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STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

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The School with a Difference

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Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

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10 Little Graduates shine at Toddlers' World of JK Public School Kunjwani

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

J&K set record of productivity in agriculture, allied sector in past 3 yrs: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday attended the 'Krishak Mela 2025' at R.S. Pura campus of SKUAST, Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor felicitated the progressive Farmers, and also inaugurated four facilities at the campus that will strengthen education, research, and farmer training.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor spoke on the remarkable transformation taking place in the Agriculture and Allied sector of UT of J&K, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He reaffirmed his commitment to drive agricultural advancement in Jammu Kashmir.

"We have taken various innovative steps to transform Agricultural landscape of Jammu Kashmir including the launch of flagship project



LG Manoj Sinha speaking at the 'Krishak Mela' at SKUAST, Jammu on Monday.

Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). For the last three consecutive years, J&K has set a record of productivity in agriculture and allied sector.

Earlier, we used to adopt extension models and schemes of other states, but now J&K has emerged as a leader in implementing innovative agricultural initiatives that are being cited as models by other states," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also shared the key

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- ▶ **LG attends 'Krishak Mela' at R.S Pura Campus of SKUAST, Jammu**
 - ▶ **Inaugurates 4 facilities that will strengthen education, research, farmer training**
 - ▶ **Says, we have taken various innovative steps to transform J&K's agricultural landscape including the launch of flagship project HADP**
 - ▶ **Earlier, we used to adopt extension models and schemes of other states, but now J&K has emerged as leader in implementing innovative agricultural initiatives that are being cited as models by other states**
 - ▶ **We have successfully secured GI tags for several traditional products, enhancing their market value and ensuring authenticity.**
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Over 3.7 lakh unemployed youth register on employment portal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, on Monday said that a total of 370811 unemployed youth including 240502 males and 130309 females have been registered on the Employment Portal ending January, 2025.

The Minister was replying to a question raised by Ali Mohammad Sagar in Legislative Assembly.

The Minister informed the House that registration of the unemployed educated youth is a voluntary process and job seekers register themselves on the Employment Portal to access different Self Employment Schemes. He apprised that, as of February 2 2025, a total of 558870 potential entrepreneurs have been surveyed under the Baseline Survey of Mission YUVA. The survey revealed 154695 employed, 347247 unemployed and 56928 unregistered potential entrepreneurs.

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Govt to review transfer of Planning functions to Finance Deptt: CM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah informed the Legislative Assembly on Monday that the decision to shift the Planning Department's functions to the Finance Department is under review, and any necessary changes will be implemented accordingly.

The Chief Minister made this statement while responding to a supplementary question from Javid Hassan Beig.

He reiterated that he had already mentioned during the budget and grants discussion that the functions of the Planning Department were being transferred to the Finance Department, and the government is now reviewing the decision to determine if any modifications are needed. Regarding another supplementary question on the General Provident (GP) Fund, the Chief Minister acknowledged

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Govt to assess, address issues of border, LoC fencing landowners: Omar

JAMMU: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, on Monday assured the Legislative Assembly that the government would discuss issues affecting the border and LoC landowners, particularly those with properties within the border fencing area.

The Chief Minister, while intervening during the Question Hour in the Legislative Assembly, stated that funds are being disbursed efficiently. Out of the Rs 155 crore received, Rs 144 crore have already been distributed among the landowners, leaving only Rs 11 crore to be released soon. While individual concerns may persist, the government is committed towards expediting the fund disbursement as efficiently as possible.

He said that the concerned department will be urged to expedite the process in this regard. "However, as one of the members pointed out, this is not

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Order to verify PDS beneficiaries to be put on hold: Govt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday said it would put on hold a general administration department order for verifying beneficiaries under the public distribution system.

Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister Satish Sharma made the announcement in response to supplementary questions from multiple members in the assembly.

"We will suspend the order issued by the general administration department for beneficiary verification," Sharma told the House.

The general administration department had ordered a verification of beneficiaries to make the public distribution system (PDS) database clean and credible, he said.

Sharma also said the Centre had advised states and Union territories to conduct regular verifications to remove ineligible beneficiaries.

The minister emphasised that the Jammu and Kashmir government was committed to eliminating fake ration cards through an ongoing process.

In response to a question from National

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LA passes grants of Agriculture Production, RDD, Cooperative, Election departments

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Monday passed the Demands of Grants for various departments.

