

BLUE MOON
Banquets & Conventions
THE BANQUET WITH A DIFFERENCE

National Highway, Near Thandi Khul, Jammu
Contact: 9886035550, 9886035551

STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

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

SOWING SKILLS

SHAPING INDIA

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

Vol. 30 Issue 84 • Jammu • Thursday • March 27, 2025 • Pages 12 • ₹ 5.00
Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

03 Dr Jitendra shares with Lok Sabha
Govt's global vision with Indian ethos

10 Jammu District Rugby Association hosts
10th District Rugby 7's Championship

10 District Kathua Taekwondo Championship
to begin on March 29

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

Committed to empower small, micro entrepreneurs of J&K: LG

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday attended NITI Aayog's workshop on promotion of innovation, investment and industry in MSME sector at IIM Jammu.

In his inaugural address, the Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations to the NITI Aayog, IIM Jammu, and other stakeholders for bringing together the policy makers, industry experts, entrepreneurs, and thought leaders for the Workshop aimed to explore challenges and opportunities in three key sectors of Jammu Kashmir's Economy-Textiles, Food Processing and Tourism.

The Lieutenant Governor said, such deliberation on reforms to create growth environment will have a wide-ranging impact on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises in the Union Territory of India. He emphasised that the Communication between all



LG Manoj Sinha speaking at the NITI Aayog's workshop at IIM Jammu on Wednesday.

stakeholders of MSME sector should be deepened, reforms should be seamless and policy makers and entrepreneurs should work as partners.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated his resolve to empower Small and Micro Entrepreneurs of Jammu Kashmir.

"We stand committed to ensuring that our industry moves ahead with confidence and without fear or

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

▶ LG attends NITI Aayog's workshop on promotion of innovation, investment & industry in MSME sector at IIM Jammu

▶ Says, we stand committed to ensuring that our industry moves ahead with confidence and without fear or apprehension

▶ Food processing remains an area where we need to improve our performance; boost infrastructure in tourist sector; accelerate development of new tourist destinations

▶ It is matter of great pride for J&K that handloom sector has been revived; through better market linkage products being recognized

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Shab-e-Qadr holiday postponed to Mar 28

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government has postponed the holiday on account of upcoming Shab-e-Qadr, the night marking 27th of ongoing holy month of Ramadan, by a day.

"In partial modification of Government Order No. 2193-JK(GAD) of 2024 dated December 29, 2024 and Government Order No. 2194-JK(GAD) of 2024 dated December 29, 2024, it is ordered that the holiday on account of Shab-i-Qadr shall now be observed on

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Ex-ED Dir Mishra appointed to EAC-PM

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Former ED Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra had been appointed by the Union government as a full-time member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).

Mishra, 65, served as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) chief till September 15, 2023 after the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Police raids multiple locations in Kashmir; banned outfits targeted

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police conducted raids at multiple locations in the Kashmir valley, including at the residences of former Hurriyat chief Abdul Gani Bhat, as part of its investigations into activities of proscribed organisations, officials said on Wednesday.

The searches were conducted over two days at multiple locations in the Kashmir Valley, including Srinagar, Baramulla and Anantnag.

The cases, registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), pertain to banned organisations, including Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference (Bhat Group), Jammu and Kashmir Muslim League (Masrat Alam Group) and Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (Shabir Shah Group), police said.

The raids were conducted at the two residences of Bhat, one in Baramulla and



the other at Wazir Bagh in Srinagar, the officials said.

Bhat heads the Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference (Bhat Group), a Hurriyat Conference constituent.

A search was also carried out at the residence of incarcerated Shabir Ahmad Shah, who heads the Democratic Freedom Party, they added.

According to an official statement, the other leaders who were raided are Tehreek-e-Hurriyat chief

Masrat Alam Bhat, Ghulam Nabi Sumbji, Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat (alias Gugga), Ghulam Nabi Wagay, Feroz Ahmad Khan and Mohammad Nazir Khan, Hakeem Abdul Rashid and Javid Ahmad Munshi (alias Bilpapa).

The searches were carried out in connection with suspected members of these proscribed organisations and in furtherance of investigations in various cases, the officials added.

