

**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

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

Vol. 31 Issue 74 • Jammu • Tuesday • March 17, 2026 • Pages 12 • ₹ 3.00

Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

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

**SOWING SKILLS**  
SHAPING INDIA

**03 SMVDSB reviews arrangements ahead of Chaitra Navratras**

**09 J&K Govt rolls out PM-RAHAT scheme to save road accident victims**

**10 MA Sports Club wins opening tie in Kabaddi Gold Cup**

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

## ▶▶ Inaugurates Tulip Festival-2026 ◀◀

# Come, visit J&K; Omar appeals to tourists across world

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday inaugurated the annual Tulip Festival-2026 at the iconic Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden situated at the foothills of the Zabarwan, marking the arrival of the spring season in the Kashmir Valley.

With the inauguration of the festival, Asia's largest tulip garden was formally opened to visitors, presenting a spectacular floral display of nearly 1.8 million tulips representing more than 75 vibrant varieties, spread across the terraced landscape of the garden overlooking the scenic Dal Lake.

Ministers Sakeena Itoo, Javid Ahmad Dar, Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani and Members of the Legislative Assembly including Tanvir Sadiq, Salman Sagar, Ahsan Ahmad Pardesi and Mushtaq Ahmad Guroo accompanied the Chief



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah taking selfie with others after inaugurating annual Tulip Festival-2026 at Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden in Zabarwan on Monday.

Minister during the inaugural ceremony.

Among others present on the occasion were Commissioner Secretary Floriculture Zubair Ahmad, Managing Director J&K

Bank Amitabh Chatterjee, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Director SKIMS Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie, Director Information Nitish Rajora, Director Floriculture, Mathura Masoom, Director Handicrafts, Mussarat ul Islam senior officers of the Floriculture Department and a large number of visitors and tourists.

Speaking on the occasion,

the Chief Minister expressed hope that the onset of spring would usher in renewed optimism, prosperity and growth for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly for the tourism sector which serves as a major driver of the region's economy.

He stated that the Tulip Festival has emerged as one of the most prominent tourism events in the Kashmir Valley and provides an excellent platform to showcase the breathtaking natural beauty, cultural richness and hospitality of Kashmir to visitors from across the country and around the globe.

Chief Minister complimented the Floriculture Department for making the Tulip Garden ready in time and said that officers and gardeners of Floriculture department deserve to be appreciated for their efforts in curating this garden. CM said that in time to come,

CONTD ON PAGE 9

# Time for India to guide a challenge ridden world again: LG

CSU Jammu Campus renamed as 'Shri Maharaja Ranbir Singh Campus'



LG Manoj Sinha unveiling the bust of Shri Maharaja Ranbir Singh Ji at Central Sanskrit University, Jammu on Monday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that the Nation owes Maharaja Ranbir Singh a profound debt for his reforms, building vibrant culture and forging a robust and thriving Jammu Kashmir.

"Maharaja Ranbir Singh saw Jammu Kashmir as a living entity-not mere land, but a vibrant structure where culture breathed life and reforms channeled energy. For him, his soul resided not

just in mountains and rivers, but in intellectual and spiritual values," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the unveiling ceremony of the bust of Maharaja Ranbir Singh at the Central Sanskrit University, Jammu Kot Bhalwal and renaming of the University's Jammu Campus as 'Shri Maharaja Ranbir Singh Campus'.

The Lieutenant Governor said that Maharaja Ranbir

Singh did not merely rule Jammu Kashmir but he bestowed it a new vision, restructured it, illuminated it with knowledge, adorned it with cultural abundance, and left a legacy for generations which is rich on material, intellectual, and spiritual planes.

CONTD ON PAGE 9

# Man arrested for firing at Farooq Abdullah, sent to 7-day police custody

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A court here on Monday remanded a man who made an assassination attempt on National Conference (NC) President Farooq Abdullah to seven-day police custody for questioning.

The 63-year-old accused, Kamal Singh Janwal, was presented before a court and granted police custody to facilitate further investigation into the firing incident targeting Abdullah.

Police sought his custody stating that further interrogation was necessary to ascertain the motive behind

the attack and to verify whether the accused had any links with any organisation or individual.

