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# STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

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**J.K. PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
KUNJWALI, JAMMU  
The School with a Difference

**SOWING SKILLS**  
SHAPING INDIA

**03** Group Captain Shukla to accompany mission to International Space Station: Dr Jitendra

**05** JKBOSE to implement uniform curricula across all affiliated schools

**10** Budget set to enhance sports culture, produce international stuff

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

## While world is ageing, young India is rising: LG

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha attended Viksit Bharat Samvad 'EDGE 2025' at Kanpur on Wednesday.

In his keynote address, the Lieutenant Governor called upon the civil society members, youth, trade and industry stakeholders to pursue two big goals- Make India a \$5 Trillion economy by 2026 and Viksit Bharat by 2047.

He emphasised on carrying out speedy reforms, and working in a collaborative manner to make every sector of the economy globally competitive.

The Lieutenant Governor said, "Given the global economic upheaval, trade uncertainties and geopolitical situations, we need to focus on transforming India into a global hub for design and manufacturing."

Our next resolution should be to realise the potential of demographic dividend



LG Manoj Sinha speaking at the Viksit Bharat Samvad 'EDGE 2025' at Kanpur on Wednesday.

through skilling, reskilling, and upskilling of youth, and ensure that they take advantage of technological advancements taking place globally.

While the world is ageing, young India is rising. This demographic dividend combined with the power of IIT-Innovation, industries and Technology will ensure India's steady economic growth to achieve the target of \$5 trillion economy

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**▶▶ LG attends Viksit Bharat Samvad 'EDGE 2025' at Kanpur**  
**▶▶ Calls upon civil society members, Trade & Industry stakeholders to pursue two big goals- Make India \$5 Trillion economy by 2026 and Viksit Bharat by 2047**  
**▶▶ Says, given the global economic upheaval, trade uncertainties and geopolitical situations, we need to focus on transforming India into global hub for design, manufacturing**  
**▶▶ I want to see a new partnership between Panchayats and Industry across country.**

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## Govt to announce new toll policy soon, offering reasonable concession: Gadkari

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on



Wednesday said the government will soon announce a new policy for toll charges on national highways, offering a reasonable concession to consumers.

Replying to queries in Rajya Sabha, the minister asserted that the government is spending a lot on building road infrastructure and therefore toll charges are necessary.

"It is the policy of the department that when you want good road, you have to pay for it," Gadkari said.

In Assam, he said the government plans to make expenditure of Rs 3 lakh crore.

"We are making a lot of big roads, four lanes,

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## Police seize 40 kg poppy in Udhampur, 1 arrested

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Jammu Police on Wednesday arrested a drug peddler and seized 40 kg of poppy from his possession in Udhampur district, officials said.

A police team intercepted a vehicle during a routine check at the Jakhani Naka on the highway, they said.

During search, two plastic gunny bags were found concealed inside empty vegetable crates in the back of the vehicle, police said.

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**ROZA TIMING**

SEHR TIME: 05:18 (MARCH 21)  
IFTAAR TIME: 06:50 (MARCH 20)

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 29.2°C Min: 14.4°C

Humidity  
Max: 74 Min: 44

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 18.4°C Min: 4.0°C

Humidity  
Max: 67 Min: 38

Sunset: 18:41 Hours  
Sunrise: 06:36 Hours

## No proposal to change retirement age of Govt employees: Centre

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The government is not considering any proposal to change the retirement age of its employees, Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said on Wednesday.

In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, he also said the government has no policy to abolish vacancy created by retirement of employees.

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## Two IEDs recovered in Kashmir

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Security forces on Wednesday recovered two improvised explosive devices (IEDs) from Bandipora and Pulwama districts, police said.

The first ED was recovered near Sunset Point along the Bandipora-Srinagar national highway.

A police official said a Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) defused the device without causing any damage.

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## NIA raids 12 locations in Jammu linked to terrorist sympathisers, OGWs

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The National Investigation Agency on Wednesday conducted searches at 12 locations across Jammu, including premises of terrorist sympathisers, as part of its probe into infiltration by terrorists from across the border.

