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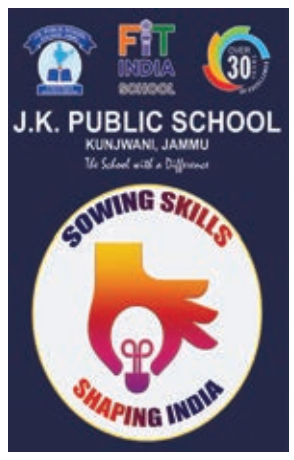
Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh



03 LG Kavinder chairs preparatory meeting for 1st Sindhu Mahakumbh 2026

10 Aashita Sadhotra of JKPS Panjtirthi wins gold at 5th J&K UT Karate Championship

10 Pundir's masterclass ton; Yawer, Samad fifties power J&K to 284/2 on day-1

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

Cabinet clears civil enclave at Srinagar airport for Rs 1,677 Cr

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved the expansion of the civil enclave at the Srinagar International Airport at an estimated cost of Rs 1,677 crore.

The expansion of the civil enclave will mark a major milestone in strengthening aviation infrastructure and connectivity in the Kashmir Valley, an official release said.

"The project scope also includes the construction of barracks for security personnel.

"Operated by the Airports Authority of India within the Budgam Airbase of the Indian Air Force (IAF), the airport, designated as an international airport in 2005, is located approximately 12 km from Srinagar city," it said.

The decision taken at the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was announced by Information & Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw at a briefing in the national capital.

It was also the first time that the Cabinet meeting was held at the Prime Minister's new office, 'Seva Teerth'.

The new civil enclave

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Information & Broadcasting Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw briefing on cabinet decision at New Delhi.

LG thanks PM, terms Civil Enclave defining leap

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for approving the development of the Civil Enclave at Srinagar International Airport proposed at an estimated cost of Rs.1,677 crore.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor has said, "J&K Skies Soar: dawn of a bold aviation era. I am grateful to Hon'ble PM Sh Narendra Modi Ji for major expansion of Civil Enclave at Srinagar International Airport. I vividly remember announcement we made at Srinagar on 25th Sept 2021 in presence of then Hon'ble Minister for @MoCA_GoI.

CCEA's Rs.1,677 crore approval for a new 71,500 sqm Civil Enclave marks a defining leap in connectivity for the Valley. It is designed to serve 2,900 passengers during peak hours and an annual capacity of 10 million passengers per annum.

Better connectivity will ensure more tourists, more investment and more jobs. The new Civil Enclave at Srinagar will upgrade Valley's economic future

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- Rs.1,677 crore approval of CCEA for a new 71,500 sqm Civil Enclave marks a defining leap in connectivity for the Valley.
- New Civil Enclave at Srinagar will upgrade Valley's economic future & transforming Srinagar from a beautiful destination into a thriving one
- Under the leadership of PM, Jammu Airport's new terminal is set for completion by end of this year

Enhanced aviation infrastructure will accelerate economic growth, tourism: CM

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for approving the development of the Civil Enclave at Srinagar International Airport at an estimated cost of Rs 1,677 crore.

The approval was granted earlier in the day by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister. The project marks a significant milestone in strengthening aviation infrastructure and enhancing connectivity in the Kashmir Valley.

Welcoming the decision, the Chief Minister said the expansion of the Civil Enclave at Srinagar Airport will give a major boost to the economy of Jammu and Kashmir. He noted that improved air connectivity will facilitate greater tourist inflow, enhance trade and business opportunities, and create new avenues for employment generation across sectors linked to tourism and services.

"The expansion of Srinagar Airport is a transformative step for Jammu and Kashmir. Enhanced aviation infrastructure will not only strengthen

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Omar, Farooq ask J&K students in Iran to return

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday urged students from Jammu and Kashmir studying in Iran to follow the Union government's advisory and return home while commercial travel remains operational.

In its latest advisory, the Embassy of India asked its citizens to "leave Iran by available means of transport, including commercial flights."

The advisory comes in the wake of Saturday's protests in Iran following 40-day memorials for people killed in January during anti-government rallies.

"I would tell them that please do not ignore this advisory from the government of India, because it otherwise becomes an issue for us," Abdullah told reporters in Ganderbal district in central Kashmir.

The chief minister said the situation in Iran is currently stable, with airports open and commercial flights operating.

"I appeal to all the students and those who work there, who do not ignore this advisory, book your tickets and leave Iran," he said.

