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STATETIMES

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RNI No. : 66908/96
Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/2025-27
Vol. 31 Issue 80 • Jammu • Monday • March 23, 2026 • Pages 10+2= 12 • ₹ 3.00
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03 Governor Kavinder Gupta addresses 29th National Session of Bhartiya Yuva Sansad in Nagpur

03 IGNCA's 39th Foundation Day showcases rich confluence of classical, folk traditions

08 Shilpa Thakur honoured with 'Super Girl of the Year 2026' for excellence in journalism

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

FIFTH NAVRATRA

Maa Skandmata
Fifth incarnation of Goddess Durga is called 'Maa Skandmata', Mother of Lord Skand (also known as Kartikeya) who headed 'Devas' in fight against 'Danavas'. On this Navratra heart comes in 'Vishudh Chakra'.
Maa Skandmata has four arms with Bhagwan Skand in her lap, holding him with one hand and other in the blessing mode. Skandmata fulfills all the desires and guides door of heaven to worshipper.
Mantra to be recited nine times on this Navratra is :-
"Om Aing Hareeng Kleeng Chaang Bhagwati Skand Mata! Lakshmi Roopini Dhan Vridhni Kuru Kuru Swaha"

ॐ ऐं ह्रीं क्लीं चं भगवती स्कंदमातायै लक्ष्मी रूपिणी धन वृद्धिं कुरु कुरु स्वाहा

West Asia Conflict: Modi chairs CCS meet; takes stock of fuel, power, fertiliser supply



PM Narendra Modi chairing meeting of Cabinet Committee on Security at New Delhi.

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) to review the situation besides ongoing and proposed mitigating measures in the context of ongoing West Asia Conflict.

The Cabinet Secretary gave a detailed presentation on the global situation and mitigating measures taken so far and being planned by all concerned Ministries/Departments of Government of India. The expected impact and measures taken

- ▶ Meet discusses short, medium and long term measures to ensure continued availability of essential needs; alternate sources of fertilizers for farmers to ensure continued availability in future
- ▶ Several measures also discussed to diversify sources of imports required by chemicals, pharmaceuticals, petrochemicals and other industrial sectors
- ▶ New export destinations to promote Indian goods to be developed in near future
- ▶ Instructs that all arms of government should work together to ensure least inconvenience to citizens
- ▶ Directs that a group of Ministers and Secretaries be created to work dedicatedly in a whole of government approach
- ▶ Instructs for sectoral groups to work in consultation with all stakeholders
- ▶ Asks for proper coordination with state governments to ensure no black-marketing and hoarding of important commodities

to address it across sectors like agriculture, fertilisers, food security, petroleum, power, MSMEs, exporters, shipping, trade, finance, supply chains and all affected sectors were discussed. The overall macro-economic scenario in the country and further measures to be taken were also discussed.

Since the short, medium and long term impact of the ongoing conflict in West Asia, will have significant effect on the global economy, the meeting assessed its effects on India and counter-measures, both immediate and long-term.

Detailed assessment of availability for critical needs of the common man, including food, energy and fuel security was made. Short term, Medium term and Long term measures to ensure continued availability of essential needs were discussed in detail.

The impact on farmers and their requirement for fertiliser for the Kharif season was assessed. The measures taken in the last few years

US will 'obliterate' Iran's power plants if it doesn't open Strait of Hormuz: Trump

AGENCY
DUBAI: President Donald Trump warned the US will "obliterate" Iran's power plants if it doesn't fully open the Strait of Hormuz within 48 hours, prompting Tehran to say it would respond to any such strike with attacks on US and Israeli energy and infrastructure assets.

Iranian missiles, meanwhile, struck two communities in southern Israel late Saturday, leaving buildings shattered and dozens injured in dual attacks not far from Israel's main nuclear research centre.

The developments signalled the war was moving in a dangerous new direction at the start of its fourth week.

Trump - who is facing increasing pressure at home to secure the strait as oil prices soar - issued the ultimatum in a social media post while he spent the weekend at his Florida home.

The death toll from the war has risen to more than 1,500 people in Iran, more than 1,000 people in Lebanon, 15 in Israel and 13 US military members, as well as a num-



ber of civilians on land and sea in the Gulf region. Millions of people in Lebanon and Iran have been displaced.