Among the premises which were raided include the homes of overground workers (OGWs) linked to the newly-formed offshoots and affiliates of banned terrorist organisations such as Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), the NIA said in a statement.

The infiltration case is linked to the series of attacks carried out by terrorists on security forces and civilians some months ago as part of a larger criminal conspiracy by terrorist organisations to wage a war against the government of India, said the statement.

A total of 12 locations in



Jammu district of Jammu and Kashmir were searched as part of the operation, and several incriminatory materials linking the terrorists with OGWs were seized, it said, adding that the NIA teams are examining them to unravel the terror conspiracy.

"Premises of sympathizers and cadres of these outfits were also searched as part of the action taken by the anti-terror agency in the case," the NIA said.

The action followed information received by the NIA

regarding infiltration of LeT and JeM terrorists into India through the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC).

Reports suggested that the terrorists were facilitated by OGWs and terror associates living in border areas. Besides providing logistical support, food, shelter and money, the suspects were involved in guiding the terrorists through the difficult terrains of Jammu province to ensure their safe

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## J&K Bank wins 'Best Innovation in Digital Lending' Award

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: In recognition of its digital excellence, J&K Bank has been honoured with the 'Best Innovation in Digital Lending' award at the 1st Indian PSU Achievers' Awards 2025, held yesterday at the Main Convention Centre, SCOPE Complex in New Delhi.

Notably, Union Minister for MSME Jitan Ram Manjhi was Chief Guest at the prestigious award function, wherein the Bank's General Manager & Divisional Head (Rest of India) Rajesh Gupta along with AGM Dorjey Anghchuk received the honour at the hands of dignitaries.

While commenting upon



Bank's General Manager & Divisional Head (Rest of India) Rajesh Gupta along with AGM Dorjey Anghchuk receiving award.

the reception of the award, the Bank's MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee thanked the organisers for the honour. He further said, "This award signifies our commitment to digital transformation and customer-centric innovation.

We thank the organizers for recognizing our efforts in digital lending, which remains a key focus area for us as we enhance financial accessibility for our customers."

He also emphasized the

Bank's commitment to seamless digital banking services, adding, "With customer expectations evolving rapidly, I believe, we will ensure best digital banking experiences for the people while we continue to innovate. And our commitment remains strong in delivering secure, swift, and user-friendly solutions for our customers across geographies."

Meanwhile, the high-profile award-ceremony witnessed the participation of reputed public sector banks, financial institutions, and PSUs from across the country, underscoring the significance of the platform in

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## Govt forms CS-led panel for regularization of casual, seasonal labourers in J&K

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Government on Wednesday constituted a 6-member committee to examine the issues related to regularization of Casual, Seasonal Labourers or Other Workers etc in Jammu and Kashmir.

Headed by Chief Secretary as Chairman, the members of the committee include Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Administrative Secretaries of Finance Department, General Administration Department (Member Secretary), Planning Department and Monitoring Department and Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, according to an order issued

by M Raju, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department.

The committee, which as per the order, may co-opt any other member as deemed necessary, has been mandated to examine various issues including humanitarian/legal and financial related to the regularization of Casual Seasonal Labourers or Other Workers etc in Jammu and Kashmir, and suggest a comprehensive way forward.

The Committee shall be serviced by the General Administration Department and shall submit its report within a period of six months, the order added.

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## On bail, Kejriwal running Punjab: Chugh 'Bhagwant Mann has become pawn'

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
CHANDIGARH/DELHI: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Wednesday questioned former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's credentials to make announcements on behalf of the Punjab government.

In a strongly worded statement, Chugh said that Kejriwal, who is on bail and facing various criminal charges, has arrogated to himself all powers of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, giving an impression to the people of the state that he has practically taken over the state governance.

"Kejriwal has usurped all powers of Bhagwant Mann and brought shame for the people of the state", he said.



Chugh said, as it is, the entire state knows that Kejriwal has been also plotting his entry to Rajya Sabha through Punjab. "By camping in Ludhiana and making announcements on behalf of

the Punjab government, Kejriwal is only demonstrating that Bhagwant Mann is a pawn who would be used for his political interests.

