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STATE TIMES

Ramadan Mubarak to all our readers

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RNI No. : 66908/96
Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/2025-27

Vol. 30 Issue 71 • Jammu • Thursday • March 13, 2025 • Pages 12 • ₹ 5.00

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

Skiing in country originated from Gulmarg: Omar

Delighted over successful conduct of 5th Khelo India Winter Games in Gulmarg

STATE TIMES NEWS
GULMARG: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said that he was delighted to see the 5th Edition of Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) in Gulmarg held successfully. Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, who was the chief guest on the occasion, also addressed the concluding function of the Khelo India Winter Games 2025 held in Gulmarg. "Finally, the 5th Khelo India Winter Games were held smoothly," he remarked at the outset of his address while addressing a large gathering of athletes, officials and guests. Reflecting on the challenges leading up to the event, the CM noted that persistent dry weather in January and February had raised concerns about whether the games would take place this year. "Over the past four years, KIWG have been conducted with great enthusiasm. However, we faced an unprecedented challenge as there was very little snow accumulation," he added. He shared that a thorough assessment of the snow conditions was conducted by technical staff, leading to extensive dis-



CM Omar Abdullah along with Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya & J&K Sports Minister during the concluding function of Khelo India Winter Games 2025 in Gulmarg on Wednesday.

cussions on whether the games should be held, postponed or cancelled. Eventually, he decided to postpone the event, hoping for snowfall. "Then, by the grace of the Almighty, we received enough snow, and the 5th Edition of KIWG was officially announced," he said. As an avid skier himself, the CM shared a personal anecdote, saying he had attempted to ski earlier that day but found it difficult due to the high water content in the snow. "If I found it challenging, I can only imagine how difficult it must have been for the athletes,"

Run for fun Marathon on March 16; traffic advisory issued

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police Department is going to organize "Run for Fun Jammu Marathon" on March 16 here from Gulshan Grounds, while Traffic Police have issued a diversion plan. "The general public/motorists are hereby informed that on Sunday at 06:30 AM "Run for Fun Jammu Marathon" will be organized by J&K Police. In this connection diversions will be applicable on the day from 0500 Hours to till conclusion of Marathon (11:00 AM expectedly)" a public notice issued today stated. The Marathon will start from Gulshan Ground (Starting/ Finishing Point) and pass through PHQ Main Gate - P/S Bagh-e-Bahu Crossing - Qasim Nagar - NH-44 - Forest Check Post - Environment Park - Hill View Honda near Bajalta Crossing. As per diversion plan, All kind of traffic

Cost of rail to Kargil estimates Rs 1.31 lakh Cr: Vaishnaw



Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw replying to a question in Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The anticipated cost of the new Bilaspur-"Manali"-Leh railway line that will provide connectivity to Kargil is Rs 1,31,000 crore, the government said on Wednesday. In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha

New Line, falling partly in union territory of Ladakh, is identified as strategic line by Ministry of Defence. Survey of Bilaspur-Manali-Leh new line project (489 km) has been completed and Detailed Project Report has been prepared," Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. "The anticipated cost of the project as per the Detailed Project Report is ,Rs 1,31,000 crore," he said. Talking about the previous Srinagar-Kargil-Leh (480 km) rail project, Vaishnaw stated that the survey for it was carried out in 2016-17 and the anticipated cost of the project was Rs 55,896 crore. "However, due to low traffic projections, the project could not be taken forward," Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

Modi receives Mauritius' highest award

STATE TIMES NEWS
PORT LOUIS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday received



Mauritius' highest honour, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and

Key of the Indian Ocean, calling it a tribute to the centuries-old cultural and historical bonds of kinship between the two nations. Modi, who is on a two-day state visit here, was conferred with the award by President of Mauritius Dharam Gokhool at the island nation's 57th National Day celebrations. Prime Minister Modi is the first Indian leader to receive this prestigious award, which recognises his contributions to strengthening ties between India and Mauritius. "I express my heartfelt gratitude

