

**BLUE MOON**  
Banquets • Conventions

THE BANQUET WITH A DIFFERENCE

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

**SOWING SKILLS**  
SHAPING INDIA

03

Chief Justice inaugurates Legal Aid Clinic at GMC&H Jammu

09

Amandeep Sharma is New President YLA

10

Fencing trials on March 8, 9

Will fulfill all promises made to people, no need for shadow cabinet: Omar

Nadda emphasizes grassroots connect, pro-people governance

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said his government would fulfill all the promises made to the people and slammed the BJP that has reportedly formed a shadow cabinet, saying there is no such system in India.

"There is only one cabinet. There is no shadow cabinet in our country. The BJP has ruled here till now. Now, the people's government will do its work.

"There is no need for a shadow. We have promised the people about meeting their expectations, and we stand by our promise," Abdullah told reporters here.

The chief minister visited the residence of Ghulam Sibtain Masoodi who passed away earlier this week, to offer his condolences.

Speaking about his meeting to review the prepared-

CM calls on LG, discusses issues of J&K Budget Session



SRINAGAR: The Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Omar Abdullah called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, earlier Saturday and discussed various issues relating to the forthcoming Budget Session of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly. The Budget Session, 2025 of the Assembly will commence on Monday the 3rd March, 2025.

ness for the holy month of Ramadan, Abdullah said it is the government's responsibility to provide all facilities to the people.

"We reviewed every department and directed all to ensure every facility, be it power supply at the time of Sehri and Iftar, water supply, ration supply, sanitation and traffic. It is hoped that the government will take all these steps," he said.

LG, CM greet people on Ramzan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has greeted the people on the beginning of holy month of Ramzan.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said: "Best wishes on the commencement of the holy month of Ramzan. May this sacred month of prayers, blessings and forgiveness inspire us to work towards upliftment of the underprivileged with complete dedication and devotion. May this sacred month also strengthen mutual goodwill and encourage each one of us to follow the path of love and compassion".

In his felicitation message, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasized the importance of unity and compassion during this period of reflection.

He encouraged citizens to support one another and foster an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding.

"This spirit of togetherness will help build a stronger

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



BJP President J P Nadda addressing during BJP MLAs Training Workshop at Katra on Saturday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: The second day of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) MLAs Training Workshop witnessed insightful deliberations on leadership, governance, and public outreach, with BJP National President Jagat Prakash Nadda underscoring the imperative for elected representatives to proactively engage with communities through platforms like Krishi Vigyan Kendras, Asha workers' meetings, and parent-teacher

interactions in government schools. Nadda further emphasized the need for MLAs to be "good listeners" to effectively resolve public grievances and regularly visit SC/ST communities to ensure inclusive development.

The day commenced with a welcome address by Sat Sharma, BJP President of Jammu & Kashmir, followed by a session on "Panch Nishta and Panch Parivartan" (Five Commitments and Five Transformations) led by Shiv Prakash, National Joint General Secretary (Organization). Rupesh Kumar, Prant Pracharak, delivered lecture on Jammu & Kashmir's contemporary socio-political landscape and its historical significance in India's freedom struggle.

Former Rajya Sabha MP Vinay Sahasrabudhe conducted an interactive

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

India now emerging as factory of world: Modi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Saturday that his "vocal for local" campaign is bearing fruit as Indian products are going global and making their presence felt across the world.

Speaking at the NXT conclave where the 'NewsX World' channel was launched, Modi also said that India was becoming the land of infinite innovations, finding affordable solutions and offering



them to the world.

"The world is keenly watching 21st-century India. People from around the globe want to visit and understand India," Modi said.

He said that the country was now emerging as a manufacturing hub and a "factory of the world".

"For decades, the world referred to India as their back office. Now, India is becoming the new factory of the world. We are no

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

34 JKAS, seven Jr Scale JKAS officers transferred

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Saturday transferred 34 JKAS and seven Junior Scale JKAS officers.

