

03 Govt terminates PMGSY road contracts worth Rs 2,543.05 lakh over delay, blacklists contractor

08 District Level Sports Tournament concludes: Grah Club beats Bhaiya Club, lifts volleyball trophy

10 Bodybuilding selection trial for National on March 8

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“National Governance Conference on holistic development of districts”

J&K's transition to e-Office saves crores during Durbar Move: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, PMO, Dr. Jitendra Singh on Tuesday said that Jammu & Kashmir has the potential to be a key player in India's "Viksit Bharat" story and closely partner with the Central government in the writing of India growth story. As for J&K, Dr Jitendra Singh informed that the Department of Administrative Reforms DARPG in the Union Ministry of Personnel had helped J&K government to transit to e-Office, thereby saving crores of rupees incurred in transport of all the office files to and fro between Jammu and Srinagar during each Durbar move. Dr. Jitendra Singh was addressing the "National Governance Conference" on the theme "Holistic Development of Districts"



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking at the "National Governance Conference" at Convention Centre, Jammu on Tuesday.

here today in the presence of the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, Chief Secretary J&K, Atal Dulloo, Secretary Personnel Govt of India Rachna Shah and other senior officers from the Central and the UT governments. The Union Minister said that the Centre is taking governance to remote areas to ensure inclusivity and wider participation, moving beyond traditional methods. He said this is part of a conscious effort to transform governance practices in line with the requirements of contemporary India. Tracing the reform journey since Independence, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted that while India adopted a democratic framework early on, a renewed and focused momentum in governance reforms gained impetus in recent years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He emphasized the guiding principle of "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance," underscoring maximum use of technology and minimal human interface to enhance transparency and efficiency. Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that nearly 90 percent of

the Government of India's work processes are now online, describing it as the "magic of technology" being put to optimum use. Initiatives such as the Aspirational Districts Programme were cited as unique examples of competitive and cooperative federalism, encouraging districts to adopt best practices and strive for excellence, he said adding that high-performing districts are felicitated by the Prime Minister, fostering a culture of performance-based governance. Dr Jitendra Singh highlighted major reforms undertaken in the past decade, including the removal of nearly 2,000 outdated rules, many of which had significant socio-economic implications. He spoke about pension reforms that brought greater inclusivity and flexibility, trust-based governance measures such as ending the practice of attestation by gazetted officers, and

‘Viksit Bharat’ hinges on progress of every region: CM

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday asserted that the vision of Viksit Bharat can only be realised through inclusive and equitable development across every state and region of the country, emphasising that progress confined to select pockets would leave the national dream unfulfilled. He was addressing the day-long National Governance Conference on "Holistic Development of Districts: Transforming Governance for Viksit Bharat", organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances under the Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India, in collaboration with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) Jugal Kishore, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Secretary DARPG Rachna Shah, Additional Secretary DARPG Puneet Yadav, Joint Secretary DARPG Sarita Chauhan, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department M Raju, senior IAS and JKAS officers, retired civil servants and participants from across the country were present on the occasion. In his keynote address, the Chief Minister said, "The truth is that Viksit Bharat or a developed India will only be a reality if all of India develops. A developed India will not become a reality if that development is confined only



CM Omar Abdullah addressing gathering at National Governance Conference in Jammu on Tuesday.

Traffic Police issues safety advisory amid Holi celebrations

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Traffic Police Jammu has advised the general public to refrain from wrong parking- road side parking during the celebration of Holi festival as

HOLIDAY NOTICE
The offices of STATE TIMES Group of Publications shall remain closed on March 4, 2026 (Wednesday) on the occasion of Holi festival. Therefore, there will be no issue of your newspaper on March 5, 2026 (Thursday). STATE TIMES wishes you all a prosperous and colourful Holi.