GoC reviews security situation in Rajouri



GoC White Knight Corps, Lieutenant General Navin Sachdeva during visit to Rajouri.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The General Officer Commanding (GoC) White Knight Corps, Lieutenant General Navin Sachdeva visited the Rajouri sector here on Wednesday to

review the security situation in the region.

He commended the troops for their professionalism in dealing with challenging conditions. "The GoC

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

J&K Govt rejects over 39,000 land claims under FRA, grants over 65,000 kanals of land to ST families

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government has rejected over 39,000 claims for land ownership under the Forest Rights Act but has distributed over 65,000 kanals of forest land to over 6,020 scheduled tribe (ST) families, including Gujjars, Bakewals and other forest dwellers.

A total of 46,090 claims were submitted by Scheduled Tribes (ST) and other traditional forest dwellers (OTFDs) under Individual Forest Rights (IFR) and Community Forest Rights (CFR), senior officials from

the forest department said. "Of these, 39,906 claims were rejected due to applicants' inability to provide requisite evidence and documents, while 126 claims are still pending," an official said.

The majority of the rejections-35,924 claims-occurred at the gram sabha level, primarily due to lack of supporting documents, they said. Additionally, 3,982 claims were rejected at the sub-divisional and district-level committees, they said.

The Forest Rights Act mandates a structured process for claim recognition,

with approvals granted by gram sabhas, sub-divisional committees, and district-level committees based on laid-down procedures and norms.

"Applications failing to meet these criteria are not considered," the official said. However, applicants whose claims are rejected have the right to appeal at higher levels, with the final appeal heard by the district-level committee, they said.

The Forest Rights Act, 2006, was implemented in Jammu and Kashmir in 2019 following the abrogation of Article 370.

Of the 65,497.21 kanals of

forest land distributed by the J&K government, 784.19 kanals were allocated to other traditional forest dwellers (OTFDs), officials added.

These lands were granted under 4,803 cases, comprising 430 individual forest rights (IFR), 4,277 community forest rights (CFR) and 96 community forest titles.

Among the 6,020 land titles issued to ST families in the Jammu region received the majority, they received the highest 5,195 land titles were issued in 10 districts of the region, they said.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

DC orders immediate suspension of Aadhaar Operators involved in forgery cases

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Taking serious note of reported irregularities in Aadhaar enrollment, Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma on Wednesday ordered immediate suspension of the Aadhaar operators found involved in cases of forgery in Rajouri, particularly the manipulation of Date of Birth (DOB) at the time of Aadhaar updates and creation.

During a recent review meeting chaired by the Deputy Commissioner, it was revealed that certain operators have violated established guidelines and legal provisions, raising significant concerns about the integrity of the Aadhaar enrollment process.

On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, DSEO Sandeep Sharma suspended Aadhaar operators with immediate effect.

The suspended Aadhaar operators included Avais Ahmed, HAQ Darhal Thanamandi, Mohd Altaf, Govt GHSS Chingus, Amrit Anjum, ICDS Darhal H/Q Thanamandi ICDS CDPO office, Karan Kumar, CDPO office Kalakote, Abdul Razaq, CDPO office Kalakote, Wazar

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Police bust terrorist hideout in Baramulla, explosives recovered

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Security forces on Wednesday busted a terrorist hideout in forest area of Baramulla district, officials said.

"Security forces uncovered a militant hideout in the Namblan forest area of Baramulla and recovered a cache of arms and ammunition," the officials said. They said during the search,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

ROZA TIMING

SEHR TIME: 05:11 (MARCH 28)
IFTAAR TIME: 06:54 (MARCH 27)

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 34.0°C Min: 19.8°C

Humidity
Max: 55 Min: 26

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 17.5°C Min: 9.2°C

Humidity
Max: 83 Min: 73

Sunset: 18:46 Hours
Sunrise: 06:27 Hours

CS sets ball rolling for establishment of CoE in AI, GIS & E-governance

Exhorts for e-office adoption at tehsil, block level by June 15

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, while reviewing the IT services and infrastructure in J&K, exhorted upon the concerned department to initiate measures for establishment of Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Artificial Intelligence, Geographic Information System (GIS) and E-Governance here.