Expressing his serious concern at the deteriorating law and order situation in Punjab, Chugh said every day there are signals of complete breakdown of law and order. Even today, he said, there has been a brutal attack on an AAP leader, besides an attack on the Himachal Roadways bus. He said the AAP government has lost moral ground to rule the state as there is complete collapse of governance on all fronts.

## Danesh Rana posted as IGP CoBRA in CRPF

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Senior IPS officer Danesh Rana has been appointed as the Inspector General of Police (IGP) of the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

CoBRA is an elite special operations unit of the CRPF, specializing in guerrilla tactics and jungle warfare, primarily deployed in anti-Naxal and counter-insurgency operations across India.

Danesh Rana, a 1996-batch IPS officer of the erstwhile J&K cadre (now AGMUT cadre), has

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## Investigation in Badhal deaths underway: Govt

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, on Wednesday said that the cause of illness and deaths in Badhal area of Rajouri is not due to any communicable disease of bacterial or viral origin.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Javed Iqbal Choudhary in the Legislative Assembly.

She said that the clinical reports, lab investigations and environmental samples indicate that the incidents are not due to a communicable disease of bacterial or viral origin, instead, detec-

## Govt enhances outlays to Rs 6,190 Cr for two schemes to boost milk production

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The government on Wednesday enhanced outlays to Rs 6,190 crore for two schemes aimed at increasing milk production.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw informed that the Union Cabinet has approved the revised Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) and National Program for Dairy Development (NPDD).

Both the schemes, which seek to enhance milk production and raise farmers' income, will now have

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## Under Modi Govt, terrorists will either go to 'jail or Jahannum': MoS Home

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: There has been a 71 per cent reduction in incidents of terror in the country under the Modi government and terrorists will now either go to jail or "jahannum" (hell), Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

Replying to queries from members during Question Hour, the minister said unlike in the past when terrorists were glorified and served "good food", the Modi government has a "zero tolerance" policy towards terrorism that has helped bring down the cases of terror to zero in the hinterland.

He listed several steps being taken to deal with cases of terror and claimed that after an amendment in

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## NASA astronauts Butch Wilmore, Sunita Williams return to Earth after 9 months

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
CAPE CANAVERAL: Stuck in space no more, NASA astronauts Butch Wilmore and Sunita Williams returned to Earth on Tuesday, hitching a different ride home to close out a saga that began with a bungled test flight more than nine months ago.

Their SpaceX capsule parachuted into the Gulf of Mexico in the early evening, just hours after departing the International Space Station. Splashdown occurred off the coast of Tallahassee in the Florida Panhandle, bringing their unplanned odyssey to an end.



It all started with a flawed Boeing test flight last spring. The two expected to be gone just a week or so after launching on Boeing's new Starliner crew capsule on June 5. So many problems cropped up on the way to the space station that NASA

eventually sent Starliner back empty and transferred the test pilots to SpaceX, pushing their homecoming into February. Then SpaceX capsule issues added another month's delay.

Sunday's arrival of their relief crew meant Wilmore and Williams could finally leave. NASA cut them loose

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## Welcome back: Prez, PM celebrate Sunita Williams' return

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi joined celebrities, politicians, scientists and others on Wednesday to celebrate the return of NASA astronaut Sunita Williams to Earth after nine months, terming her an inspiration for generations to come and landing her determination.

NASA astronauts Williams, Nick Hague and Butch Wilmore and Roscosmos cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov returned early Wednesday on board SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft, which splashed down in the sea off the coast of Tallahassee, Florida.

For Williams and Wilmore, test pilots for Boeing's new Starliner capsule, an eight-day mission stretched to more than nine months as a series of helium leaks and thruster failures deemed their spacecraft unsafe. The spacecraft returned without them in September.

The president said in a post on X that India's daughter and her fellow astronauts have inspired everyone with their perseverance, dedication and never-say-die spirit.

"Congratulations to the entire team behind the safe return of NASA's Crew 9 mission on

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