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# STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

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Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

**03** Maximum Retail Prices of Jan Aushadhi medicines are about 50 pc to 80 pc cheaper than those of leading 'Branded' medicines

**05** Justice Sanjeev inaugurates 1st National Lok Adalat at Dist Court Complex Jammu

**09** Big action against hoarding & black-marketing; 75 LPG cylinders recovered, 3 arrested

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## Integrated Aqua Park in Anantnag to strengthen aquaculture infra: Rajiv Ranjan Singh

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh on Saturday announced a Rs 100 crore Integrated Aqua Park Project in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district to strengthen aquaculture infrastructure and create employment opportunities in the region. Singh, the Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (FAHD) and Panchayati Raj, announced during the National Conference on Cold Water Fisheries organized by the Department of Fisheries, here.

The Integrated Aqua Park Project to be established in Anantnag district will strengthen aquaculture infrastructure, boost cold-water fisheries development, increase fish production and create employment opportunities in the region, Singh said.

He said there is a need to scale trout production and strengthen the incomes of cold-water fish farmers by enhancing productivity,



Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh inaugurating integrated Aqua Park Project in Anantnag.

improving value addition and tapping into export markets where these species hold strong demand.

He emphasised the government's focus on promoting end-to-end value-chain development to ensure that cold-water regions can efficiently produce, process and market trout and other species with improved access to modern

infrastructure and stronger market linkages.

The Union minister urged organization of Fish Farmers through cooperatives and encouraged States/UTs to support farmers in accessing schemes, infrastructure and credit.

The minister, along with LG Sinha and CM Abdullah, jointly released the Model

Guidelines for Reservoir Fisheries and Aquaculture Management.

The guidelines provide a comprehensive framework covering scientific seed stocking, cage-and pen-based aquaculture, leasing and governance mechanisms, biodiversity conservation, value-chain linkages and monitoring systems.

## J&K now India's leading trout producer in cold-water states: LG

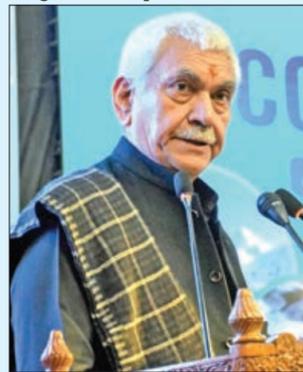
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday addressed the National Conference on Cold Water Fisheries, organised by Department of Fisheries, Government of India, at Srinagar.

The event was also graced by Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (MoFAHD) and Panchayati Raj.

In his keynote address, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the remarkable surge in fish production in the UT and infrastructure upgrades since 2020, reaffirming administration's resolve to empower fish farmers and propel them toward lasting prosperity.

"Jammu Kashmir holds promise as a national model for integrated fisheries development. The value-chain approach will generate jobs, cut post-harvest losses, and boost fish farmers' incomes.

Our strategic initiatives have positioned J&K as the leader in trout production across all cold-water states. Under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), launched in 2022, Rs. 233 crore was allocated for fisheries to incentivize entrepreneurship, establish hatcheries, trout farming & value-added ventures,"



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha speaking at the National Conference on Cold Water Fisheries.

The Lieutenant Governor said that over recent years, fish production and related infrastructure have seen substantial growth.

"Trout output rose from 1,663 tons in FY 2021-22 to a record 2,650 tons in 2024-25. Private sector trout units increased from 936 to 1,649; hatcheries from 1 to 9; trout feed mills from zero to 6 by 2024; RAS units from 2 to 9; and biofloc units from 10 to 59," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed gratitude to Government of India for

sanctioning a Rs 100 crore Integrated Aqua Park Project to be established in District Anantnag. This project will strengthen aquaculture infrastructure, boost cold-water fisheries development, increase fish production and create employment opportunities in the region. "Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, our focused efforts have made Jammu Kashmir the top trout producer among India's cold-water states," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that rapid economic-social progress of Jammu Kashmir demands relentless effort from every societal segment, especially our farmer brothers.

"At the heart of development lies our vibrant farming community, who are not mere producers, but the bedrock of our identity and economy. Now is the time to honor their role with due respect, investment, and technology.

