03 J&K Bank rolls out revamped Credit Card suite

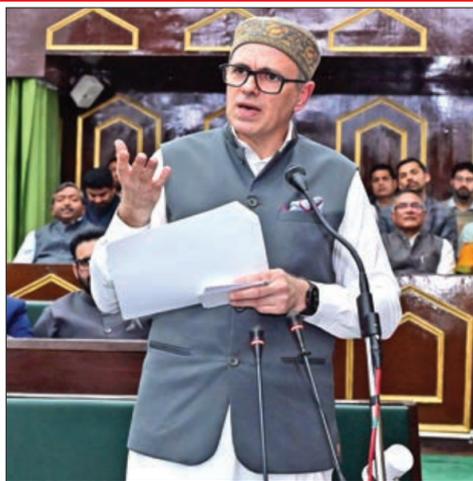**03** PM Modi committed to dignified return of KPs: LG

10 J&K to face Karnataka in Ranji Trophy final on Feb 24

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

Reply to discussions on Demand for Grants
CM unveils roadmap for fiscal reforms, tourism revival, energy growth, affordable housing

'Committee constituted to devise a framework for DWs regularization'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Thursday passed grants amounting to Rs 61,575.88 lakh for the General Administration Department (GAD), Rs 47,648.38 lakh for Planning, Rs 12,408.31 lakh for Information, Rs 12,54,383.63 lakh for the Power Development Department (PDD), Rs 52,37,955.90 lakh for Finance, Rs 7,742.54 lakh for Parliamentary Affairs, Rs 75,028.93 lakh for the Law Department (excluding the Election Department), Rs 78,461.35 lakh for Revenue, Rs 4,22,783.97 lakh for Housing & Urban Development (H&UDD), Rs 66,622.88 lakh for Tourism, Rs 40,749.54 lakh for Hospitality, Protocol & Estates, Rs 17,622.31 lakh for Culture, and Rs 1,46,098.46 lakh for Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRRR).

The grants were passed following extensive two-day discussions in the House.

The Assembly also passed 19 supplementary grants amounting to Rs 3,52,341.28 lakh.

Replying to the discussion on Demands for Grants, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who is also Leader of the House, expressed gratitude to the legislators for their active participation, noting that 43 members took part in the debate.

The Chief Minister thanked all the MLAs for taking part in the discussion.

"By listening to them, we get an opportunity to learn, to understand, and to correct some mistakes," the CM said.

He also appreciated the efforts of the administrative machinery, including secretaries, heads of departments, officers and staff, particularly in view of the record number of cut motions.

"As you said, there were more than 500 cut motions. Each and every query was answered. The pile of papers on my table is the result of their hard work," he remarked. Speaking department-wise, the Chief Minister said the core purpose of the GAD was to ensure smooth functioning of administration

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Action against big land sharks first, others later: CM on encroachment

JAMMU: Taking a firm stand against encroachment on government land, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday assured action in the matter and said it will begin with influential violators before targeting the poor. Winding up the discussions on grants of his departments in J&K Legislative Assembly, Abdullah said there was no disagreement over the need to remove encroachments, but stressed that the process must be fair and follow due advice given to departments. "None of us is saying that action should not be taken against encroachers.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

India has built vibrant digital public infrastructure, sharing it with world: PM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said India has built a vibrant digital public infrastructure and is sharing it with the world because technology is not a medium of power for the country but of service, not to dominate but to empower.

Addressing the Leaders' Plenary session at the India AI Impact Summit, Modi also said while technology in the past created divisions, artificial intelligence (AI) must now be accessible and within everyone's reach.

He stressed that the aspirations and priorities of the Global South must be placed at the centre of AI governance as the future of AI is discussed.

Welcoming the participants once again to the AI Impact Summit in India, the prime minister expressed confidence that the summit will play a crucial role in building a human-centric and sensitive global AI ecosystem.

He said history shows humanity has always turned disruptions into opportunities, and today presents another such moment to transform disruption into humanity's greatest opportunity.

"In recent years, India has built a vibrant digital public

infrastructure and is sharing it with the world, because for India, technology is not a medium of power but of service, not to dominate but to empower. The AI too must follow this direction to ensure the welfare of humanity," he said in the presence of world leaders at the Bharat Mandapam here.

The prime minister emphasised that the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) ensured seamless online transactions even in difficult circumstances and played a major role in bridging the digital divide.

He said India is providing its startups with world-class computing power at highly affordable rates. India has also created

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Terror associate held with two foreign-made pistols

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: A terror associate with direct links to Pakistan-based handlers was arrested along with two foreign-made pistols in Rajouri district, police said on Thursday.

Sachin Kumar alias Pamma, a resident of Sair village near the Line of Control, was arrested in a joint operation by police and

Rashtriya Rifles from a forward village in Nowshera sector, a police spokesman said.

He said a terror module was busted with the arrest of Kumar who, as per preliminary investigation, was in direct contact with Pakistan-based narco-terror operatives.

Two pistols -- one made in Turkiye and another in

China -- were recovered from his possession along with four magazines and 15 rounds of ammunition, the spokesman said.

Earlier, officials said the accused was intercepted and arrested by an army patrolling party from Raipur village of Nowshera late on Wednesday night. A case has been registered

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Army foils infiltration bid

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: An infiltration attempt by terrorists was scuttled by alert troops of the Indian Army along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district on Thursday, the army said.

Based on Intelligence inputs and sustained surveillance, suspicious

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9