

# THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K Vol. 30 Issue 50 • Jammu • Thursday • February 20, 2025 • Pages 12+4=16 • ₹ 5.00

at JU on Feb 23

polls.

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh **Senior Wrestling Championship** 

**19** India no longer follower, offering leads to other countries: Dr Jitendra

### BJP condemns Pakistan's baseless propaganda on Kashmir

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

### J&K is India's preeminent destination for domestic tourists: Omar

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/2025-27



CM Omar Abdullah addressing at the opening ceremony of SATTE at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi on Wednesday.

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

DELHI: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday urged people to visit Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing that it has something for everyone and is a year-round destination.

Addressing the opening ceremony of SATTE (South Asia's Travel & Tourism Exchange) at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi, the Chief Minister said: "Whether

you're looking for a pilgrimage or religious tourism, whether you're looking for a destination for a wedding or engagement, whether you simply want to be an Instagram or TikTok influencer, or you want to visit for adventure tourism, or just to sit back with a book and enjoy beautiful and natural surroundings, Jammu and

Kashmir has it all for you." Jammu & Kashmir is par-

globe. It provides a comprehensive

### Need to work collectively to tide over water crisis in J&K: CM

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir is staring at a water crisis this year due to a massive deficit in rainfall, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Wednesday, calling for a more proactive approach and collective efforts towards water management and conservation.

Kashmir has witnessed a dry winter this year with an 80 per cent deficit of rainfall overall this year, raising the possibility of drought in the valley this summer.

Abdullah said in a post on X, "J&K is staring at a water crisis this year. It's not a recent phenomenon, actually it's been building up for a few years now. While the government will have to adopt a more proactive approach for water management & conservation, it can't just ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

ticipating in SATTE 2025, showcasing J&K's breathtaking landscapes, rich cultural heritage and warm hospitali-

This year's SATTE event would host over 2,000 exhibitors and is expected to attract more than 40,000 visitors from across the

platform for domestic and international buyers and professionals from the travel, tourism, and hospitality industries, along with National and State Tourism Boards. Talking about the back-

ground of the famous Persian couplet by poet Amir Khusrau in Kashmir, the Chief Minister said: "It is inscribed in the Red Fort from the 13th-14th century, basically saying that if

### 6-member SIT formed to probe double murder

**STATE TIMES NEWS** KATHUA: A six-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by a superintendent of police was constituted Wednesday to probe the recent murder of two men in a remote village in Kathua district, officials said.

Bodies of Roshan Lal, 45, and Shamsher, 37, were retrieved from the banks

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### Over 500 gm heroin, Rs 5.14 lakh seized

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

RAJOURI: Heroin weighing more than 500 gm along with Rs 5.14 lakh were seized from the house of an arrested drug peddler in Rajouri district Wednesday, police said.

The seizure was made from the house of Jaswinder Kumar alias Sonu at Lamberi in Nowshera sector, a police officer said.

Kumar, the alleged kingpin of a drug-peddling

### Rekha Gupta to be new Delhi CM BJP is not a party of father and son, mother and son, or brothers: Chugh

The 50-year-old leader won

from Shalimar Bagh, defeat-

ing AAP candidate Bandana

Kumari by over 29,000 votes

in the February 5 Assembly

All 48 newly-elected BJP

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: First-time MLA Rekha Gupta will be the new chief minister of Delhi, the BJP announced on Wednesday. Gupta was chosen as the

Leader of the House in the Delhi Assembly at the BJP legislature party meeting.

Gupta

party has returned to power in Delhi after over 26 years, ending the 10year rule of the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP.

Cabinet ministers will take the oath of office at the Ramlila Ground on Thursday. She will be the fourth woman chief minister of Delhi after Sushma Swaraj, Sheila Dikshit and

and her

She will be the only woman chief minister among the states being ruled by the

and Govt. Order No. S-432,"

During the course of

enquiry, the official added, it

surfaced that the officers and

officials of JKCHC and

MLAs attended the legislature party meeting in the presence of Central observers Ravi Shankar Prasad and O P Dhankar. Gupta's name was proposed by senior party leaders Parvesh Verma,

Vijender Gupta and Satish Upadhyay.

The announcement came 11 days after the results of the Delhi Assembly polls were declared on February 8.

The CM-designate will now Lieutenant meet Governor V K Saxena at Raj Niwas to stake a claim in forming a BJPled government in Delhi. Soon after the announcement, Gupta thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said

overall development of every citizen of Delhi. "I am fully committed to this important opportunity to take Delhi to new heights," Gupta said in a

she would work with full

honesty, integrity and

dedication for the wel-

fare, empowerment and

post on X. "I express my heartfelt gratitude to all the top lead-

ership for trusting me and entrusting me with

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### **CJ** inaugurates Lawyers Chambers at Court Complex, Katra



Chief Justice Tashi Rabstan inaugurating Lawyers Chambers at Court Complex, Katra on Wednesday.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

REASI: Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Tashi Rabstan, on Wednesday inaugurated Lawyers Chambers at Court

74 Jr Scale officers

promoted to Time

Scale of JKAS

JAMMU: The government

on Wednesday ordered pro-

motion of 74 Junior Scale

officers to the Time Scale of

Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service.