"The Ministry of

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Need decisive kinetic operations against Pak terrorists in J-K: DGP

DGP J&K Nalin Prabhat chairing security review meeting.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Nalin Prabhat on Tuesday called for decisive and uncompromising kinetic operations against Pakistani terrorists in the Union territory.

The Director General of Police (DGP) chaired a comprehensive security review meeting to assess the prevailing security scenario and operational preparedness in north Kashmir's Sopore district, a police spokesperson said.

The DGP was accompanied by Special DG, Coordination, S J M Geelani; Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, V K Birdi; and Deputy IG, North Kashmir Range, Maqsood-ul-Zaman.

During the meeting,

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Northern Army Commander commends troops after 3 JeM terrorists killed

JAMMU: Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma visited Jammu and Kashmir following the elimination of three terrorists of the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and commended troops for their swift and precise action.

Three JeM operatives were killed in an encounter with security forces in the Chatroo area of Kishtwar district on Sunday.

"Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, Army Commander, visited Kishtwar following the successful conduct of Ops TRASHI-I, which resulted in the elimination of three Pakistan-sponsored terrorists," the Northern Command said in a post on X.

The Army Commander lauded the troops for their professionalism, commitment and steadfast resolve towards ensuring a terror-free and peaceful Jammu and Kashmir.

With the latest killings of 3 terrorists, including its commander Saifullah, the entire seven-member JeM module operating in the region has been eliminated after a relentless, high-altitude counter-terror

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Elaborate security arrangements in Kashmir ahead of VP's maiden visit

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Security has been beefed up across Kashmir ahead of Vice President C P Radhakrishnan's maiden visit to the Valley on February 26, officials said on Tuesday.

The vice president is scheduled to attend the 21st convocation of the University of Kashmir here.

Authorities have put in place a comprehensive, multi-layered security grid, particularly around the university campus in the Hazratbal area of the city and other vital installations, officials said.

Elaborate arrangements have been made to ensure the safety of the vice president, residents, and visitors, they said.

Security forces have been deployed in strength at vulnerable locations, with heightened alertness

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Cabinet approves renaming of Kerala as Keralam

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved a proposal of Kerala government to change the name of the state to Keralam, Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at its first meeting held at Seva Teerth, the new PMO complex.

The Union Cabinet chaired by the prime minister approved the proposal for alterating the name of

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Over 1,000 doctor posts vacant; 480 posts referred to JKPSC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: More than 1,000 posts of doctors are currently vacant across Jammu and Kashmir, according to figures shared by the Health and Medical Education Department.

Kashmir division accounts for 797 of these vacancies -- comprising 24 senior consultants, 253 consultants, 458 medical officers and 62 dental surgeons -- while Jammu division has 288 vacant consultant posts as on February 2026,

"The districts of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are not facing an acute shortage of specialists…In order to overcome shortage of doctors in peripheral and remote areas, the government has recently referred 480 posts of medical officers to the J-K Public Service Commission for selection of suitable candidate," the medical and health department said.

It said the department is monitoring issues related to the referral of direct recruitment vacancies as well as the filling up of promotion-quota posts on a priority basis, and necessary steps for filling up these vacancies have been taken from time to time.

After completion of the selection process of medical officers, the newly selected doctors shall be posted to far-flung and under-served areas and health institutions facing shortage of staff, as per requirement and policy in vogue, the department said.

It said the government is cognizant of the need to strengthen specialist services at peripheral hospitals.

Several remedial measures have already been initiated, including rationalisation and redeployment of available specialist manpower, engagement of specialists on

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Bullet-wounded canine soldier 'Tyson' recovering well: Indian Army

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Army canine soldier 'Tyson', a German Shepherd who took the first bullet while leading troops during Operation Trashi-I in Kishtwar district, is recovering well, officials said on Tuesday.

The heroics of the four-legged soldier contributed to the killing of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) commander Saifullah and his two associates inside their hideout - a mudhouse (dhok) in the foothills of a hill - at Passerkut in the Chatroo belt on Sunday.

"In the recent

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JKPSC Civil Judge Result 2025 declared; 41 candidates selected

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) on Monday declared the result of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Judicial) Examination-2025 and notified 41 candidates for medical examination, marking a significant step towards filling 42 posts of Civil Judge (Junior Division) in the Union Territory.

