

BLUE MOON
Banquets & Conventions
THE BANQUET WITH A DIFFERENCE

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

STATE TIMES

TIMES

J.K. PUBLIC SCHOOL
KUNJAWARI, 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 62 • Jammu • Tuesday • March 4, 2025 • Pages 12+4=16 • ₹ 5.00
Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

03 India's R&D spending double in one decade, redefining future economy: Dr Jitendra

05 ECI recognises Atal Dulloo as 'Exemplary Leader' for successful holding of LS elections

05 CM launches website for Khelo India Winter Games 2025

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

J&K Govt committed to holding Panchayat, ULB polls: LG

'Govt actively engaging with stakeholders to facilitate restoration of statehood'

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government is committed to strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions and urban local bodies by ensuring timely elections at all levels, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Monday.

"My government is committed to strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions and urban local bodies by ensuring timely elections at all levels. This will enhance grassroots democracy, promote citizen participation in decision-making and empower local governance for more effective development," Sinha said during his address in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

Sinha said, "My government has ensured an adequate resource envelope for Panchayati Raj Institutions, enabling them to undertake sustainable and inclusive development in their respective areas. This commitment empowers local governance, strengthens grassroots democracy, and accelerates holistic regional growth."

Reiterating his government's commitment to restore full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, the Lieutenant Governor said the government is actively engaging with all stakeholders to facilitate this process.

"One of the foremost aspirations of the people of Jammu and



LG Manoj Sinha delivering address on the inaugural day of Budget Session of J&K Legislative Assembly on Monday.

Kashmir is the restoration of full statehood. My government remains steadfast in its commitment to addressing this legitimate desire of the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir," Sinha said.

He said, "My government recognises the emotional and political significance of the statehood for the people and is actively engaging with all stakeholders to facilitate this process in a manner that ensures peace, stability and progress."

Sinha said this Budget carries

historic significance as it is the first in seven years to be presented by an elected government in J-K.

"It (the Budget) symbolises the power of the people (and has been) prepared by their elected representatives," Sinha said.

The Lieutenant Governor affirmed that this Budget document is not just financial but also reflects the hopes and aspirations of the masses for a brighter future.

He reiterated the government's

commitment to maintaining peace and prosperity and fulfilling promises made to the people.

"The economy has shown notable growth despite challenges. The government is working to make Jammu and Kashmir a progressive economy," he added.

Reaffirming the commitment of his government to upholding press freedom, ensuring that journalists can operate in an environment that is secure, transparent, and conducive to free expression, the Lieutenant Governor said,

▶▶ **LG describes J&K Budget historic as first to be introduced by elected government in 7 years**

▶▶ **Says Jammu and Kashmir Government will seek central help in tapping energy sector's full potential**

▶▶ **Omar Abdullah led historic budget consultations, ensured people's voices shape development priorities**

▶▶ **Govt assures unwavering support for Press freedom, emphasizes responsible journalism**

▶▶ **Omar led Govt set new benchmark in winter preparedness, ensures swift restoration of services**

"We recognize the vital role of the media in shaping public discourse, holding institutions accountable, and keeping citizens informed. Efforts will continue to strengthen press Infrastructure, enhance access to information, and protect the rights of journalists, reaffirming our unwavering dedication to democratic values and an open society. While freedom of expression is fundamental, it must always be exercised with responsibility, keeping the national interest paramount".

He said for the first time this winter, his Government -through close coordination between the administration and elected repre-

sentatives took comprehensive measures to minimize disruptions to the daily lives of the people during snowfall. "This synergy enabled one of the swiftest restorations of essential supplies in Kashmir, including efficient snow clearance. Additionally, the power supply remained one of the most reliable, with minimal interruptions. I extend my sincere appreciation to my Government for their dedication and unwavering commitment to meeting the expectations of the people and ensuring seamless winter, preparedness", he added.

The Lieutenant Governor said that his government remains fully

committed to implementing its promises made to the people, as a representation of the people's aspirations for further political empowerment, and for creating an enabling environment for employment, sustainable development, social inclusiveness and expansion of the economy for enhancing the overall quality of life. It will work relentlessly on the three principles of Economy, Ecology and Equity that will shape our future. "We commit ourselves to this balance for a better and brighter future for all", he added.

He underscored the region's rich composite

■ **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

Omar pays tributes to Dr Manmohan Singh, former legislators

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday paid rich tributes to former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, acknowledging his landmark reforms and pro-people initiatives during his tenure.

The Chief Minister was speaking during the obituary reference in the Budget Session of the J&K Legislative Assembly.