ROZA TIMING
SEHR TIME: 05:32 (MARCH 5)
IFTAAR TIME: 06:32 (MARCH 4)

WEATHER
Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 30.0°C Min: 11.7°C
Humidity
Max: 71 Min: 30
Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 22.3°C Min: 2.1°C
Humidity
Max: 65 Min: 38
Sunset: 18:29 Hours
Sunrise: 06:56 Hours

Special NIA court issues Letter Rogatory to China in Pahalgam attack probe

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: A Special NIA Court in Jammu has issued a Letter Rogatory to the competent judicial authority in China for assistance in tracing the supply chain and end-user details of a mobile phone linked to the probe into last year's Pahalgam terror attack. The Special Judge passed the order in response to an application filed by the Deputy Inspector General, National Investigation Agency (NIA), Sandeep Choudhary, under Section 112 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). Terrorists affiliated with Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit struck

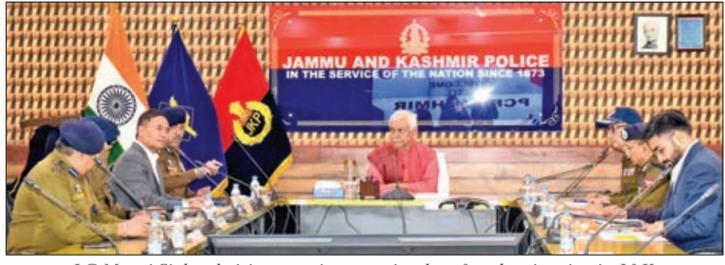
J&K records 17 lakh kanals of state land encroached; 75,000 kanals transferred since 2019

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir has recorded encroachment of over 17 lakh kanals of state land, with corresponding entries expunged from revenue records, while more than 75,000 kanals have been transferred to various government departments and agencies since 2019, according to official data. "There are 1,00,06,163.9 kanals of total state land in Jammu and Kashmir, of which 17,27,246.5 kanals of state land is under encroachment," the data revealed. The government shared division-wise details of state, government and JDA land under encroachment, the

LG, CM greet people on Holi

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah have extended greetings to the people on the eve of Holi. In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said: "On the festive occasion of Holi, I convey my warm greetings to the people. I hope that the festival of colours, which is celebrated with traditional fervour, heralds happiness and success for all. May this festival of colours, bring joy and prosperity in the society and foster the spirit of harmony amongst our citizens." In his felicitation message, the Chief Minister described Holi as a vibrant celebration that symbolises togetherness, joy and the triumph of harmony over discord. He expressed hope that the "Festival of Colors" would further strengthen communal harmony, promote mutual respect and deepen the enduring bonds of brotherhood across the region. The Chief Minister prayed for sustained peace, prosperity and progress in Jammu and Kashmir, and expressed confidence that the festival would usher in renewed hope and happiness for all residents. Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, in a message, said that Holi holds deep religious and cultural significance and is celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm by the people cutting across religious

LG reviews law & order situation in Kashmir



LG Manoj Sinha chairing meeting to review law & order situation in J&K.

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting of senior police and civil administration officials at the Police Control Room, Kashmir, to review the law & order situation. The meeting was attended by Nalin Prabhat, DGP J&K; S.J.M Gillani, Special

Schools, colleges to remain closed in Kashmir till March 7

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Schools and colleges across Kashmir will remain closed till March 7 in the wake of protests against the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in a joint air strike by the Israel and the US. "All schools and colleges of Kashmir Division will remain closed till March 7, 2026," Education Minister Sakina Itoo said on Tuesday. With protests brewing, the government had on March 1 ordered closure of educational institutions in the Valley for two days. Agitations against the top Shia cleric's killing continued for the third consecutive day on Tuesday with thousands of people taking to streets in several parts of Kashmir, including in Srinagar city.

West Asia conflict: Modi speaks to Sultan of Oman, Crown Prince of Kuwait

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Sultan Haitham bin Tarik of Oman, Crown Prince of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on Tuesday, and expressed concern over attacks on their countries during the ongoing conflict in West Asia, officials said. During his telephonic conversations, Modi also discussed with these leaders the welfare and security of the Indian community residing in their countries. "The prime minister spoke to three important leaders from the Gulf region on Tuesday afternoon. He had separate phone calls with Sultan Haitham bin Tarik of Oman, Crown Prince of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani," an official said. During his talks with the leaders, Modi expressed concern over the attacks in their respective countries and discussed the welfare and security of the Indian community residing there. The phone calls took place in the wake of a coordinated offensive launched against Iran by the United States and Israel, in which the Islamic country's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was killed. In retaliation, Iran has fired drones and missiles at Israel and US military installations around the Gulf, as also at the global business and aviation hubs of Dubai and Doha. Over the last two days, Modi has spoken to the King of Bahrain and the



Prime Minister Narendra Modi.