Army, IAF conduct synergised exercise to enhance interoperability in Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Demonstrating joint operational readiness, the Army and the Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted a synergised interoperability exercise here, a defence spokesman said on Wednesday. The exercise was aimed at strengthening coordination between ground and air forces, ensuring seamless integration of aerial and land-based operations in dynamic battlefield scenarios, the spokesman said. By refining joint operational tactics, he said, this exercise reinforced the ability of both forces to respond swiftly and effectively to real-



time challenges, particularly in high-threat environments. Under the aegis of Tiger Division, the exercise simulated real-world operational conditions, with IAF helicopters executing a precise airlift of Army troops from a designated mounting base. The troops were then

inserted into terrain characterised by dense vegetation and thick undergrowth, the spokesman said, adding this complex insertion manoeuvre tested the forces' ability to operate cohesively in challenging environments, where mobility and coordination are crucial for mission success. Following the insertion, the troops executed a simulated combat assault, engaging in coordinated manoeuvres designed to neutralise threats in a high-risk environment. The spokesman said the exercise also incorporated surveillance operations, precision firepower tactics,

Gatru Murder case: Samba resident nabbed; 10th arrest so far

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Police has arrested another man in the murder of a gangster here that took place nearly two months ago, an officer said on Wednesday. Yudhvir Singh, a resident of Mandi Sangwali area of Samba, was arrested from Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, Delhi, soon after he landed from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, a police spokesman said. On January 21, Gatru gang head Sumit Jandyal was shot dead in Jewel Chowk in the heart of Jammu. Singh is the 10th accused arrested in the case. Police called Singh's arrest

as a "major breakthrough" in the high-profile murder case. The spokesman said investigations have revealed that Singh played a crucial financial role in the conspiracy, transferring funds into multiple accounts before the murder. "These transactions were used to purchase an Alto car just a week prior to the crime, a vehicle that was later instrumental in the execution of Jandyal's murder," he said. The murder of Jandyal, also a resident of Samba, had sent a shockwave across the area and with each arrest, the case is unravelling deeper layers of a meticulously planned crime.

Army personnel injured in firing along LoC

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: An Army personnel was on Wednesday injured in a firing incident along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. The soldier was manning a forward post in Kalsiyar area of Nowshera sector when he was hit by a bullet from across the border, they said. The injured

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No new liquor vends allotted in J&K: CM

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday said no new liquor vends were being allotted by his government and only earlier allotted ones were auctioned. The Chief Minister's remarks came after reports that the government has launched bids for 83 new liquor shops in J-K. "NO NEW LIQUOR VENDS ARE BEING ADVERTISED OR ALLOTTED BY MY GOVERNMENT. TV channels & news portals should immediately stop peddling this lie," the chief minister said on X. Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir Excise Department has strongly rebutted the news being circulated on vari-

ous social media platforms regarding the increase in number of vends (Wine Shops) in Jammu & Kashmir, terming it as fake and baseless. A communication issued by the department in this regard stated that "As per J&K Excise Policy for the year 2025-26 notified vide SO 38 dated 15th February, 2025, 305 number of vends (Wine Shops) were put to e-auction on 15.02.2025 and after culmination of the bidding process, 271 vends got allotted through the e-auction process (which was conducted by J&K Bank) to the successful HI bidders and rest of 34 locations are being put to re-auction through Public Notice Issued on 07.03.2025 and bid-

Speaker constitutes Business Advisory Committee

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In Pursuant to Rule 317 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Advocate Abdul Rahim Rather, on Wednesday nominated the members of Business Advisory Committee of which he shall be the Chairman. The nominated members included Sunil Kumar Sharma, Leader of Opposition; Ali Mohammad Sagar, MLA; Mubarik Gul, MLA; Mohammad