According to the order, Vivek Sharma, JKAS, Special Secretary in the Agriculture Production Department, has been transferred and posted as Director General, Floriculture, Jammu; Bhawani Rakwal, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD, has been posted as Project Director; Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan; Khalid Jahangir, JKAS, Managing Director; J&K Trade Promotion Organization, as Special Secretary, Industries and

Commerce Department. He shall also hold the charge of the post of Director, Entrepreneurship Development Institute, J&K, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Shahbaz Ahmad Mirza, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD, has been posted as Managing Director; J&K Housing Board; Rubina Kausar, JKAS, Special Secretary, Labour and Employment Department, as Director; Libraries, J&K; Sudershan Kumar, JKAS, Secretary, J&K Board of School Education, as Managing Director; J&K Trade Promotion Organization;

Naseem Javaid Chowdhary, JKAS, Managing Director, J&K Horticulture Produce, Marketing and Processing Corporation, as Director; School Education, Jammu; Mohammad Younis Malik, JKAS, Vice-Chairman, Lakes, Conservation and Management Authority, J&K, as Special Secretary, Power Development Department; Vikas Sharma, JKAS, Director, Horticulture, Planning and Marketing, J&K, as Special Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department. He shall also hold the charge of the post of Mission Director, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation

and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD, has been posted as Vice-Chairman, Lakes, Conservation and Management Authority, J&K; Ashok Kumar Sharma, JKAS, Director, School Education, Jammu, as Special Secretary, Labour and Employment Department; Rajinder Kumar Sharma, JKAS, Director, Entrepreneurship Development Institute, J&K, as Special Secretary,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Jammu-Srinagar NH reopens

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BANIHAL (JAMMU): The strategic 270-kilometre Jammu-Srinagar national highway has been reopened for light motor vehicles after road restoration work was carried out on Saturday, officials said.

The arterial road - the only all-weather road linking Kashmir to the rest of the country - was closed on Thursday evening following heavy snowfall and multiple landslides in Ramban district.

Heavy rains had triggered shooting stones, mudslides and landslides at a dozen places, including Kishtwari Pather, Moum Passi, Hingni,

Panthiyal, Mehar and Dalwas, while snowfall between Qazigund and Ramsu left the road slippery.

A side of the road near Mehar has caved in, while a major landslide has blocked one tube of the Kunfer-Peerah tunnel.

The road repair was hampered by continuous rains on Friday, officials said.

They said restoration of the 66-km Banihal-Nashri stretch was intensified on Saturday morning after the weather conditions improved.

"Light motor vehicles carrying passengers are allowed from Jammu

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Shantmanu gets addl charge of Chairman JKBOSE, Director SCERT

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Saturday assigned the charge of Chairman JK Board of School Education (JKBOSE) and Director SCERT to Financial Commissioner Shantmanu.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 12 of Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education Act, 1975 (Act No XXVIII of 1975), the Government orders

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Stop Misleading J&K, focus on promises instead of playing Pakistan's PRO: Chugh tells Abdullahs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU/CHANDIGARH : BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Saturday slammed Omar Abdullah and Farooq Abdullah for misleading the people of Jammu and Kashmir with their false narratives and failing to deliver on the promises made in their manifesto.

Chugh said that Omar Abdullah is making such statements on Article 370 only to shield himself from the tough questions of his own party workers and supporters. He asserted that

Article 370 is long gone and will never return, emphasizing that today's Jammu and Kashmir has transformed into a region of peace and prosperity, leading the nation in tourism.

"Under PM Modi's leadership, Jammu and Kashmir

has hosted prestigious international events like the G20, proving its emergence as a thriving hub of development," Chugh added.

Responding to Omar Abdullah's baseless claims of 'fabricated peace' in Jammu and Kashmir, Chugh said: "PM Modi's zero-tolerance policy against terrorism is yielding results, and we are committed to eradicating terrorism from this land completely."

Taking on Farooq Abdullah's call for dialogue with Pakistan,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Bodies of 2 accident victims retrieved from river

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Two bodies of accident victims were fished out from a river in Poonch district, officials said, as the search for a minor boy continued for the third day on Saturday.

The trio were reported missing on Thursday evening when a cab carrying 10 persons skidded off the road and plunged into a river near Kalai bridge in Poonch town.

While seven persons were rescued by the rescuers, three others were reported missing, the officials said.

