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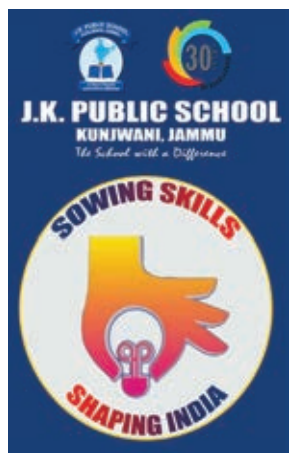

03 Prestigious projects 'Aditya', 'Chandrayaan' led by women: Dr Jitendra

09 Bodies of 3 missing persons found near waterfall

10 SAI celebrates Women's Week; girls' volleyball match organized

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Nari Shakti's impact on shaping future of humanity immense: LG

International Women's Day 2025: LG Manoj Sinha speaking at the 'Sashakt Nari Samman' event by Buddha Art & Painting in Jammu on Saturday.

- Int'l Women's Day 2025: LG joins 'Sashakt Nari Samman' event by Buddha Art & Painting; lauds remarkable achievements of women artists, artisans
- Says, women endowed with special gift from existence to nurture creativity, drive social change
- Women artists, artisans architects of sustainable development
- Greater participation of Women artists, artisans in contemporary art, craft arena has enriched this sector and strengthened fabric of our cultural ethos
- Many artisans in J&K and the country have achieved new milestones and others are crafting their way to a brighter tomorrow

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir on Saturday celebrated the International Women's Day. The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha joined the 'Sashakt Nari Samman' event organized by Buddha Art & Painting, in collaboration with Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor extended his heartiest greetings and felicitations to Nari Shakti on International Women's Day.

"Nari Shakti's impact on shaping the future of humanity is immense. She has been endowed with a special gift from existence to nurture creativity and drive social change," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor lauded the remarkable achievements of women artists and artisans of J&K and expressed gratitude for their contribution to the Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir and nation-building.

The Lieutenant Governor said, "Women artists and artisans are architects of sustainable development. To be an outstanding creator, one needs to be full of love, kindness and compassion and this is what makes woman artists unique.

Greater participation of Women artists and artisans in the contemporary Art and Craft arena has enriched this sector and strengthened the fabric of our cultural ethos. Many artisans in J&K and the country have achieved new milestones and others are crafting their way to a brighter tomorrow".

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated his commitment to socio-economic empowerment of women and providing them a conducive environment to realise their true potential.

He said, under the guidance of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, women empowerment has now become a mass movement. "A new era of

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Govt planning to build 'Yatri Niwas' at Sharda Temple in Teetwal: CM

"Steps underway to promote tourism in Karnah"

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday emphasized the government's commitment to empower youth in border areas such as Karnah, Keran, Machhil and Gurez by equipping them with vocational skills to promote tourism-driven economic growth.

He stated that unskilled youth from these regions would be provided training enabling them to acquire skills in trades relevant to the tourism sector.

The Chief Minister, who also holds Tourism Department, stated this while replying to a supplementary question from MLA Karnah, Javid Ahmad Mirchal, regarding the promotion of tourism in border areas like Karnah. The Chief Minister remarked that Karnah has immense tourism potential and stressed the need to explore it further.

CM Omar Abdullah speaking at the Legislative Assembly on Saturday.

"We believe that there is potential for tourism. We need to explore that potential. Recently, festivals were organized in Karnah-the Border Festival and Yoga Festival. The purpose is to let people outside Jammu and Kashmir know about Karnah's tourism potential and its culture. Because of such initiatives, we have started to see a gradual increase in tourism. For this reason, local people should benefit from tourism," Chief Minister Omar Abdullah told Legislative Assembly.

The Chief Minister said that the tourism department has started registration of paying guest houses and homestays in the area.

"For now, in Karnah, we have registered six homestays, and five in Teetwal. Now, I request the MLA to help us in this. There is no point in bringing tourists if there is no place to

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Chugh extends Women's Day greetings, slams Congress for divisive politics

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the occasion of International Women's Day, BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Saturday extended his heartfelt wishes to all the women of India.

He praised the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying that under his governance, women empowerment has progressed from the kitchen to the cabinet, marking a significant transformation in their societal roles.

BJP National General Secretary said, "I congratulate all the women of the country on International Women's Day. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, from the kitchen to the cabinet, from the border to the sky, the daughters of the country are showing their miracle and moving forward. The daughters of the country are dominating in every field. Now the daughters of India have set out to fulfill the resolution of a developed India."

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Bank loan against spurious gold: CB files FIR against 15 accused

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Crime Branch (CB) on Saturday booked 15 accused including two gold appraisers in bank loan scam in which accused got huge loans from Canara Bank against security of spurious/impure gold items of weight less than purported figures and did not repay the EMIs.