Rachel VanLandingham, a professor at Southwestern Law School, says plants that are confirmed to be dual-use - meaning they also benefit the military - can be targeted only if the strategic advantage outweighs the harm it causes to civilians.

Causing excessive suffering to civilians makes it a war crime under international law, said VanLandingham, a retired lieutenant colonel in the US Air Force who served

chief legal adviser for international law at US Central Command.

Trump said on Saturday that he would give Iran 48 hours to open the vital Strait of Hormuz or face a new round of attacks. He said the US would destroy "various POWER PLANTS, STARTING WITH THE BIGGEST ONE FIRST!"

VanLandingham said: "It could be lawful, but the way he said it sounds awful because he doesn't provide any kind of nuance."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

'Viksit Bharat' vision must include 'Swasth Bharat', says VP

STATE TIMES NEWS
PUNE: The vision of 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India) must also encompass 'Swasth Bharat' (healthy India), Vice President CP Radhakrishnan said on Sunday while urging

Jammu Rly Div apprehends 249 ticketless passengers during Navrati drive

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Jammu division of the railways conducted an intensive ticket-checking drive on the Katra-Pathankot rail section during Navratri, apprehending 249 passengers for travelling without valid tickets or with irregular tickets, officials said on Sunday.

The special drive aimed to ensure passenger comfort amid the festive rush and covered multiple trains and station premises along the route. A total fine of Rs 1.10 lakh was collected on the spot from those found in violation, they added.

SC directs states, UTs to furnish updated details on prisons, including overcrowding

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has directed all the states and Union territories to furnish updated details relating to jails, including the sanctioned capacity of each prison and steps taken to check overcrowding, by May 18.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta also asked the states and UTs to provide details about the number of women's prisons within their jurisdictions and the facilities available in them, including the measures taken to ensure education



and overall welfare of children living with the female inmates.

The bench noted that senior advocate Gaurav Agrawal, who is assisting the top court as an amicus curiae

The bench said that, having regard to the nature of issues involved and the necessity of an informed adjudicatory exercise, the availability of updated contemporaneous data was indispensable for the effective consideration of the proceedings.

"Accordingly, we deem it appropriate to direct all the states and Union territories to place on record updated and comprehensive statistics relating to all prisons situated within their respective jurisdictions," the bench said in its order passed on

Mughal road reopens for vehicular traffic

STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH/JAMMU: The Mughal Road, a vital alternative route connecting Kashmir with the rest of the country, reopened for vehicular traffic on Sunday after remaining closed for around 10 days due to heavy snowfall, officials said.

The 84-km road links south Kashmir's Shopian district with Poonch and Rajouri districts in the Jammu region.

Officer Commanding of GREEF, Ashish Gupta, said that the snow clearance work was completed after an improvement in weather conditions.

"As the weather cleared, we removed snow from the Mughal Road and completed the clearance work this afternoon. After this, vehicles were allowed to move towards Kashmir as well as towards Poonch from Kashmir," he said, adding that the first vehicle from Shopian had reached Poonch.

Gupta said that both passenger and goods vehicles were allowed to ply.

Local residents welcomed the reopening, saying it would significantly ease travel between the regions.

Army rescues engineer injured during snow clearing operation

STATE TIMES NEWS
DODA: The Army on Sunday rescued an engineer who was injured during a snow clearance operation in Doda district, officials said.

The operation was being conducted at the snowbound Chattergala Pass on the Badervah-Basholi road.

"Battling harsh weather, troops of the Rising Star Corps evacuated the engineer safely after he slipped into a nala," the officials said.

He was shifted to the sub-divisional hospital in Bari for treatment, they said.

Amit Shah lauds Modi's record 8,931 days in public life

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Terming it a milestone rooted in service, hard work and unwavering commitment, Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said that Narendra Modi setting a record of 8,931 days in public life, first as the Gujarat chief minister and now as the prime minister, reflect a deep dedication to nation-first governance, integrity in action, and tireless service to every citizen.

In a message on X, Shah

said Prime Minister Modi on Sunday surpassed the 8,930-day record of former Sikkim

"Modi Ji's decades of Seva have shaped an era of his own. Whether it is giving the poor their rights, setting new landmarks in development or enhancing the nation's pride on global platforms, the Modi era has transformed India unrecognisably," Shah said.