Following the incident, the Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone had constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Saturday to probe the attempted firing case. The SIT is tasked with gathering evidence, questioning witnesses, and taking necessary steps to ensure a thorough investigation into the attack on the senior political leader.

Police officials confirmed that the investigation

CONTD ON PAGE 9

# CB registers case against Revenue officials in Ramban land acquisition irregularities

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Crime Branch (CB) Jammu has registered a criminal case against officers and officials of the Revenue Department in Ramban for their alleged involvement in serious irregularities in land acquisition cases related to the district.

According to officials, the action was initiated after a written communication was received from the Deputy Commissioner Office Ramban through Crime Headquarters Jammu and Kashmir, seeking investigation into the matter and legal

action against those found involved in the alleged irregularities.

A senior Crime Branch official stated that preliminary information suggests that certain individuals, in alleged collusion with revenue officials, manipulated revenue records to claim compensation for land that was actually recorded as State land owned by the government.

"The communication received indicated serious discrepancies in revenue records. Some private individuals were shown as possessors of government land

in official documents such as the Field Book and Apportionment Statements, which raises serious questions about the legality and authenticity of the compensation claims," the official said.

Officials further said that the land in question is officially recorded as State land under the lawful ownership and possession of the government. However, the alleged manipulation of records enabled private persons to seek compensation in land acquisition cases, resulting in potential financial loss to the

state exchequer. "Such entries in the revenue record appear to have been made without legal basis. If proven, these actions would amount to fraudulent attempts to obtain compensation from the government for land that does not belong to the claimants," the Crime Branch official added.

During the preliminary examination of records, authorities identified 20 land acquisition cases involving alleged irregular compensation claims related to State land in Ramban

CONTD ON PAGE 9

# LG, CM greet people on Shab-e-Qadr

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah have extended greetings to the people on the occasion of Shab-e-Qadr. In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said: "On the auspicious occasion of Shab-e-Qadr, I extend my heartiest greetings and best wishes to all. This holy night epitomizes the virtues of selfless service, compassion,

CONTD ON PAGE 9

# Patwari convicted in trap case; chargesheet filed against another Patwari

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In a significant development in the fight against corruption, the Anti-Corruption Bureau Jammu and Kashmir (ACB) has secured the conviction of a revenue official in a bribery case while also filing a chargesheet against another Patwari in a separate corruption matter, officials said on Monday.

According to ACB officials, the Special Judge Anti-Corruption Court Srinagar, presided over by Tasleem Arief Ganie, convicted Bashir Ahmad Dar, son of

Abdul Wahab Dar and a resident of Arreh Mohanpora in Kulgam district, in a trap case registered under FIR No. 03/2012 at the then Police Station Vigilance Organisation Kashmir, now ACB.

The accused was serving as Girdawar at the time of the offence and was found guilty under Section 5(2) read with Section 5(1)(d) of the Jammu and Kashmir Prevention of Corruption Act and Section 161 of the Ranbir Penal Code for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 1,000 from a

complainant for issuing Intikhabhs of land measuring 36 kanals and 12 marlas.

An ACB official said the case was registered following a complaint received on February 9, 2012. "Upon receipt of the complaint, a verification was conducted and a trap team was constituted by the Vigilance Organisation Kashmir. During the operation, the accused was caught red-handed while accepting the bribe amount from the complainant," the official said.

After completing the

CONTD ON PAGE 9

# Dr Minu Mahajan reappointed JKBOPEE Chairperson

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Government on Monday reappointed Dr Minu Mahajan as Chairperson of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examination (JKBOPEE) for a further period of two years.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 4 read with Section 6 of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examination Act, 2002, the Government re-appoint Dr. Minu Mahajan

CONTD ON PAGE 9

# Two killed, 29 injured as speeding bus hits SUV, overturns in Akhnoor

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Two persons were killed while around 29 others sustained injuries after a passenger bus overturned after collision with a SUV on the Jourian-Akhnoor road on the outskirts of Jammu city on Monday, officials said.

