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STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

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21st convocation of Kashmir University

Nation needs to let go of colonial mindset to become global leader: Radhakrishnan



VP C.P. Radhakrishnan speaking at the 21st Convocation of University of Kashmir on Thursday.

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Vice President C P Radhakrishnan on Thursday said the nation needs to let go of its colonial mindset to emerge as a global leader in innovations.

Radhakrishnan was addressing the 21st convocation of the University of Kashmir here.

"As a graduating student, I urge you all to focus on Swadeshi innovation and

solutions that are rooted in Indian knowledge, resources, and needs. We need not be worried; we need not be inferior. We are to throw out our colonial mindset first," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made the entrepreneurship ecosystem in the country more vibrant and more supportive than ever before, he said.

"My best wishes to you to

share the next big innovation, the next way of sustainable development, the next chapter in India's prize as a global leader," the vice president added.

Referring to the COVID-19 pandemic, he said the prime minister gave a call for all the scientists of the country to develop a vaccine for the epidemic. "How many of us believed in it? But

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VP enjoys Shikara ride on Dal Lake



SRINAGAR: Vice President C P Radhakrishnan on Thursday enjoyed a shikara ride on the iconic Dal Lake, describing the experience as a glimpse of Srinagar's timeless charm and natural beauty.

"I experienced the timeless charm, pristine waters, and breathtaking natural beauty of Srinagar during a morning cruise on Dal Lake today," the vice president posted on his personal X handle.

The vice president said he was deeply impressed by the transformative changes taking place in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in infrastructure

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Addresses 21st Convocation of KU

Curriculum must prioritize adaptability, AI alongside human intelligence: LG

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday addressed the 21st Convocation of University of Kashmir.

The convocation ceremony was graced by Vice President of India, C.P. Radhakrishnan.

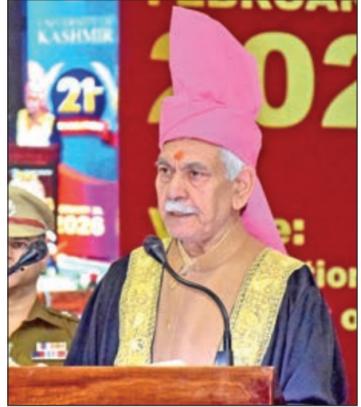
The Lieutenant Governor extended his best wishes to all graduating students for a prosperous future. He exhorted them to set a clear path for their future - 'One purpose. One priority - Country first!'

"Always remember when you build the country, the country builds you back. Nations don't rise only from resources. They rise from educated people and when the nation rises, so do you," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the convocation at the University of Kashmir is a vivid proof of generational metamorphosis, fulfilled aspirations, and youth's unwavering faith embodied in modern education.

"The knowledge earned in University of Kashmir isn't merely skills but it is holistic personality growth. Education builds self-confidence, equips for meaningful lives and it molds responsible citizens, linking personal success to collective good.

Education is the most powerful instrument of change ever placed in human hands. It redirects the course of a life. It reshapes the destiny of families. And when the youth



LG Manoj Sinha addressing gathering at 21st Convocation of KU on Thursday.

embrace it fully, it rewrites the future of a nation from the ground up," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that the ideas in the classroom must impact the world. He called upon the Universities to aspire to move beyond their traditional role as custodians of knowledge- evolving into vibrant centers of innovation, human development, and social

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J&K's dev budget more than double of bailout package Pak sought from IMF: India

STATE TIMES NEWS
UNITED NATIONS/GENEVA: Slamming Pakistan at the UN, India has said the country lives in "la-la land" and finds it unbelievable that Jammu and Kashmir's developmental budget is more than double the recent bailout package Islamabad sought from the IMF.

Anupama Singh, First Secretary in the Permanent Mission of India to the UN in Geneva, exercised India's Right of Reply on Wednesday after Pakistan raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir at the high-level segment of the 61st Regular

Session of the UN Human Rights Council.