The meeting besides ACS, Education Department, Commissioner Secretary, IT, Commissioner Secretary, I&C and CEO, JaKeGA was attended by DG, Budget,



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting in Jammu.

several HoDs, representatives from NIC and concerned officers and officials from the IT Department.

Dulloo impressed upon the department to create necessary framework for establishment of this CoE under JaKeGA. He called for holding

consultations with the MeitY and BISAG-N for assistance and expertise regarding its swift establishment in the UT.

The Chief Secretary also assessed progress on establishment of IT

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Operation of 40 Drugs Sales Establishments suspended

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To restrict the supply of habit-forming drugs, a special drive was conducted on Wednesday in Jammu Province by the enforcement staff to ensure that medicinal preparations which are prone to addiction are sold strictly for licit use and due diligence is secured by the traders to ensure that there is no divergence of such formulations to encourage drug abuse.

The Empowered Authorities encouraged the stakeholders to adopt utmost care and caution while dealing with the supply and sale of medicinal

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Search operation enters fourth day in Hiranagar

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A massive multi-tier combing operation to track down a group of infiltrating terrorists continued for the fourth consecutive day on Wednesday in forested areas of Kathua district.

A local woman informed the police on Tuesday that two men in army uniform asked her for water while they were having food in the Ding Amb belt of the district, prompting the area to be cordoned off.

"They took water and headed towards the nearby forest area," Darshana Devi said.

Security has been intensified along the Jammu-Pathankot National



Highway in the Samba-Kathua section, with increased vigilance on border roads, officials said.

The search operation is concurrently underway in multiple areas from Sanyal to Ding Amb and beyond, covering several kilometers.

The operation involving the army, NSG, BSF, police, Special Operation Group, and CRPF armed with technical and surveillance equipment, is supported by helicopter, UAVs, drones, bullet-proof vehicles, and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

CM inaugurates Tulip Show-2025 Asia's largest Tulip Garden opens to visitors

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday inaugurated the Tulip Show-2025 at the iconic Tulip Garden in Srinagar, marking the arrival of spring in Kashmir.

Nestled at the foothills of the Zabarwan Range, this garden-the largest of its kind in Asia-was officially opened to visitors.

The garden boasts a breathtaking display of 1.5 million spring-blooming bulbs featuring over 74 tulip varieties, alongside vibrant daffodils, hyacinths, and muscari, offering a spectacular floral experience.

Speaking at the event, the Chief Minister highlighted the Tulip Show as a celebration of Kashmir's diverse natural beauty and a key attraction for nature lovers worldwide.

He emphasized Jammu and Kashmir's timeless charm and scenic



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah after inaugurating the Tulip Show-2025.

landscapes, inviting tourists to explore its unmatched splendor.

Interacting with visitors, Chief Minister Abdullah welcomed them to

the "Paradise on Earth", encouraging them to cherish and share their experiences of the Tulip Garden in their home countries.

The inaugural day saw an overwhelming response from tourists and locals alike, who marveled at the mesmerizing floral expanse.

Accompanying the Chief Minister were Minister for Agriculture, Javid Ahmad Dar, Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, and several Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Senior officials present at the occasion included ACS to Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri; DC Srinagar Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat; Director Floriculture Kashmir Shakeel-ur-Rehman; and other senior officers from the Floriculture Department.

Misleading ads: SC asks states, UTs to set up grievance redressal mechanism

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the states and union territories to create a grievance redressal mechanism against misleading advertisements that "can cause great harm to society".

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan said state governments should create such mechanisms for members of the public to lodge complaints about objectionable advertisements prohibited under Drugs and Magic Remedies Act, 1954.

"We direct the states governments to create proper grievance redressal mechanisms within a period of two months from today and give

adequate publicity to the availability at frequent intervals," the bench said.

The top court directed the states to sensitise the police machinery on implementation of the provisions of 1954 act.

Clamping down on misleading advertisements, the apex court on May 7, 2024 directed that before an advertisement was permitted to be issued, a self-declaration be obtained from the advertisers on the line of the Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994.

The issue of misleading advertisements had cropped up when the apex court was hearing a plea filed in 2022 by the Indian

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9