searches were conducted in the presence of Executive Magistrate and independent witnesses. "After surfacing of such a huge cache of liquor bottles, the matter was

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## Russian skier dead in Gulmarg avalanche, 7 rescued



■ STATE TIMES NEWS  
GULMARG: A Russian skier died while seven others, including a local guide, were

rescued as an avalanche struck the ski slopes of Gulmarg in Jammu and

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## Successful rescue ops after avalanche strikes Army Ridge

GULMARG: A collaborative effort between the Gulmarg Ski Patrol of Tourism Department, J&K and J&K Police resulted in the successful rescue of a group comprising six Russian skiers and one local guide following an avalanche at the higher reaches of Gulmarg, known as Army Ridge. Despite the valiant efforts of the rescue team, one Russian skier tragically lost his life due to the avalanche. Our thoughts and condolences are with the family and friends of the deceased during this difficult time. It is important to note that the avalanche site is located far from the Kongdoori area, where the 4th Khelo India Winter Games are currently underway. The ongoing sporting events remain unaffected by the incident. The rescued individuals are currently under the care of the district administration, receiving basic medical treatment. One skier sustained minor injuries

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## SIA files fourth supplementary chargesheet against 6 more accused in narco-terror funding case

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The State Investigation Agency (SIA) Jammu on Thursday filed fourth supplementary chargesheet against six more accused in a case relating to terror funding in India, taking the total of accused to 18. Mohd Sharief Chechi, Farooq Ahmad Jungal, and Saif Din, arrested by SIA recently, have been charge-sheeted under various sections of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967, Narcotic Drug Psychotropic Substance Act

and Indian Penal Code relating to criminal conspiracy, raising funds for Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, a proscribed terrorist organization. SIA Jammu has seized an amount of Rs 10 lakhs and freed more than Rs 70 lakhs in bank accounts which were the proceeds from narcotics, smuggled from Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). Other 3 accused, Hamidullah Khuroo, Farooq Ahmad Shawl and Javid Ahmad Chalkoo, all HM terrorists, evading their

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## Army rescues over 80 stranded students, staff amid snow storm in Banihal

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANIHAL: After a heavy snow storm and landslide in Jammu, army troops rescued over 80 students and faculty staff who found themselves stranded on the Jammu-Srinagar highway, officials said on Thursday. Heavy snowfall and road-blocks caused by landslides on Wednesday left many commuters stranded along the treacherous Jammu-Srinagar highway, among them were 74 students of a law college and seven of its staff members, the officials said. Army troops acted swiftly and rescued the panicked staff and students of the Rajasthan Law College from NH44, which was blocked. Professor Kalpesh Nikawat, Principal of Mohanlal Sukhadia

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## Chief Justice launches website of legal portal 'Courtrooms'

### Highlights importance of adapting to the evolving legal landscape

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, N. Koteswar Singh, on Thursday launched the website for the legal platform "Courtrooms" in the presence of judges of the High Court alongside Advocate General of UT of J&K D. C. Raina. In his address, the Chief Justice highlighted the importance of adapting to the evolving legal landscape, emphasizing the need for collaboration and information



Chief Justice of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, N. Koteswar Singh chairing a meeting at Srinagar.

exchange. He also emphasized the judiciary's commitment to upholding the rule of law and ensuring justice for

all. The Chief Justice also outlined upcoming initiatives and reforms within the

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## Construction worker killed in landslide along Jammu-Srinagar NH

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANIHAL: A worker of a construction company was killed in a landslide along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway which remained closed for the fourth consecutive day on Thursday, officials said. The construction worker identified as Deshpaul (31), a resident of Uttar Pradesh, was hit by the landslide outside his company headquarters near Seri in Ramban district around 8.30 am, police officials said.

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## Kiru Hydropower corruption case: CBI searches J&K ex-Guv Satya Pal Malik's premises



#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The CBI conducted searches at the premises of former Jammu and Kashmir governor Satya Pal

Malik and 29 other locations on Thursday in connection with alleged corruption in the Rs 2,200-crore Kiru Hydropower project, officials

said. The federal agency started its operation in the morning, with around 100 officers mobilised to swoop down at the 30 locations in Jammu, Srinagar, Delhi, Gurugram, Mumbai, Baghpat, Noida, Patna, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Barmer, Nagaur and Chandigarh, the officials said. "During searches, evidence of huge cash deposits, investment in fixed deposits, investment in properties in various cities, digital and documentary evidence, etc. have been recovered."

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## Elect Modi once again to make India Vishwa Guru: Amit Shah



#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JANJGIR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday urged the people of Chhattisgarh to elect Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a third term in office to make India a developed nation, and 'Bharat Mata' a 'Vishwa Guru'. Sounding the poll bugle at a rally at Janjgir town in the BJP-ruled state, he also hit

out at the Congress, accusing it of delaying the construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya for 75 years. "The coming (Lok Sabha) elections will decide the future of the country. These elections are to make India a fully developed nation, and to make Bharat Mata (Mother India) a 'Vishwa Guru' (world teacher)," the senior BJP leader said. The BJP won ten out of 11 Lok Sabha seats in the state in 2014 and nine in 2019, Shah noted, adding that in the last year's assembly elections the people voted his party to power with a thumping majority.

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## Gupkar alliance always betrayed youth: Tarun Chugh

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: BJP National General Secretary and in-charge Jammu and Kashmir Tarun Chugh on Thursday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has opened new vistas for the youth in J&K. In a statement, Chugh said that after the abrogation of Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir has reached the next level, seeing the development here, especially the National Conference is restless, which does not want the people of the Union Territory to prosper and develop. He fiercely attacked NC for suppressing the youth of



Jammu and Kashmir during his time and said that "when Abdullah dynasty was ruling Jammu and Kashmir; they were the first to suppress the youth and implicated them in false cases, due to which anger arose in them towards mainstream India. The

Gupkar gang pushed the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to the margins and forced them to resort to violent methods, he added. "Today BJP has embraced the youth of Jammu and Kashmir and guided them towards a better future and nation building", he added. Chugh said the Abdullah dynasty always used Article 370 as a shield to hide their misdeeds, but the BJP abolished this law after August 5, 2019. Jammu and Kashmir is the abode of peace, prosperity and development, he said. Referring to launch of projects worth

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## Kaun Hai Tumhara bowler? Tendulkar plays gully cricket in Kashmir



#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: He aptly called it a "match made in heaven" as Sachin Tendulkar pleasantly surprised a bunch of youngsters playing gully cricket in Uri, turning his bat upside down at one point just to give the boys a shot at

dismissing him. On his maiden trip to Jammu and Kashmir, Tendulkar got down from his SUV when he saw some young boys playing cricket on the road with a cardboard carton and empty oil cans as their stumps.

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**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 22.2°C Min: 9.2°C

Humidity  
Max: 48 Min: 28

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 9.8°C Min: -1.0°C

Humidity  
Max: 80 Min: 47

Sunset : 18:20 Hours  
Sunrise : 07:07 Hours