"India is compelled to exercise its Right of Reply in response to references made to it during the high-level segment by Pakistan and the OIC. We categorically reject these allegations," she said, referring to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

Singh added that it is hard to take lectures on democracy from a country where civilian governments rarely complete their terms.

"They ring hollow. The record voter turnout in general elections and Assembly elections in

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J&K emerging as an innovation hub: CM

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who is also the pro-chancellor of the University of Kashmir, on Thursday said that for a long time, Jammu & Kashmir's economy was viewed through a narrow lens, but the J&K of 2026 is emerging as a hub for Innovation and Participatory Governance.

He was addressing the 21st Convocation ceremony of the University of Kashmir, where Vice President of India C. P. Radhakrishnan was the Chief Guest. Lieutenant Governor and Chancellor Manoj Sinha, Minister for Education Sakina Itoo, Advisor to the CM Nasir



CM Omar Abdullah handing over degree to a scholar at KU.

Aslam Wani, Vice Chancellor Nilofer Khan, members of the University Council, faculty and graduating students

were present on the occasion. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister described the moment as pivotal, recall-

ing that he had recently presented the 2026-27 Budget in the Legislative Assembly, terming it a "Fiscal Compass." He said the budget was not merely a statement of accounts but a declaration of intent to transform J&K into a modern, progressive and economically vibrant region.

"For too long, our economy was viewed through a narrow lens. We were 'just' tourism, or 'just' agriculture. But the J&K of 2026 is becoming a hub for Innovation and participatory governance," he said.

Referring to the challenges faced in recent years,

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J&K to get National Centre of Excellence for winter sports: Mandaviya

STATE TIMES NEWS
GULMARG: Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday said a National Centre of Excellence to promote winter sports will be established in Jammu and Kashmir and declared that future editions of the Khelo India Winter Games will be expanded into a 15-day event combining sports with cultural activities.

Addressing the closing ceremony of this year's Khelo India Winter Games' second leg here, he reaffirmed the government's commitment to transform the region into a premier global winter sports

hub.

"The land of Kashmir has immense potential. A National Centre of Excellence will be established here. Gulmarg will be the global hub for Winter Sports in the coming times," Mandaviya remarked during his address at the Gulmarg Golf Course.

"Now the Winter Games will not be limited to four days. By integrating tourism, we will organise a 15-day-long Winter Games that will include a Fit India Carnival, cultural programmes and multiple competitions," he said.

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House worth Rs 44 lakh linked to NDPS accused attached

STATE TIMES NEWS
SHOPIAN: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday attached a double-storey residential house worth around Rs 44 lakh, allegedly acquired through illegal drug trade, in Shopian district.

"Police have attached a residential house valued at Rs 44.50 lakh belonging to Abdul Rashid Koka, resident of Melhura Zainapora in Shopian," a spokesman said. The property

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ROZA TIMING

SEHR TIME: 05:38 (FEB 28)
IFTAAR TIME: 06:28 (FEB 27)

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 27.0°C Min: 14.0°C

Humidity
Max: 95 Min: 94

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 20.2°C Min: 2.2°C

Humidity
Max: 94 Min: 72

Sunset: 18:25 Hours
Sunrise: 07:02 Hours

Steady decline in terrorism, situation normal in J&K: Western Army Commander

STATE TIMES NEWS
PATHANKOT: Western Army Commander Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Katiyar on Thursday said he has noted a sustained decline in militancy indicators in Jammu and Kashmir, and the situation has become very normal.

Maintaining that the Army is keeping a close watch on the terror infrastructure, he said plans are being formulated to deal with it accordingly.

"As you have seen, all military parameters in Jammu and Kashmir have consis-

tently declined. The situation in Jammu and Kashmir has become very normal. However, as I said before,



this is a well-planned conspiracy by Pakistan to send a few terrorists to disturb the atmosphere. Our Army and all departments of the civil administration are fully pre-

pared (to deal with it)," Lt Gen Katiyar told reporters here.