Chugh hails crackdown on two Pak-sponsored terrorist outfits

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BNP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Wednesday hailed the Union Government's decision to ban 'Jammu & Kashmir Ittihadul Muslimeen' and 'Awami Action Committee' under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), calling it a decisive step towards ensuring peace, security, and develop-

ment in Jammu & Kashmir. In a statement, Chugh not only a bold move against terror networks but also a crucial step in accelerating the wave of progress initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the region. He emphasized that under the Modi government's zero-tolerance policy on terrorism, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a new dawn of stability, where disruptive activities like stone-pelting on security forces have completely ceased, paving



Welcomes PM Modi's initiative to curb anti-national forces, propel J&K towards development

ROZA TIMING

SEHR TIME: 05:26 (MARCH 14)
IFTAAR TIME: 06:46 (MARCH 13)

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 29.5°C Min: 16.6°C

Humidity
Max: 44 Min: 41

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 15.2°C Min: 7.4°C

Humidity
Max: 96 Min: 64

Sunset : 18:36 Hours
Sunrise : 06:45 Hours

Jammu Hindus should be protected at all costs, they are linchpin of national security

ANCHOR
DOST KHAN

The killing of three Hindu youth in Billawar, Kathua, has exposed dangers that exist for the community in Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu has become new centre of uncertainties for the community where it supposedly dominates the demography and geography. All aspects of these killings and the overall threat it has cast on the Hindu community members living in hills need a thorough study. It will be a mistake to read it as one odd incident. There was a deep calculation behind the abduction and execution of Varun Singh, Yogesh Singh and Darshan Singh, showcasing the vulnerability of theirs and their community

in the upper reaches. This particular incident has two critical dimensions. One, it has been executed in remote hilly area, which has been a scene of ambush on the army vehicles few months ago. Four soldiers were martyred in this general area in July last year. The nature of the ambush demonstrated definite presence of highly trained terrorists and the local support base. That's what is called terrorism's ecosystem. Second, this incident of brutal killing of three Hindu youth, intended to spread chaos and confusion in the area, and by extension to all other hilly areas where Hindus live. This is repeat of the terrorists' strategies of 1990s when they would target the Hindus in upper reaches with a sole idea of dominating the hills, forcing Hindus to flee their homes. In 1990s, and also in the first few years of 2000s, a substantial chunk of the Hindu population migrated from hills to plains, to gain an alternative sense of safety in camps away from their homes and villages. But the repeat of the same old strategy is much more dangerous than it was in 1990s. Those were times when the security forces were overstretched. They had to fight terrorists almost everywhere in the Kashmir valley, which had become a hotspot of terrorism, and also to prevent infiltration from across the Line of Control and border. Let it be stated that the Central governments during that point of time were confused; didn't know how to handle the situation. Today, terrorists are on the run. Kashmir Valley is largely free of terror-

ism. In Jammu region, too the security forces had achieved tremendous successes. The number of terrorists, mostly Pakistanis, was brought down to double-digit. And, if such incidents that shake the confidence of the people happen in the times of near-normalcy, these indicate more threats to the community. There can never be a distinction between victims of terrorism on the basis of their religious affiliations, but one thing should not be forgotten that when the Hindus in the Union Territory of J&K are killed that conveys many more thing than just adding to the statistics of terror victims. Hindus in J&K were given a sense of safety and security in the recent years, thanks to the extraordinary efforts in implementing counter-terrorism strategies, because any harm to the community

had portents of inflicting insecurity in the community as also broadcast of a negative message across the country. It should be understood in the context that Kashmiri Hindus or Kashmiri Pandits sought refuge in Jammu region after they were forced to migrate by terrorists and their sympathizers in the Valley in 1990s as they felt safe in the region. If that is reduced to a concept and perception of yesteryear; it is bad for the national narrative about Jammu and Kashmir. The circumstances demand that Hindus should be protected at all costs, whatever it may take to do so. The deployment of forces, strengthening of Village Defence Guards are critical part of it, but what is more important is that intelligence network should be strengthened and the villagers should be educated and trained to neutralise potential dangers.

NEWS ANALYSIS