

**03 Omar Abdullah hosts Iftaar in Srinagar, emphasizes unity and compassion**

**08 KP Sabha to celebrate Navreh from March 19; LG Manoj Sinha to attend**

**10 JK Public School Kunjwani celebrates Grandparents' Day with love and joy**

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## J&K Police pursuing zero-tolerance policy; comprehensive strategy to eliminate terror soon: LG



LG Manoj Sinha attending Passing Out Parade at Reasi on Tuesday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has said that any individual or group that seeks to threaten the peace, law and order, or the safety of innocent civilians in Jammu Kashmir will have to pay a very heavy price.

Addressing the Passing Out Parade of the Constables at the STC Talwara, in Reasi on Tuesday, he said any attempt to disrupt public peace, undermine commercial activity, or incite violence shall be

met with the full force of the law and J&K Police is unequivocal in its commitment to safeguard order and stability, and shall pursue all necessary measures against such acts, without exception.

Congratulating the brave hearts of J&K Police on their successful completion of the tough training, the Lieutenant Governor called upon them to focus on protecting Jammu Kashmir's achievements.

"J&K Police has been instrumental in forging a ter-

ror-free, crime-free UT where no insecurity overshadows civilian lives. The force has played a pivotal role in achieving remarkable milestones in good governance, innovation, social unity, and building a just society. We must uproot separatist elements which are trying to divide people and derail development. Let this serve as their stern warning," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that every woman

or man donning the J&K Police uniform pledges to exceed public expectations with superior standards.

"From today, public trust is your greatest asset- but earn it relentlessly through integrity, impartiality, and empathy. Your role transcends enforcing law; embody its spirit and soul. I trust you will uphold every citizen's dignity in protection," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that J&K Police stand fully committed to peace, security, and democratic values, ensuring every citizen scale new height of progress in tranquility.

"With all resources and resolve, J&K Police pursue zero tolerance to terrorism. We are working on a multi-pronged strategy with all the stakeholder agencies and soon J&K will be terror-free," the Lieutenant Governor said.

A total of 430 Trainee Constables passed out after their basic training and all trainees were administered the Oath. On the

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## Fire breaks out in hotel in Pahalgam; man dies as fire tender hits him

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: A massive fire broke out in a hotel in Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district early Tuesday, official said.

Though no casualties were reported in the blaze, an employee of another nearby hotel was killed when he was allegedly hit by a fire tender that was reversing after the firefighting operation.

Officials said the fire engulfed three structures of the hotel Asal Resort and a vehicle. Several fire tenders were pressed into

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## Nitish Kumar, Nitin Nabin elected to RS

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Bihar's longest-serving chief minister Nitish Kumar and new BJP president Nitin Nabin were elected to the Rajya Sabha from Bihar as the ruling NDA swept the elections held in three states for 11 seats of the Upper House on Monday.

Of the total 37 vacancies of Rajya Sabha, elections were held for only 11 seats in Bihar, Odisha and Haryana as the rest of the

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## Pak targets Taliban installations, '400 killed in attack on hospital': Afghan Govt

**AGENCY**  
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan overnight carried out "precision airstrikes" targeting what it described as terrorists and their support infrastructure locations across Afghanistan, but the Afghan government accused Islamabad of bombing a rehabilitation hospital in Kabul, killing at least 400 people.

Islamabad rejected the Afghan Taliban's claim that its Monday night air attacks hit the drug-addict rehabilitation centre in Kabul.

The latest strikes came as Operation Ghazab lil Haq, launched on February 26, continued, according to Pakistan's Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Pakistan launched the operation in response to alleged attacks by the Afghan Taliban forces along the 2,600-km-long border.

"Pakistan's Armed Forces successfully carried out precision airstrikes on the night of 16 March as a part of Operation Ghazab Lil Haq, targeting Afghan Taliban regime terrorism sponsoring military installations in



## India unequivocally condemns Pakistan's airstrike

NEW DELHI: India on Tuesday "unequivocally" condemned Pakistan's airstrike on a drug treatment centre in Kabul, describing it as a "blatant assault" on Afghanistan's sovereignty and a threat to regional peace and stability.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said India "unequivocally condemns Pakistan's barbaric airstrike" on the Omid Addiction Treatment Hospital in Kabul last night.

"This is a cowardly and unconscionable act of violence that has claimed the lives of a large number of civilians in a facility which can by no means be justified as a military target," it said.

The MEA said Pakistan is now trying to "dress up a massacre as a military operation". "This heinous act of aggression by Pakistan is also a blatant assault on Afghanistan's sovereignty and a direct threat to

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## Suspension of 8 LS MPs revoked; Speaker says no more display of banners, posters

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Lok Sabha on Tuesday revoked with immediate effect the suspension of eight opposition members, who were barred from the House on February 3 for "unruly" behaviour, with Speaker Om Birla stressing that there should be no display of placards, posters, photos or AI-generated images inside the House or in the Parliament complex.

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## GOC reviews operational preparedness along LoC



GOC White Knight Corps Lt Gen P K Mishra during visit to forward areas of Akhnoor sector.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A senior army officer on Tuesday reviewed operational preparedness along the Line of Control

(LoC) in Jammu's Akhnoor sector, officials said.