They said while the body

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

BJP President pays obeisance at Mata Vaishno Devi



BJP President J P Nadda, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh and others paying obeisance at Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine on Saturday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA/JAMMU: BJP president J P Nadda and Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday offered

prayers at the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, officials said.

Nadda, who is also the

Union health minister, was accompanied by his wife Mallika Nadda, BJP National General

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

**ROZA TIMING**

SEHR TIME:  
05:37 (MARCH 03)

IFTAAR TIME:  
06:41 (MARCH 02)

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 23.4°C Min: 8.9°C

Humidity  
Max: 65 Min: 48

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 12.0°C Min: 2.6°C

Humidity  
Max: 93 Min: 49

Sunset : 18:27 Hours  
Sunrise : 06:58 Hours

Joint Director, Geology and Mining attached

J&K Govt tightens noose on illegal mining, initiates stern action to curb menace

Dy CM warns of severe legal consequences against unauthorized mining

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a decisive move aimed at tackling the menace of illegal mining in the Union Territory, the Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday attached Joint Director, Geology and Mining, Jammu, H L Langel, with the Administrative Department, ceasing all powers vested in him with immediate effect.

The order, issued by the Mining Department under Government Order No. 13-JK(MNG) of 2025, comes in the wake of directives received from the office of the Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, reinforcing the administration's commitment towards ensuring transparency and

accountability in the mining sector.

The government has taken this step in response to rising concerns over unauthorized mining activities that have been causing severe environmental degradation and revenue loss to the state exchequer. In light of this, the Director of Geology and Mining, J&K, has been directed to submit a comprehensive report addressing complaints related to illegal mining and the issuance of disposal permits, allowing authorities to initiate further scrutiny and take necessary corrective measures. The officials have been instructed to ensure strict compliance with mining regulations to prevent any further unlawful

extraction of mineral resources.

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, while addressing the matter, underscored the government's firm stance against illegal mining, stating that the administration would not tolerate any misconduct or negligence in the execution of duties. He affirmed that illegal mining not only endangers the environment but also deprives the government of rightful revenue, impacting developmental initiatives.

Stressing the need for stringent enforcement mechanisms, the Deputy Chief Minister assured that those found complicit in unauthorized mining activities, irrespective of their position,

would face strict legal consequences. He also urged the public to actively participate in reporting any illegal mining operations, emphasizing that community vigilance plays a crucial role in safeguarding the region's natural resources.

Illegal mining has been a longstanding issue in Jammu and Kashmir, with unregulated extraction causing extensive damage to riverbeds, groundwater levels and local ecosystems. The government has reiterated its commitment to sustainable and legal mining practices, ensuring that all mineral extraction activities are conducted within the ambit of law and environmental norms. Efforts are being

intensified to introduce advanced monitoring technologies, including satellite surveillance and digital tracking to curb unlawful mining operations.

The action against the Joint Director of Geology and Mining serves as a strong message that the government will not hesitate to take stringent action against any official found to be negligent or complicit in illegal activities.

The government has urged all stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies, regulatory bodies and local communities to work in unison to eliminate illegal mining. With a clear emphasis on accountability and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

No fuel for overage vehicles after March 31: Delhi Govt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Delhi government announced on Saturday that from April 1, fuel pumps in the city will not provide petrol and diesel to vehicles older than 15 and 10 years, respectively.

Fuel pumps would be equipped with devices to identify overage vehicles and restrict fuel supply to them, Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said after a high-level meeting with officials to discuss anti-pollution measures.

The move aims to curb vehicular emissions and combat air pollution in the city which remains a persistent challenge for the residents.

Talking to reporters, the minister said the Delhi government would inform the Ministry of Petroleum and

Natural Gas about the decision and the ministry would, in turn, notify the fuel pump owners.

The city has more than 425 petrol-diesel stations.

"We are setting up gadgets at our petrol pumps that will identify vehicles older than 15 years. They will not be provided fuel," Sirsa said.

A senior official of the Delhi government told PTI that diesel-run vehicles older than 10 years will also be denied fuel after March 31.

According to rough estimates, there are around 55 lakh overage vehicles, 66 per cent of which are two-wheelers and 54 per cent four-wheelers, the officer said.

The government also plans to phase out nearly 90 per cent of CNG-driven

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9