The approved grants included Rs. 258369.98 Lakh for Agriculture Production Department, Rs. 122899.58 Lakh for Animal & Sheep Husbandry Department, Rs. 22524.86 Lakh for Fisheries Department, Rs. 475485.95 Lakh for Rural Development Department, Rs. 70429.33 lakh for Horticulture Department, Rs. 35960.43 lakh for Election

Department, and Rs. 9642.4 Lakh for the Co-operatives Department.

Winding up the discussion on Demands for Grants, Minister for Agriculture Production, RDD, Cooperative and Election, Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, said that agriculture and allied sectors are indeed the backbone of Jammu & Kashmir's economy, contributing a staggering Rs 37,559 crore, which accounts for 18 percent of the State's Gross Domestic Product (SGDP). The Horticulture sector takes the lead, accounting for a whopping

41 percent of this contribution, reaffirming J&K's dominance in high value fruit production. He said that the Livestock sector plays a crucial role, contributing 33 percent to the economy, while core agriculture activities make up 25 percent, demonstrating the region's diverse and resilient agrarian economy.

He said that the government is complementing its ongoing investments in infrastructure with a stronger emphasis on beneficiary-oriented schemes, ensuring that the farmers directly benefit from targeted interventions.

One such initiative is the High-Density Plantation (HD) Scheme, which has already brought 836 hectare under high-density orchards, including 174 hectare covered in the current financial year. With Rs 30 crore budget allocation during 2024-25, this initiative is driving higher productivity, increased farmer income and long-term sustainability in the horticulture sector, he added.

The Minister said that the government is also driving transformational growth in the livestock sector through targeted interventions

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Assembly polls cost Rs 155 crore: Govt tells J&K Assembly

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir were conducted at a cost of Rs 155 crore, the Union Territory government informed the House on Monday.

More than 1,25,000 (1.25 lakh) employees of different levels were required for smooth conduct of the elections, it added.

"In the recently-conducted assembly elections, an amount of Rs 155 crore has been incurred. The matter for release of funds to clear the liabilities is under active consideration of the government," said Javid Ahmad Dar, who holds the election

department portfolio, in response to a cut motion raised by Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) MLA Mir Muhammad Fayaz.

Introduced by Dar, the assembly passed grants of more than Rs 9,953.08 crore for seven key departments, including agriculture, horticulture, and election.

Replying to another cut motion from Sheikh Khursheed, the minister said the election department and the police authorities hired vehicles for the elections.

"The matter of clearing pending liabilities of

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Terrorist hideout busted in Anantnag

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Security forces have busted a terrorist hideout in the forest area of Anantnag district, officials here said on Monday. Acting on a tip-off, the security forces launched a search operation in Sungalan forests of Anantnag on Sunday, the officials said. During the searches, they said, the terrorist hideout was busted and a cache of arms, ammunition and other war-like stores were recovered from the spot.

Over 3 lakh houses constructed under PMAY in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Over three lakh 'pucca' houses were constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in the past two years in Jammu and Kashmir, Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Javid Ahmad Dar said on Monday.

In a written reply to a starred question by BJP's Balwant Singh Mankotia in the assembly, the minister said a fresh survey is under progress to cover all eligible left over households under the scheme.

A total of 3,04,544 houses -

2,60,124 in Jammu and 44,420 in Kashmir - were completed as on March 18, 2025 under the centrally sponsored PMAY-G scheme, against the sanctioned 2,86,057 houses in Jammu and 48,806 houses in the valley, the minister said.

He said the maximum houses were completed in Rajouri district (55,829) followed by 46,752 (Poonch), 31,714 (Ramban), 28,097 (Doda), 26,449 (Reasi), 21,143 (Udhampur), 21,061 (Kathua), 14,442 (Kishtwar), 12,285 (Jammu) and 2,352 (Samba).

In Kashmir, Anantnag district accounted for the maximum houses (9,999) followed by 9,775 (Kupwara), 5,534 (Baramulla), 5,238 (Kulgam), 3,852 (Bandipora), 2,918 (Ganderbal), 2,479 (Pulwama), 2,398 (Shopian), 2,164 (Badgam) and 63 (Srinagar).

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In a related unstarred question by Congress legislator Irfan Hafiz Lone, the minister said in case of landless PMAY(G) beneficiaries who are eligible for housing assistance, five marlas of state land are being

HC orders swapping of 2 Sessions Judges

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court on Monday ordered swapping of Special Judge, NDPS, Jammu and Presiding Officer Fast Track Court (POCSO).

According to the order issued by Shahzad Azeem Registrar General J&K and Ladakh High Court that in the interest of administration, Sunil Sangra, Special Judge, NDPS, Jammu and Yash Pal Sharma, Presiding Officer, Fast Track Court (POCSO), Jammu shall swap their respective place of postings with the explicit condition that they shall handover/takeover the charge of their respective courts.