"Sanction is accorded to

the promotion of --- Junior

Scale officers to the Time

Scale of Jammu and

Kashmir Administrative

Service in pay level 11

(67700-208700), with effect

from January 1, 2025, on

notional basis and on regular

basis from February 7,

2025," read an order issued

Commissioner/Secretary,

As per order, the promotees

included Shafiq Ahmad

Wani, Iqbal Hussain Mir,

Irfan Ali Khan, Arshad

Ahmad Bhat, Ch. Mohd.

Nawaz, Jaliel Ahmad Mir,

Ahmad

Samrinder Singh, Deep

Novel Kour, Mohd. Imran

Hussain Ganai,

Administration

Raju,

Nazir

Wani.

Enayattullah,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Μ.

General

Sheikh

Suhavb

Naik, Diksha

Department.

STATE TIMES NEWS

Complex, Katra, in presence of Justice Mohd Akram Choudhary, Administrative Judge for Reasi district. While speaking on the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### ACB registers case against Ex-MD JKCHC, others for illegal allotment of state land

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The Jammu and Anti-Corruption Kashmir (ACB) Wednesday registered a case against Bharat Bhushan Sharma, former Managing Director of J&K Cooperative Corporation Housing (JKCHC), and several revenue officials for alleged illegal occupation and allotment of state land.

"The enquiry was initiated on a complaint filed by Mohd Sadiq Poswal that the J&K Cooperative Housing Corporation Ltd (JKCHC) purchased 392 kanal of land from private persons for

establishing a Housing Colony at Village Bain Bajalta, District Jammu and for that purpose, also illegally occupied Kah Charai, Maqbuza Sarkar and JDA land," ACB official said.

"It was alleged that the Board purchased 392 Kanals of land at scattered places. The management of JKCHC in connivance with officers and officials of Revenue Department illegally occupied about 584 Kanal land which includes state land. The JKCHC then allotted the same to different persons  $\,$ by making plots," official

During the course of preliminary enquiry, official said, it was found that JKCHC acquired land at village Bain Bajalta for establishment of housing colony.

"During the process of taking possession of land, the Corporation illegally occupied state land measuring 111 Kanal and 17 Marlas. Apart from this, the Corporation also occupied 100 kanal 15 marla land falling under Khasra No's. 16 min, 17 min, 219 min, 573/34 min from the owners vested with proprietary rights of the land under J&K Agrarian Reforms Act 1976

aries, by abuse of their official position, paved way for

official said.

Revenue Department in furtherance of a well-knit conspiracy hatched among themselves and the beneficitransfer of rights of the land for establishing a housing colony by the JKCHC in violation to the government provisions dishonestly and fraudulently by misrepresenting facts, thereby

CONTD ON PAGE 9

### Won't tolerate disrespect to Maha Kumbh, Sanatan Dharma: Yogi the event with false narra-



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LUCKNOW: Uttar Pradesh Minister Adityanath on Wednesday lambasted opposition parties for their critical statements on the Maha Kumbh, saying their attempts to "malign'

tives and disrespect Sanatan Dharma will not be tolerated. Speaking in the state assembly, he said the Maha Kumbh was not just a religious event but a symbol of India's cultural and spiritual heritage but the opposition has been spreading "false propaganda", disregarding its significance.

Adityanath assured full support to the devotees affected by the January 29 Maha Kumbh stampede and related road accidents in Prayagraj, while accusing opposition parties, particularly the Samajwadi

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### **JSCL** honoured with SKOCH Award for good governance

JAMMU: The Smart City Limited (JSCL) has been conferred the prestigious SKOCH Award for Good Governance at the 100th SKOCH Summit, recognizing its remarkable contributions towards digital governance, citizen services and efficient municipal services delivery.

The award was received on behalf of Dr. Devansh Yadav. CEO of Jammu Smart City, by JSCL at a grand ceremony held at Silver Oak Hall. India Habitat Centre, New

Later, in a formal event,



award to CEO Jammu Smart City Dr. Devansh Yadav.

#### 13 more villagers return home from isolation centre STATE TIMES NEWS

## RAJOURI: Thirteen more

people, who were lodged in an isolation centre owing to mysterious deaths in their remote village, returned home in Rajouri district on Wednesday, officials said. According to officials, with

the return of these 13 people, all the 395 people lodged in three different isolation centres in Rajouri town have returned home in the past week after spending more than three weeks there.

While around 350 members of 17 families were allowed to return on February 13, the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### NIA conducts multi-state searches to probe fake Indian currency racket

### Team conducts searches in Anantnag Dist

### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday conducted multi-state searches to probe a fake Indian currency racket being operated from Nepal, according to an official statement.