The accident took place at Kotgarhi area when the bus, on its way to Akhnoor from the border area of Jourian, and said to be travelling at a high speed, collided head-on with a Scorpio vehicle. The impact caused the bus to skid off the road and overturn, they said.



Wreckage of ill-fated bus at Akhnoor.

Two persons died on the spot, while 29 others sustained injuries, officials said. The deceased were identified as Vijay Kumar, resident

of Kolkata, presently working in Jourian, and Rajni, resident of Pahrivala, Khour.

CONTD ON PAGE 9

**ROZA TIMING**

SEHR TIME: 05:15 (MARCH 18)  
IFTAAR TIME: 06:42 (MARCH 17)

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 24.0°C Min: 11.5°C

Humidity  
Max: 93 Min: 69

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 14.7°C Min: 5.3°C

Humidity  
Max: 97 Min: 83

Sunset: 18:39 Hours  
Sunrise: 06:40 Hours

# J&K: 1.60 lakh additions in annual voter roll revision, 67,690 entries deleted

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: More than 1.60 lakh voters were added to the electoral rolls in Jammu and Kashmir during the recent special summary revision (SSR), while 67,690 names were deleted and 2.29 lakh corrections carried out, according to official data.

Jammu district recorded the highest number of deletions, which included "duplicate" and "shifted" entries, in the annual voter list revision. The special summary revision is separate from the special intensive revision (SIR) carried out in some states.

According to the district-wise breakup of the current voter enrolment, Jammu district has the highest number of electors at 11,89,555, followed by Srinagar with

7,53,222 and Baramulla with 7,20,500 voters.

Among the districts, Srinagar registered the highest number of additions with 30,077, followed by Jammu with 16,855 and Baramulla with 11,854.

Jammu recorded the most deletions at 10,430, followed by Budgam with 7,762 and Anantnag with 5,241, it said.

The data reveals that a total of 1,60,974 additions, 67,690 deletions, and 2,29,920 corrections were recorded across the Union Territory during the revision exercise.

Of these, 10,639 duplicate voter entries and 34,675 shifted entries were detected and deleted across the Union territory, the data

CONTD ON PAGE 9

# One dead in landslide, 235 rescued amid heavy snowfall in Kishtwar

Fresh snowfall in higher reaches of Kashmir

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: One person was killed and another injured in a landslide near a hydro-power project, while over 230 people, including women and children, were evacuated after they were caught in heavy snowfall at the high-altitude Sinthan top in Kishtwar district, officials said on Monday.

In view of the inclement weather, the authorities have ordered the closure of all educational institutions outside the municipal limits in Kishtwar and adjoining Doda district for Monday as a precautionary measure, the officials said.

A landslide, triggered by rain, struck a hydro-power



project site near Dangduru in Kishtwar district on the intervening night of Sunday-Monday, trapping two workers, the officials said.

While one worker was later found dead, the other was rescued in an injured condition and shifted to a hospital,

they said. In another incident, the officials said, a joint rescue operation by the police, Army and the civil administration successfully evacuated 38 vehicles carrying 235 passengers to safety amid

CONTD ON PAGE 9

# CB files charge-sheet in decade-old loan fraud case

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Special Crime Wing (SCW) of Crime Branch Jammu on Monday filed a charge-sheet in a decade old loan fraud case before the Court of Special Municipal Magistrate, Jammu.

The case FIR No. 07/2015 under Sections 420, 465, 466, 467, 468, 471 and 120-B RPC pertains to a loan fraud in which the complainant was allegedly duped by the accused on the pretext of arranging a loan at 0% interest.

According to a statement, the accused persons induced the complainant to deposit money and submit personal documents, including blank cheques, but neither arranged the promised loan

nor returned the deposited amount.

During the course of investigation, it surfaced that the accused had floated a fake entity under the name "Future Club" and used multiple bank accounts and mobile numbers to lure and cheat innocent people. The investigation team collected financial transaction details, bank records, call detail records (CDRs), and other documentary evidence to establish the offences.

The investigation established offences against the main accused Gurab Kumar, while criminal conspiracy under Section 120-B RPC was also established against Mungal Singh (since deceased), Raj Kumar

CONTD ON PAGE 9