"Regional Manager, Canara Bank, Jammu filed two written complaints with CB against Rajnesh Thapa, son of Rashpal Chand, resident of Bari Brahmana, Samba, Munish Thapa, son of Kuldeep Kumar Thapa, resident of Kartholi, Jammu, Deepak Kumar, son of Bharat Ram, resident of Bari Brahmana, Samba, Sumit Singh, son of Raj Kumar Chouhan, resident of Nanak Nagar, Jammu, Madhu Singh, wife of Sumit Singh, resident of Nanak Nagar, Jammu, Jyoti Devi, wife of Kewal Krishan, resident of Nanak Nagar, Jammu, Bandana Devi, daughter of Subash Chander, resident of Pekhari, District Samba, Rahat Iqbal Goni, son of Javed Iqbal Goni, resident of Bhaderwah, District Doda, Ayush Singh, son of Amit Singh, resident of Nanak Nagar Jammu, Veena Kumari, wife of Brij Mohan Sharma, resident of Narwal Bala, Jammu, Navdeep Sharma, son of Brij Mohan Sharma, resident of Narwal Bala, Jammu, Amit Mahajan, son of Vijay Kumar Mahajan, resident of Nanak Nagar, Jammu, Pooja Chouhan, wife of Amit Singh, resident of Nanak Nagar, Jammu, Kewal Krishan (Prop. M/S Verma Ornaments), son of Mulkh Raj, resident of Narwal Bala, Jammu (Gold Valuer) and Deepak Dhallam (Prop. M/S Deepak Jewellers), son of Romesh Chander, resident of Bishnah (Gold Valuer)," the CB official said.

Official added, "It was alleged in the complaints that the above mentioned persons on different dates approached the Canara Bank, Gangyal Branch for grant of OD Limit and Term Loan facilities against the deposit of the gold which was a scheme prevalent and floated by the Bank for giving benefits to the various customers having the gold items and availed the loan against the security of the said gold items." The accused persons offered to pledge

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J&K has debt of Rs 1.25 lakh Cr: Govt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday said its total debt stands at over Rs 1.25 lakh crore, including Rs 27,900 crore in general provident fund (GPF) for the Union Territory in the last financial year.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who is also the finance minister of the UT, said in a written reply to Assembly member Sajad Gani Lone that as of March 31, 2024, Jammu and Kashmir's total debt is Rs 1,25,205 crore.

"This includes Rs 69,894 crore in loans from the Reserve Bank of India and state development, Rs 27,901 crore in GPF, Rs 14,294 crore in reserves, Rs 5,758 crore in outstanding national small savings fund, Rs 4,032 crore in negotiated loans, Rs 2,616 crore in UDAY power loans, and Rs 710 crore in Government of India advances", he said.

Abdullah further said the total outstanding liability in treasuries as of February 27, 2025, under various account heads amounts to Rs 5,429.49 crore.

According to the Economic Survey Report (ESR) 2024-25 tabled in the House on Thursday, the outstanding debt of Rs 1,25,205 crore represents 52 per cent of J&K's GSDP of

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Three Jr Scale JKAS officers transferred

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Saturday transferred three Jr. Scale JKAS officers. According to the order issued by M Raju, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department, Rehana Tabassam, Jr. Scale JKAS, presently posted as ARTO, Jammu, has been transferred and posted as Under Secretary, Culture Department; Aamir Ayaiz Rather, Jr. Scale JKAS,

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Kashmir received 13 pc of total tourist footfall in J&K from 2021-24

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Kashmir has received almost 13 percent of the total tourists who visited the Union Territory in the last four years, with the bulk of the share going to the Jammu region, official data suggests.

According to the Economic Survey 2024-25, tabled by the Jammu and Kashmir government in the Legislative Assembly, the union territory received a total of 7,49,70,943 tourists from 2021 to 2024.

This figure includes religious tourists -- those visiting the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in Jammu and the Amarnath Cave Shrine in Kashmir.

The data suggests that out of the 7.49 crore tourists, 6,49,77,187 visited Jammu, while only 99,93,756 visited the Kashmir Valley, with Jammu receiving a share of 86.66 per cent and Kashmir 13.33 per cent.

In 2021, J-K received a total of 1,13,16,534 tourists. Out of this, Jammu received 1,06,50,757, including domestic, foreign, and religious tourists, while Kashmir got 6,65,777 visitors.

In 2022, the tourist footfall in J-K was 1,88,84,317, out of which 1,62,10,875 visited Jammu, while Kashmir received 26,73,442.

Similarly, in 2023, out of a total of 2,11,80,011 tourists, 1,80,24,176 visited Jammu and 31,55,835 visited Kashmir.

In 2024, while 2,35,90,081 tourists visited J-K, Jammu received 2,00,91,379, and Kashmir 34,98,702. In 2024, 5,11,922 yatris visited the Amarnath Cave Shrine in Kashmir, while 94,55,605 yatris visited the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in Jammu. While more domestic tourists visited

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General discussion on Budget resumes in LA

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Saturday discussed the budget 2025 presented by Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, on Friday.