The searches were part of the agency's probe in connection with a case registered last year related to the seizure of high-quality Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICNs) in Bihar.

Extensive searches were conducted at five locations in Bihar and one each in

Jammu and Kashmir and Telangana as part of the investigations into a fake currency racket operated by accused and suspects from Nepal by using crypto currency, said the statement issued by the NIA.

NIA teams conducted searches at the premises of the suspects in Patna, Bhagalpur, Bhojpur and Motihari districts of Bihar, Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir, and in Hyderabad, Telangana, it

"Cash amounting to Rs 1,49,400, along with digital devices including pen drives, mobile phones, SIM cards etc., was seized during the searches. The team also recovered several incriminating documents," the state-

The case relates to the seizure of FICN with face value Rs 1.95 lakh from three accused persons, identified as Md Nazar Saddam of Bhagalpur, Md Waris of Bhojpur and Zakir Hussain of Patna, it said.

The accused were arrested by local police on September

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### meeting with LG, CM on new laws Three major takeaways from HM's



Apicture is worth 1,000 words. But yesterday's picture in which Home Minister Amit shah was flanked Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister

Omar Abdullah spoke

tens of thousands of words. The picture, taken at the time of the Home Minister reviewing the implementation of three new criminal laws in North Block on Tuesday, was rich in its content and its future implications for the Union Territory, in which the head of the UT and elected head of the government were accorded equal respect.

The reality check would reveal that it was imperative to make both Lieutenant Governor, who presides over the law and order machinery, transfers of all IAS officers and also those involved in maintenance of law and order in the civil administration. and, all the postings and transfers of police, and Chief Minister to be part of this meeting related to the criminal laws. CM heads the Law Department, though there is not

much clarity on this too. This has opened a new chapter of effective governance in J&K. Ever since the elected government came to power on October 16, 2024, Union Home Minister had been inviting LG for all the security review meetings, and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah regarding other issues of the administration. But it was for the first time on Tuesday- February 18, 2025- when LG and CM were sitting on right and left side of the Home Minister. This was a matter of proto-col but for the people of **NEWS ANALYSIS** 

Jammu and Kashmir, it was a great thing to happen .This is wrapped with a profound message that the two sides of the administration in J&K should work like twins and not as separate entities. Both complement each other.

For the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who after the elections and the swearing-in of the new government had been waiting for the two sides to be on the same page, this was the occasion filled with hope and promise for future. The underlying idea was that for implantation of all the citizen-centric measures, including the three criminal laws,

it is important that Raj Bhawan and the Government from the civil secretariat should work hand-in-hand, not as different

Union Home Minister, inter-alia, made three very significant observations; for the full implementation of the new laws, it is imperative to change the attitude of the police personnel and the administration and create awareness about the new laws among the citizens; with the decline in terrorism in J&K, the police should now prioritize safeguarding the

rights of its citizens and there is an urgent need to use the provision of the Trial in Absentia in the UT.

Each of these observations -cum directions cover the whole expanse of the legal system and urgency in the implementation of the new criminal laws, which have replaced the colonial era laws that had lost relevance in the independent India. It is more important for Jammu and Kashmir, which battled Pakistan sponsored terrorism for over three decades. The Home Minister has called for change in the attitude of the police. It means that J&K police should get now attuned to

new challenges and for that it is important that citizens should be made aware of the new laws and their implications. The informed citizens are best assets for any lawabiding society. That lessens the work and burden of the law enforcing agencies.

While the appreciation of J&K Police in fighting terrorism has been recorded, which brought down terrorism to one of its lowest ebb in the UT, the Home Minister underscored the importance of safeguarding the rights of the people of J&K. The police have played a very crucial role in bringing down terrorism and its dangers in the UT, but now the task is to safeguard their rights in terms of providing them information and education in acquiring full knowledge of the new laws and protecting them.

The particular emphasis on the urgency on the start of the Trial in Absentia in J&K is very important. As it has been seen that there are many who committed different crimes and went missing. Some of them crossed over to Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir. Therefore, this type of trial has become a legal necessity to complete the cycle of crime and punishment.

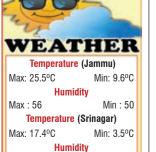
Death of theft accused in police custody, probe ordered STÂTE TIMES NEWS

BANIHAL/JAMMU: A 27year-old man, who was picked up by police for his alleged involvement in several theft cases, died at a health centre after falling sick in custody in Ramban district, officials said on Wednesday.

Ramban District Magistrate Baseer-ul-Haq Choudhary ordered a magisterial inquiry following the death of Mohd Abid, a resident of Thopal village of Batote, and its completion within a week's time.

Abid, said to be a drug addict, was picked up by police some days back and complained uneasiness in the lockup on Tuesday, the officials said, adding he was shifted to Community

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



Min: 32 Max: 67 Sunset: 18:16 Hours Sunrise: 07:08 Hours