Corps Commander reviews security situation in Rajouri-Poonch sector

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: General Officer Commanding (GOC), White Knight Corps, Lieutenant General Navin Sachdeva, visited the Rajouri-Poonch sector on Monday to review the prevailing security situation in the region.

The GOC commended the troops for their professionalism in challenging conditions and exhorted them to maintain a high state of morale and motivation.

The strategic "Ace of Spades" division, also known as the 25 Infantry division with headquarters in Rajouri town, is responsible for



GOC, White Knight Corps, Lieutenant General Navin Sachdeva during visit to Poonch.

guarding the Line of Control (LoC) in the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The GOC White Knight Corps, along with GOC Counter Insurgency Force (Romeo) and GOC Ace of

Spades division and GoC Delta force visited the division to assess the security situation," the White Knight Corps said on X.

He received a briefing on the current

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ROZA TIMING

SEHR TIME: 05:14 (MARCH 26)
IFTAAR TIME: 06:53 (MARCH 25)

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 29.7°C Min: 15.3°C

Humidity
Max: 65 Min: 51

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 23.2°C Min: 5.6°C

Humidity
Max: 55 Min: 24

Sunset: 18:45 Hours
Sunrise: 06:29 Hours

JSC project: Over Rs 800 Cr spent in past six yrs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Over Rs 800 crore were spent on the Jammu smart city project over the past six years, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah informed the Assembly on Monday.

Abdullah, who is also minister-in-charge housing and Urban Development Department, said no major complaints were received in respect of completed works under the Jammu smart city mission.

"As on date, Jammu smart city has incurred an amount of Rs 815.37 crore on projects, including administrative and office expenses (A&OE)," the chief minister said in a written reply to an unstarred question by BJP's Vikram Randhawa.

Giving a year-wise breakup, he said Rs 52 crore were

incurred in 2019-20, Rs 75.18 crore in 2020-21, Rs 128.05 crore in 2021-22, Rs 196.21 crore in 2022-23, Rs 225.63 crore in 2023-24 and Rs 138.30 crore in 2024-25 till date.

He said the funds to the tune of Rs 830.98 crore were so far released for the Jammu smart city projects, out of which Rs 815.37 crore were utilised.

The chief minister said though no major complaints were received with regard to the completed work under the mission, minor complaints raised by people were promptly addressed.

He said 400 complaints relating to installation of unique Digital Door Number (DDN) plates were received, out of which 350 have

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Carbine magazines, grenades seized as SFs intensify anti-terror operation in Hiranagar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A cache of incriminating material, including several loaded magazines of M4 carbine assault rifles and a couple of grenades, were seized as security forces intensified their search to neutralise a group of infiltrating terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district on Monday, officials said.

The operation, personally led by Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, was launched on Sunday evening in the Hiranagar sector. It was intensified with additional deployment of commandos, drones and sniffer dogs on Monday morning, they said.

An army helicopter was also seen hovering over the



area later in the day.

The operation was launched by police with a Special Operations Group after they got intelligence about the presence of terrorists inside a 'dhok' -- a local term for an enclosure -- in a nursery of Sanyal village, approximately five kilometres from the Pakistan border, the officials said.

The terrorists launched a

barrage of fire at the police party, leading to an intense gunfight that lasted more than half an hour, they said.

A seven-year-old girl suffered minor injuries when a stray bullet passed close to her arm. She was admitted to a local hospital.

Reinforcements were swiftly dispatched and a manhunt was launched to apprehend the terrorists, believed to

have infiltrated on Saturday either via the ravine route or through a new tunnel.

There was no report of casualties in the initial firing and the area was kept under a tight security cordon throughout the night before the forces moved in at the crack of dawn, the officials said.

Though there has been no fresh contact with the terrorists, the search parties found four loaded magazines of M4 carbine assault rifles, two grenades, a bulletproof jacket, sleeping bags, tracksuits, several packets of eatables, and separate polythene bags, the contents of which will be known only when they are opened by the bomb disposal squad, they said.

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Man detained under PSA for anti-national activities

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: A man allegedly involved in various criminal and anti-national activities was detained under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) in Kathua district on Monday, police said.

Mohd Ayaz, a resident of Lohai-Malhar, was lodged at district jail Udhampur after his detention warrant issued by the district magistrate was executed by police station Malhar, a police spokesman said.

"Ayaz is a habitual criminal involved in various illegal and anti-national activities. In order to prevent his activities, a dossier was prepared against him and sent to the district magistrate for his detention under the PSA," the spokesman said.