The result was notified vide Notification No. 14-PSC (DR-S) of 2026 dated February 24, 2026, following the culmination of the viva-voce conducted at the Commission's office in Resham Ghar Colony, Bakshi Nagar, Jammu.

Secretary JKPSC, Bashir Ahmad Dar stated that the entire recruitment exercise was carried out strictly in accordance with the notified rules and procedures.

"The Commission has ensured that the Judicial Services Examination-2025 was conducted in a transparent, rule-bound and time-bound manner. Every stage-from preliminary to viva-voce-was completed with utmost fairness and adherence to the prescribed norms," Dar said.

The 42 posts of Civil Judge (Junior Division) were referred to the Commission by the Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs vide letter dated April 7, 2025. Subsequently, the posts were advertised through Notification No. 07-PSC (DR-P) of 2025 dated May 14, 2025.

A total of 2,974 candidates appeared in the Preliminary Examination held on September 28, 2025. Out of them, 1,016 candidates qualified for the Mains Examination as per the criteria fixed by the

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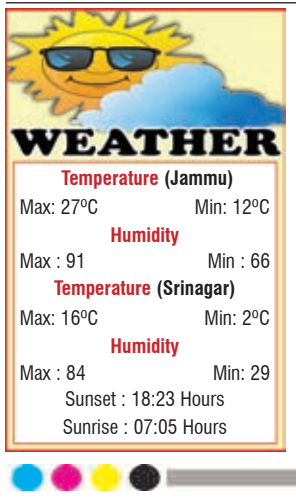

Rolls out Rs 84.41 Cr multi-sector dev works to transform Ganderbal

Development must translate into tangible improvement in daily lives of people: CM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GANDERBAL: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of major development projects worth Rs 84.41 crore in Ganderbal Constituency, marking a significant stride towards strengthening infrastructure, healthcare, water supply, sanitation, education and road connectivity across the district.

The projects, spanning multiple departments, were inaugurated and e-launched at different locations, underscoring the Government's commitment to balanced and inclusive development.

At Beehama, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the Rs 770 lakh Beautification & Development Project of Ganderbal Town under the Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UD-ULB), to be executed by PWD. The project envisages construction of a grand entry gate and a municipal guest house, upgradation of the MC Terminal building into a Smart Library, development of playing areas and club facilities, and comprehensive improvement of streets and pathways through cobble stone and tiling works. It also includes installation of street lights and garbage bins, along with façade improvements, murals and colour-coding of the market to enhance the town's aesthetic appeal.

He laid the foundation stone for the Rs 750.78 lakh road project connecting Bus Adda to District Hospital, including widening of Mirani Chowk, aimed at easing traffic congestion and improving connectivity.

Similarly, at District Hospital Ganderbal, the Chief Minister inaugurated a CT Scan Machine installed at a cost of Rs 840 lakh under the Health & Medical Education Department through DHSK, significantly augmenting diagnostic facilities for patients.

Likewise, at Rakhi Harran, he laid the foundation stone for a 4.5 MLD capacity Sewage Treatment Plant under the Used Water Management Project of Municipal Council Ganderbal (SBM 2.0), costing Rs 1,999.20 lakh under H&UD (UEED). The plant is expected to substantially improve sanitation standards and environmental sustainability in the town.

From Dak Bungalow, Ganderbal, the Chief Minister, who represents Ganderbal Constituency, e-inaugurated several key projects. These included the Water Supply Scheme (WSS) at Urpash Naderbagh, constructed at a cost of Rs 679.14 lakh, WSS Buderkund at Rs 399 lakh, and WSS Manasbal at Rs 130 lakh, all executed by the Rural Water Supply Division, Ganderbal under the Jal Shakti Department and Jal Jeevan Mission.

He also laid e-foundation of works of various roads in the Ganderbal constituency costing Rs 1,288.40 lakh under PWD, and improvement of various infrastructure in schools in the district at a cost of Rs 902.69 lakh under the School Education Department.

The Chief Minister further laid e-foundation stones for upgradation of inner link roads of Treesa Safapora, including link roads at Check Yangaroo in Lar, Ganderbal, at a cost of Rs 302.11 lakh, as well as improvement and upgradation of Kohistan Colony Canal Roads along with allied works amounting to Rs 379.62 lakh, both under PWD.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister reiterated that development must translate into tangible improvements in the

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CM Omar Abdullah laying foundation stone of Beautification & Development Project of Ganderbal Town under H&UD-ULB.