Our citizens, workers, entrepreneurs, farmers, and artists embody innovation and ready to craft a self-reliant tomorrow," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that Fisheries Sector faces challenges like climate change impacts, rising water

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## Massive search ops in Samba after Pak drone spotted



**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: A massive search operation was launched by security forces on Saturday in several forward villages of Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district after a Pakistani drone crossed the International Border and entered the Indian territory, officials said.

The enemy drone move-

ment was noticed for a few minutes over the villages of Kandral, Abtal and Bahadurpur in Ramgarh sector late Friday night, officials said.

They said the area was kept under strict surveillance and a massive search operation was launched at first light of the day to ensure that

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## Omar calls for harnessing full potential of cold water fisheries production in J&K

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday emphasized the need to adopt improved scientific techniques and develop modern infrastructure and value addition to enhance cold water fisheries production in Jammu and Kashmir while ensuring sustainability and livelihood security for fish farmers.

The Chief Minister was addressing a day-long National Conference on Cold Water Fisheries held at the S h e r e e K a s h m i r International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar. The conference, described as a first-of-its-kind national dialogue on sustainable harnessing the potential of



CM Omar Abdullah addressing National Conference on Cold Water Fisheries at SKICC.

India's cold water fisheries for growth and prosperity, was organized by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India.

The event was held in Srinagar attended by Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Minister of State for Fisheries S. P. Singh Baghel and J&K Minister for

Agriculture Production Javid Ahmad Dar, Secretary Fisheries Government of India Abhilaksh Likhi, Additional Chief Secretary Agriculture J&K Ashish Chandra among others.

Welcoming the Union Minister and other dignitaries to Srinagar, the Chief Minister thanked Government of India for choosing Jammu and Kashmir as the venue for such an important conference on development of cold water fisheries.

"I would like to warmly welcome the Union Minister and his colleagues and thank them for choosing Srinagar for this very important conference on how we can further increase the production

of cold water fisheries," the Chief Minister said.

Highlighting the importance of learning and innovation in the sector, Omar Abdullah said the conference had already provided new insights into emerging practices in fisheries.

"Till now we believed that cold water fisheries were limited to mountainous regions like Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and the Northeast. We assumed that these areas alone had the advantage because of their geography. But today we learned something new," he remarked. Referring to innovative aquaculture practices in other parts of the

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## DG Territorial Army reviews ecological initiatives in J&K

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Director General of the Territorial Army, Lt Gen Girish Kalia, on Saturday visited the 'Chinar Eco Warriors' ecological battalion in Samba district to review its role in the green- ing of Jammu and Kashmir, a defence spokesman said.

The programme is being implemented in close synergy with the Jammu and Kashmir (J-K) Forest Department under projects funded by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the spokesman said.

During the visit, the director general was briefed on the battalion's initiatives involving afforestation, ecological rejuvenation

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## PK expels ex-chairman Chrungoo amid foreign links allegations, Tito Ganju to take over

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Panun Kashmir, an organisation representing Kashmiri Pandits, has expelled its former chairman Ajay Chrungoo with immediate effect and ordered an enquiry into his alleged

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**ROZA TIMING**

SEHR TIME: 05:18 (MARCH 16)  
IFTAAR TIME: 06:40 (MARCH 15)

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 29.7°C Min: 14.7°C

Humidity  
Max: 71 Min: 67

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 19.4°C Min: 4.4°C

Humidity  
Max: 94 Min: 69

Sunset: 18:37 Hours  
Sunrise: 06:43 Hours

## SIT formed to probe assassination bid on Farooq Abdullah

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Police have constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the recent assassination attempt on National Conference president Farooq Abdullah here, officials said on Saturday.

Jammu Zone Inspector General of Police (IGP) Bhim Sen Tuti ordered the setting up of the SIT under the supervision of a deputy inspector general of police Jammu-Samba-Kathua range, considering the "seriousness and sensitivity" of the case.

The members of the SIT

include Senior Superintendent of Police Sanjay Sharma, Superintendent of Police, headquarters (Jammu) Irshad Hussain Rather, Deputy Superintendent of Police Arvind Kumar Sambyal and inspectors Saroop Singh, Paramjeet Singh, Sanjeev Chib and Shariq Majeed.

"The SIT must complete the investigation promptly and thoroughly, adhering to the statutory timeframe," the order reads.

On Wednesday night, Abdullah, the former

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## Democracy invests in higher education so that graduates may govern themselves well: CJI

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

CHANDIGARH: A democracy does not invest in higher education so that its graduates may simply prosper, it does so to ensure that they govern themselves well, Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant said on Saturday.