Recalling Dr. Singh's contributions to Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Minister said, "He inherited a complex and difficult situation, yet he chose the path of dialogue and reconciliation. His efforts brought us closer to resolving long-standing issues than at any other time in recent history." Referring to the unrest in 2010, the CM highlighted Dr. Singh's role in addressing the crisis and restoring normalcy. "His commitment to the rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits was unwavering. Under his leadership, steps were taken to facilitate their return, including the establishment of townships like Jagti and the PM Package for employment," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister, who is also the Leader of the



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah speaking during obituary reference in Budget Session of J&K Legislative Assembly.

House, noted that just four months ago, the Assembly had paid tribute to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and today, they gathered once again to mourn the loss of another statesman-Dr. Manmohan Singh.

"Dr. Singh was a man of great wisdom and integrity. He never used the power of his office for personal gain," he said, adding that Dr. Singh's journey-from studying under streetlights to earning degrees from Oxford and Cambridge-was a testament to his dedication and

intellect. "His rise from an economic advisor to Planning Commission Deputy Chairman, Finance Minister, and eventually the Prime Minister of India was marked by success at every step," he added. Reflecting on Dr. Singh's economic reforms, the CM recalled how he took charge as Finance Minister when the country was in dire economic straits.

"India lacked the financial resources even to run the government. It was his vision and

■ **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

J&K inks MoU regarding transformation of Srinagar into zero landfill city by 2030



J&K participating in 12th Regional 3R & Circular Economy Forum in Asia-Pacific at Rajasthan.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a landmark move, Srinagar Smart City Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under the CITIIS 2.0 program regarding implementation of integrated waste management systems including smart collection networks and AI-driven recycling hubs to transform Srinagar into a zero-landfill city by 2030.

The MoU was signed during the 12th Regional 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) and Circular Economy Forum in Asia and the Pacific, being held in Rajasthan from March 3 to 5, 2025. Additionally, the UT government inked a state-level agreement to establish a Climate Observatory, a first-of-its-kind institution in North India. The observatory will monitor climate variables, assess risks and formulate adaptive strategies for vulnerable sectors like

agriculture, tourism and water resources.

The event, a flagship platform for advancing sustainable development and resource efficiency, saw J&K highlighting its pioneering initiatives in waste management and circular economy practices, reinforcing its commitment to environmental stewardship.

The Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) showcased Jammu & Kashmir's ground-breaking Dal Lake Weed Processing Unit at the forum, drawing widespread attention from policymakers, technocrats and sustainability experts. The project, which converts invasive aquatic weeds into organic manure and biogas, exemplifies the UT's innovative approach towards tackling ecological challenges while promoting circular

■ **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

Your SMART move can Secure your Joyous future

Also Available Online

UIN: S12L317V02 | Plan No: 749

Invest today with One time Payment in LIC's Nivesh Plus, a Unit Linked Insurance Plan

- ✓ Life Risk Cover and Benefit from the Growth of the Corpus invested in choice of 4 funds
Growth Fund | Balanced Fund | Secured Fund | Bond Fund
- ✓ Flexibility to choose type of Sum Insured & Investment fund
- ✓ Guaranteed Additions available
- ✓ Policy can be surrendered after 5 years without discontinuance charges

A Non-Par, Linked, Life, Individual Savings Plan

Our WhatsApp No. **8976862090**

Download LIC Mobile App

For details, contact your Agent/Nearest LIC Branch or SMS YOUR CITY NAME to 56767474

Visit: licindia.in

Call Centre Services (022) 6827 6827

भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

Har Pal Aapke Saath

BWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS. IRDAI or its officials do not involve in any activities of insurance business like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums, refund of amounts. Policyholders or the prospects receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.

Linked insurance products are different from the traditional insurance products and are subject to the risk factors. The premium paid in linked insurance policies are subject to investment risks associated with capital markets and publicly available index. NAVs of the units may go up or down based on the performance of fund and factors influencing the capital market/publicly available index and the insured is responsible for his/her decisions. Life Insurance Corporation of India is only the name of the Life Insurance Company and Nivesh Plus is only the name of the linked insurance contract and does not in any way indicate the quality of the contract, its future prospects or returns. Please know the associated risks and the applicable charges, from your insurance agent or intermediary or policy document issued by the insurance company. The various funds offered under this contract are the names of the funds and do not in any way indicate the quality of these plans, their future prospects and returns.

ROZA TIMING

SEHR TIME:
05:35 (MARCH 05)

IFTAAR TIME:
06:42 (MARCH 04)

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 18.6°C Min: 12.4°C

Humidity

Max: 91 Min: 63

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 10.2°C Min: 4.9°C

Humidity

Max: 91 Min: 81

Sunset : 18:29 Hours
Sunrise : 06:56 Hours