Fostering this new India required a lifetime's effort, and Prime Minister Modi gave it, he said. "Serving the nation



chief minister Pawan Kumar Chamling to become the longest-serving head of a government in India.

Himachal Police arrests interstate drug kingpin from Kathua

STATE TIMES NEWS
SHIMLA: The Himachal Pradesh police have arrested an interstate drug trafficking kingpin from Kathua, an official said on Sunday.

The accused, Vijay Kumar alias VK, is a resident of Kathua in Jammu & Kashmir.

According to Himachal Pradesh police, on October 11, 2025, three individuals were arrested with 6 kg of charas (cannabis) from the Kandwar barrier in Kangra district, following which an FIR was registered.

Pilgrimage to Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine resumes

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The pilgrimage to the Mata Vaishno Devi temple atop Trikuta hills in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district resumed on Sunday after its temporary suspension due to heavy rush, officials said.

Authorities on Saturday suspended the pilgrimage to the cave shrine due to a heavy rush at the Bhawan, as 39,000 devotees paid obeisance at the temple till late in the afternoon.

Chaitra Navratri started on a March 19 and will end on March 27.

"The yatra has been



resumed after temporary suspension due to a heavy rush at the Bhawan," a shrine board official said. He said that registration for the yatra resumed this morning

WEATHER FORECAST

JAMMU
TEMPERATURE
Max : 26.7°C
Min : 12.6°C
HUMIDITY
Max : 93
Min : 87

SRINAGAR
TEMPERATURE
Max : 20.4°C
Min : 3.6°C
HUMIDITY
Max : 83
Min : 75

SUNRISE 06:32 Hour
SUNSET 18:43 Hour

LG flags off Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Pracheen Marg Pavitra Chhari Yatra at Kol Kandoli Temple



LG Manoj Sinha flagging off Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Pracheen Marg Pavitra Chhari Yatra at Kol Kandoli Temple in Nagrota on Sunday.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday flagged off the 24th Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji

Pracheen Marg Pavitra Chhari Yatra from the historic Kol Kandoli Temple in Nagrota.

The Lieutenant Governor participated in the 'Pratham Pooja' of the Chhari Yatra, marking the commencement of the spiritual journey. He paid obeisance at the holy

temple and prayed for the peace, prosperity, and well-being of all.

The Lieutenant Governor also interacted with the devotees and extended his heartiest greetings on the auspicious occasion.

Carrying the sacred Holy Jyot, the Chhari Yatra proceeded along the traditional heritage route to reach the Oli Mata Temple in Bamyal Chhapanoo.

Deyyani Rana, Member of Legislative Assembly, Nagrota; members of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Ji Pracheen Marg Shrines Sanstha, senior officials, prominent citizens and devotees in large number also joined the flag-off ceremony.

Jammu University panel recommends dropping Jinnah, Sir Syed, Iqbal from syllabus

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A meeting of the Departmental Affairs Committee (DAC) of Political Science Department in the University of Jammu was held on Sunday to deliberate on key academic concerns related to postgraduate programmes under NEP-2020 guidelines.

A handout issued by the Head of the Department, Political Science Department said, "After thorough discussion, the Committee unanimously resolved to recommend the removal of topics concerning Mohd Ali Jinnah, Syed Ahmad Khan, and Mohd Iqbal from specific course contents of both the One-Year and Two-Year M.A. Political Science pro-

grammes."

It further added that the recommendation pertains to course P1PSTC 102 of the One-Year Postgraduate Programme and course P2PSTC 302 of the Two-Year Postgraduate Programme.

"The matter will now be placed before the Board of Studies (BOS) for further deliberation and consideration," the handout stated, noting that the BOS meeting is scheduled to be held online on March 24, 2026, at 11:30 AM.

The decision has been taken in alignment with ongoing curriculum revisions under the National Education Policy

Film about displaced KP family screened in Srinagar

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Kashmiri film "Batt Koch", which explores the life of a displaced Kashmiri Pandit family, received a strong response on Sunday as it was screened at the lone multiplex here.

The film has been written and directed by young Kashmiri Pandit filmmakers Siddharth Koul and Ankit Wali.

It explores the life of the displaced Kashmiri Pandit family living in Jammu, focusing on an elderly man suffering from memory loss and his journey to revisit his ancestral home in Kashmir.

The screening was also attended by Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Akshay Labroo.