The operational preparedness was reviewed by

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## Gangster among 3 held in Jammu, Udhampur

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A hardcore criminal and two drug peddlers were arrested at separate places in Jammu and Udhampur districts on Tuesday, police said.

Yudhvir Singh alias Bablu, a resident of Agra Chak village, was arrested along with a sharp-edged weapon from the R S Pura area of Jammu, a police spokesman said.

"Singh is a hardcore criminal and named in multiple FIRs. His arrest is a major breakthrough in the drive against illegal activities."

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## ACB arrests PDD Meter Reader in Rajouri for accepting Rs 30,000 bribe

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday arrested a meter reader of the Power Development Department (PDD) in Rajouri for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 30,000 from a complainant.

According to an official, the ACB registered a case against Arif Iqbal, who was posted as a meter reader in the Power Development Department at Rajouri. The case was registered at Police Station ACB Rajouri under

FIR No. 03/2026 under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018).

The official said the case was initiated following a written complaint alleging that the accused had demanded illegal gratification from a local shopkeeper in exchange for adjusting his electricity bill.

"During verification of the complaint, it was revealed that the accused meter reader had initially demanded Rs 50,000 from the complainant to manage his electricity bill. Later the demand was nego-

tiated to Rs 30,000," the ACB official said.

According to the complaint, the complainant had been running a tyre shop between 2019 and 2021, after which the shop was closed. Despite this, he continued to maintain an electricity connection and regularly paid the bills. In February 2026, he received a bill of Rs 2,497 for the period from December 31, 2025 to January 31, 2026.

Officials said that the accused later approached the complainant and allegedly demanded Rs 50,000, claim-

ing he would take care of the electricity bill. When the complainant refused and said he would pay according to the meter reading, the accused allegedly threatened to increase the bill.

On March 5, 2026, the accused reportedly delivered another electricity bill for the period January 31 to February 28 amounting to Rs 1,53,890 and again demanded Rs 50,000 to adjust the inflated amount. The demand was subsequently reduced to Rs 30,000. After receiving

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## Health insurance priority for Govt, to cover all by 2033: Sitharaman

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Health insurance is a priority for this government and it is expected that the country will have insurance for all by 2033, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

Replying to supplementary queries during Question Hour, she said the insurance sector is expanding and during 2024-25 it covered 58 crore lives in the country.

"Health insurance is a priority for this government. In fact, we are hoping that by 2033 we will have insurance cover for all," she said.

In December 2025, the minister said the government came up with a Bill to hike FDI in the insurance sector with an aim

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## Second LPG tanker reaches India from war zone



**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: A second Indian-flagged LPG tanker reached the country early Tuesday after safely sailing from the war-hit Strait of Hormuz, and efforts are on to ensure the safe passage of the remaining 22 Indian vessels still stranded in the con-

flict zone.

The LPG tanker, Nanda Devi, reached Kandla port in Gujarat at around 2.30 am this morning, said Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Special Secretary in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

On Monday, the first ship,

Shivalik, reached Mundra port in Gujarat.

The two ships are carrying about 92,712 tonnes of LPG - equivalent to a day's requirement of cooking gas in the country.

"The two have started discharge (of LPG). Right

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## India refutes reports of Iran seeking 'release' of vessels for allowing safe passage

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Ministry of External Affairs on Tuesday dismissed as "baseless" reports which suggested that Iran is seeking release of three 'oil tankers' seized by India in return for ensuring safe passage to Indian-flagged vessels through the Strait of Hormuz and said there has been "no discussion" of this nature between Indian and Iranian authorities.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, at an inter-ministerial briefing here on the West Asia situation, also said the three vessels being referred to are "not Iranian-owned"

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## Illegal mining in J&K: 13,692 vehicles seized; 446 FIRs lodged over 2 years: Govt

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Under a sustained crackdown on illegal mining across Jammu and Kashmir, more than 13,600 vehicles have been seized and 446 FIRs registered over the past two years, official data showed.

According to official figures, a total of 6,219 vehicles were seized in 2024-25, while the number was 7,473 in 2025-26 (up to December 2025), taking the combined total to 13,692 vehicles.

In terms of legal action, 212 FIRs were registered in 2024-25, whereas 234 were lodged in 2025-26 till December, indicating a slight increase in enforcement activity, a statement said.

The data shows a noticeable rise in seizures in the last financial year, with

2025-26 already surpassing the previous year's figures by over 1,200 vehicles despite covering only nine months.

"FIR registrations have also increased marginally, reflecting intensified monitoring and enforcement," officials said.

Among districts, Kupwara recorded the highest number of vehicle seizures in 2025-26, with 859 vehicles, followed by Kathua (796) and Baramulla (701), they said.

In 2024-25, Jammu district topped the list with 880 vehicles seized, while Samba (527) and Budgam (475) were among the other districts with high seizure numbers, the statement added.

Budgam, meanwhile, reported the highest number of FIRs in 2025-26 with

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**ROZA TIMING**

SEHR TIME: 05:13 (MARCH 19)  
IFTAAR TIME: 06:42 (MARCH 18)

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 25.7°C Min: 11.5°C

Humidity  
Max: 73 Min: 46

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 14.9°C Min: 4.4°C

Humidity  
Max: 84 Min: 63

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