Responding to a question on terror encounters in the Kathua-Kishtwar belt, the Army commander said, "Wherever we receive information, we take immediate and prompt action. As you have seen this year, in several successful operations, we neutralised terrorists who had come to create disturbances in our country." Responding to another question about the revival of terror launch pads and

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Modi holds wide-ranging talks with Israeli President Herzog

STATE TIMES NEWS
JERUSALEM: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Israeli President Isaac Herzog on Thursday held "extremely fruitful" and wide-ranging talks during which they explored avenues to further enhance cooperation in education, start-ups, innovation, tech and connectivity.

Modi called on Herzog at his official residence, where the two leaders first planted an oak tree together in the garden "as a symbol of friendship, growth, and the building of a shared future between the two countries

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SC bans NCERT book over chapter on judicial corruption

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI/JAMSHEDPUR: The Supreme Court on Thursday imposed a "complete blanket ban" on any further publication, reprinting or digital dissemination of the NCERT's Class 8 social science book as it contains "offending" contents on corruption in the judiciary, saying a gunshot has been fired and the institution is bleeding.

The government, on its part, expressed anguish over the inclusion of the

controversial section in the book, with Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan promising to fix



accountability and take action against those involved in drafting it. Observing that there appeared to be a "deep-root-

ed conspiracy" and a "calculated move" to undermine the institution and demean the dignity of judiciary, the Supreme Court directed that all copies of the book -- physical and digital -- currently in circulation be seized immediately and removed from public access without any delay.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant issued show-cause notices to the NCERT director and the secretary of the department of school

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Big breakthrough by South Zone Police: 196 mobiles, 17 two-wheelers among Rs 90 lakh recovery

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu Police, South Zone has achieved significant success in solving multiple theft cases under different Operations during last 57 days of year 2026 and recovered stolen and missing property worth approximately Rs 90 lakh.

Addressing media, SP South City Dr Ajay Sharma said that Under Operation RECONNECT, 196 missing mobile phones worth about Rs 68 lakh were recovered, out of which 36 mobile phones were handed over prior to this press conference and 160 mobiles handed over today to their rightful owners after completion of legal formalities. This big through was achieved by the small team of ESU operating from



SP South City Dr Ajay Sharma addressing media persons on Thursday.

the Office of SP South Jammu based on the missing reports lodged across Jammu by the citizens. The team was led by SgCt Rishi Abrol with devoted, dedicat-

ed and sustained technical analysis and tracking involving inter-state coordination. He further informed that Under Operation AVTAR, Police Station Gandhi Nagar

solved a motorcycle theft case registered vide FIR No. 34/2026 under Section 303(2) BNS on the complaint of SgCt. Viney Kumar regarding theft of his Hero

Splendor motorcycle. A police team led by Inspector Jaipal Sharma, PSI Nadeem Akram and ASI Pintoo Kumar, under the

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CB books two for COVID-19 Medical Supplies Fraud

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The Economic Offences Wing Kashmir (EOW-K) has registered a formal case against two individuals for their involvement in large-scale fraud relating to the procurement of medical supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to officials, the accused, residents of Peerbagh and Sanat Nagar, Srinagar, allegedly impersonated delegates of the J&K Ministry and OSD Supplies. "By creating fraudulent email IDs and misrepresenting themselves as legitimate suppliers, the accused induced government departments and institutions to transfer payments into fake bank accounts," said an

EOW official. Preliminary verification revealed that the duo dishonestly obtained ₹27 lakh from one government office and had planned to defraud another medical institution of ₹2.24 crore. "Based on prima facie evidence, offences under Sections 420, 467, 468, 471, 120-B IPC, read with Section 66-D of the IT Act, have been established. Cognizance has been taken and further investigation is in progress," the official added.

The EOW-K assured that all necessary steps are being taken to ensure the investigation is thorough and that those responsible are brought to justice. Authorities have also warned institutions to exercise

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