"Every institution of public life -- the courts, the civil services, the schools, the hospitals, the local governance bodies -- all depend for their quality on the calibre of the people who choose to serve within them,"

the CJI said while addressing the 12th convocation ceremony of the Central



Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant speaking at a convocation ceremony.

University of Haryana in Mahendragarh.

Justice Kant said in barely 17 years, the university has earned national accreditation

and recognition for its swift growth.

He told the gathering of students that the degrees conferred on them certify the knowledge they have acquired and they should be proud of it but at the same time, he emphasised that "what your degree does not certify, and no examination can measure -- how your character and judgment hold up once the structure of formal education is no longer around you. In my

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## Centre revokes Sonam Wangchuk's detention order, released from Jodhpur jail

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

DELHI/JODHPUR/LEH: Incarcerated for nearly six months, activist

Sonam Wangchuk was released from Jodhpur Central Jail on Saturday afternoon, hours after the Union Government announced its decision to revoke his detention under the National Security Act, a move welcomed by the political parties and agitating Ladakh outifts.

Wangchuk, 59, was

detained on September 26 last year under the stringent NSA on an order issued by the Leh district magistrate,

two days after violent protests erupted during an agitation by the Leh Apex Body and the K a r g i l Democratic Alliance for statehood to Ladakh and its inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, leaving four people dead. The activist

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## Govt working to minimise impact of global conflicts on people: PM

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SILCHAR: Asserting that the Centre was working to minimise the impacts of global conflicts on the people, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday alleged that the opposition Congress was acting "irresponsibly" by trying to create panic in the country.

Addressing a public meeting in Assam's Silchar after unveiling projects worth over Rs 23,550 crore, Modi alleged that the Congress had ignored the development of the Northeast for decades, and allowed a drawing of the border during Independence



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking at a public meeting in Assam's Silchar.

that cut off Barak Valley's access to the sea. "As the world is facing wars, our effort is to minimise their impact on the people of the country. The Congress should have per-

formed the role of a responsible political party, but it failed to do so. It is trying to create panic among the people," he alleged.

"They do not have any vision either for Assam or the

nation, but only know how to abuse Modi, spread rumours, lies, and create false reels to mislead people," he claimed.

Modi also took on the Congress over its shirtless protest at the AI Impact Summit in Delhi last month, accusing the party of defaming the nation.

"The entire world is interested in AI, and the successful summit in Delhi was attended by global leaders, tech companies and their heads. But, the Congress tried to embarrass the country by indulging in a 'kapda phar' (tearing of

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## Six IAS Probationers of 2025 Batch posted in Jammu Kashmir Segment of AGMUT Cadre

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Six IAS probationers of the 2025 batch have been posted in the AGMUT Cadre segment of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Saturday.

According to details, the officers include Alfred Thomas, Ruchika Jha, Nidhi, Mohd Haris Mir, Shagun Singh and Jitendra Kumar.

Among them, Mohd Haris Mir is the only officer belonging to Jammu

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**CSIR-INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE**  
(Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India) Canal Road, Jammu, J&K-180001 (India)

**FLOWER SHOW cum FLORITECH CONCLAVE 2026**  
Venue: IIIM Main Campus, Canal Road, Jammu

**15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2026 (SUNDAY)**

Registration Open (till 9:00 am)  
Time: 10:00 AM Onwards (For General Public)

Details of Categories:-

- Artistic arrangement of flowering annuals grown in pots
  - An artistic arrangement of 3 pots of flowering plants same type or each different (pot size not to exceed 30cm.)
  - An artistic arrangement of 6 pots or more of flowering plants same type or each different.
- Foliage Plants, Perennial Foliage Plants
  - 3 pots of same Variety
  - 6 pots of same/different Variety
- Bonsai & Succulents
- An artistic arrangement of flowers in a bowl, vase or any other container brought by the exhibitor.
- Floral Display, Flower Carpets/Floral Rangoli/Innovation

Come, Witness the Colours of Nature at CSIR-IIIM Flower Show 2026.

**FREE ENTRY**  
For more details contact:  
Mr. Rajinder Sharma (988848997), Mr. Akash Verma (9451008985)  
Email address: flowershow@iiimjammu@gmail.com