Initiating the budget discussion, Javed Hussain Baig presented a holistic view of the budget saying that it speaks of the futuristic approach of the present dispensation. He said that it is a balanced budget taking care of all sections of the society. He added that the people have huge expectations from the government and all the promises made with them will be fulfilled.

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765 school buildings, 11 bridges declared unsafe after safety audit in J&K: Dy CM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: As many as 765 school buildings and 11 bridges have been declared unsafe, while another 371 bridges require major or minor repairs, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary said on Saturday.

Choudhary, who is Minister incharge of Public Works (Roads and buildings Department), provided the information in a written reply to an unstarred question by National Conference legislator Shamim Firdous in the Assembly.

"The PW (R&B Department) has already completed a safety audit of 382 bridges which were constructed 20 years ago. During the audit, 11 bridges were found to be unsafe while 250 bridges required major repairs and 121 required minor repairs," the deputy chief minister said.

He said the unsafe bridges were closed and their reconstruction is in progress while repairs of other bridges have also been taken up. The department has also taken up a safety audit of all bridges constructed 10 years ago (but less than 20 years old), which is in progress, Choudhary said.

He said the safety audit of school buildings is conducted by the School Education Department under the National School Safety Programme every year and is a regular exercise.

The Education Department has identified 765 unsafe buildings which are not used for any teaching purposes and a substantial number of such buildings are being dismantled after following proper codal formalities, he said.

He said all the heads of the concerned institutions have been advised not to use

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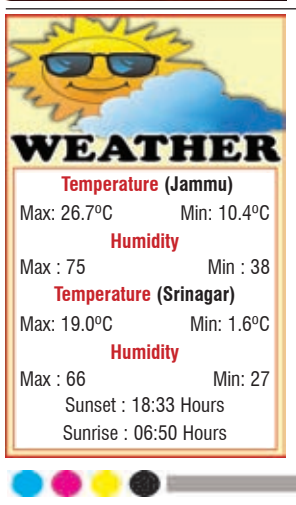

Women's safety our Govt's top priority: Modi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NAVSARI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said his government has given topmost priority to women's safety and framed stricter laws and rules to prevent crimes against them, besides making a provision for capital punishment to those indulging in heinous crimes like rape.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which replaced the colonial-era criminal law (Indian Penal Code), has strengthened the legal provisions related to women's safety, and made filing of complaints easier and delivery of justice faster, he said.

Addressing a huge gathering at Vansi Borsi village in Navsari district of Gujarat on International Women's Day, Modi said that India is walking on the path of women-led development for rapid progress of the country.

"When a girl returns (home) late, her parents ask questions. But they don't do the same when a boy comes late...They should do it. In the past decade, we have given women's safety the highest priority, and in order to prevent crimes against them, we have made stricter rules and laws," the PM said.

"My government changed the law to introduce capital punishment for heinous crimes like rape," he said.

To ensure swift justice in serious crimes against women, the government has set up fast-track courts, he said, adding that around 800 courts have been approved across the country, most of which are now operational.

"The newly-implemented Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which wiped out the colonial law, further strengthened provisions related to women's safety. A separate chapter has been added in it to address crimes against women and children in new criminal laws," he said.

Victims facing delay in justice was a common grievance earlier. But in order to address this, the new law mandates that charges in cases of heinous crimes, like rape, be framed within 60 days and verdicts delivered within 45 days, he added.

The new laws allow for e-FIRs to be filed from anywhere, making it easier for the police to take immediate action. Under the provision of zero FIR, any woman can file an FIR at any police station if she faces atrocities, the prime minister said.

The police can now record the statements of rape victims through audio-visual medium, which has been legally recognised, he added.

"A time-frame of seven days has been fixed for doctors to forward medical reports, providing significant assistance to the victims," he said.

Underlining that the new provisions in the BNS are already showing results, Modi recalled charges were framed in a

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Govt bound by promise made in Parliament: Farooq on statehood restoration

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: National Conference supremo Farooq Abdullah on Saturday reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir would regain statehood and emphasised that the government of India must restore it, as it promised in Parliament.

Jammu and Kashmir was reorgainsed into two Union territories in August 2019 following the abrogation of Article 370, which had granted special status to the erstwhile state.

"Statehood will happen. The government of India will have to fulfil its commitment. It is bound by the promise it made in Parliament when I was a member," Abdullah told reporters.

Speaking at a function on International Women's Day, the former Union minister urged women to fight for their rights and play a proactive role in society.

The National Conference supremo also expressed concern over rising crimes against women, referring to the alleged gangrape of a 27-year-old Israeli tourist in Karnataka's Hampi.

"We have laws, yet crimes continue. Didn't I say that people have gone crazy?" he said. "She is a woman, whether from Israel or

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