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STATE TIMES

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Justice Arun Palli sworn-in as Chief Justice of J&K and Ladakh High Court

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Justice Arun Palli was sworn in as 38th Chief Justice of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, on Wednesday at an impressive ceremony held at Convention Centre, Canal Road, here.

The oath of the office was administered by Lieutenant Governor, UT of J&K, Manoj Sinha. The warrant of appointment was read out by M.K. Sharma, Principal Secretary to the Chief Justice.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Mohd Akram Chowdhary, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh attended the ceremony physically whereas, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, and Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani attended the swearing-in-ceremony virtually from Srinagar Wing of the High Court.

Justice Krishna Murari, former Judge, Supreme Court of India, the Chief Justice, High Court of



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha administering oath of office to Justice Arun Palli as Chief Justice of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Convention Center in Jammu on Wednesday.

Himachal Pradesh, former Chief Justices, Former/Sitting Judges of the High Courts of Punjab & Haryana, Rajasthan and former Judges of High Court J&K and Ladakh, Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Chowdhary, Ministers from UT of J&K, Speaker J&K Legislative Assembly, Abdul Raheem Rather, Member Parliament, Ghulam Ali Khatana graced the occa-

sion. Chief Secretaries of UTs of J&K and Ladakh, Director General of Police, UT of J&K, Secretary to Government, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and other Senior Officers of the Civil and Police Administration were present on the occasion.

Members of Central Administrative Tribunal, Member Armed Forces Tribunal, DSGI Jammu, DSGI

Kashmir, Senior Advocates, Government Advocates, President HCBA Jammu, Nirmal Kotwal along with other office bearers and Advocates, Registry Officers as well as judicial officers also attended the ceremony.

The oath ceremony was specially graced by the presence of spouse, mother-in-law, other family members, relatives and special invitees of the Chief Justice.

SC collegium gives nod for appointing 2 judicial officers as judges of J&K, Ladakh HC

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court collegium on Wednesday approved the proposal for appointment of two judicial officers as judges of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

"The Supreme Court collegium in its meeting held on April 16, 2025 has approved the proposal for appointment of the following judicial officers as judges of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh: (i) Sanjay Parihar, and (ii) Shahzad Azeem," said a statement uploaded on the Supreme Court website. The decision was taken by the col-



Sanjay Parihar Shahzad Azeem

legium headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna in a meeting held on Wednesday.

J&K Bank registers 4200 Yatris on day one of Shri Amarnath Yatra- 2025 registration drive

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Marking a strong start to this year's Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra registration process, J&K Bank registered over 4200 pilgrims on Tuesday through its 91 designated branches spread across the country.

The registration for the annual pilgrimage, which

commenced on April 14, 2025, is being carried out on a first-come, first-served basis and includes the issuance of Yatra Permits to eligible pilgrims. This year, the holy Yatra to Himalayan cave of Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine is scheduled to begin on 3rd July and conclude on 9th August, 2025.

Expressing satisfaction at the response, MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee said, "It is encouraging to see a good response from devotees on Day One. Registering over 4,200 pilgrims in a single day reflects the trust people have in the Bank's service delivery and commitment to

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ECI launches first of its kind training program for BLAs

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a first, ECI launches training sessions for the Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to strengthen grassroots participation by political parties with around 280 BLAs of 10 recognised political parties from Bihar taking part in the 2-day training programme.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has commenced the training of Booth Level Agents (BLAs) from Bihar in view of the forthcoming elections in the State. The programme is being organised at the India International Institute for Democracy and Election

Management, IIIDEM, New Delhi.

Chief Election Commissioner, Gyanesh Kumar, along with Election Commissioners, Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr. Vivek Joshi addressed the BLAs in a first of its kind training programme. The training was conceptualised during the Chief Electoral Officers (CEO) conference held on the 4th of March, 2025.

The Commission underscored the importance of BLAs in the election processes and asserted that the training programme would help them fulfil their

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Our progressive farmers shaping future of J&K's agriculture: CM



CM Omar Abdullah chairing review meeting on implementation of HADP in Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday chaired a review meeting on the implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) here at

the Civil Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Agriculture Production Department Javed Ahmed Dar, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj

Gupta, Principal Secretary Agriculture Production Department (APD) Shailendra Kumar, Mission Director HADP Rahul Yadav, and other senior officials.

All Deputy Commissioners of Jammu & Kashmir, along

with progressive farmers, participated in the meeting via video conferencing from their respective district headquarters.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, while sharing the vision of HADP, remarked that the programme is not just a policy intervention but a movement to empower farmers, modernize the agri-sector, and build a sustainable Rs 100,000 crore agri-economy for Jammu & Kashmir by 2030.

On the role of digital innovation in agriculture, he stated that by integrating cutting-edge technologies such as AI-based advisory

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Drug peddler's house demolished in Jammu; several suspects detained in Samba

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Authorities razed a double-storey house of an alleged drug peddler here on Wednesday and detained several suspects in Samba, officials said.

The newly constructed house of a wanted drug peddler, Lahu Gujjar, was razed by police in Bijru Chack village of the Bishnah area in the outskirts of Jammu, officials said. They said Gujjar built the

house with proceeds from the drug sale and had been issued a notice some time



back, but he failed to appear before the police. Gujjar is wanted by police in several cases and is absconding, they said. In another action, a

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Govt announces free entry to SPS Museum, Srinagar, Dogra Art Museum, Jammu on World Heritage Day

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, in collaboration with the district administration, Tourism and Education departments, is going to celebrate World Heritage Day on 18th of April, 2025 in both the divisions of Jammu and Kashmir.

In Kashmir division, an early morning cleanliness drive will be held at Hari Parbat Fort, Srinagar followed by Pledge and Heritage Walk. Similarly, in Jammu Division, an early morning cleanliness drive will be held at Samba Fort in Samba District, followed by Pledge for Preserving Cultural Heritage and Heritage Walk.

On the eve of World Heritage Day, the Department has announced free entry for all to SPS Museum, Srinagar and Dogra Art Museum, Jammu with an aim to facilitate all sections of society to have glimpse of the Rich

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Properties declared waqf including 'waqf by user' won't be denotified, SC proposes

'Very disturbing': top court on violence

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday proposed to order that the properties declared as waqf including "waqf by user" won't be de-notified but the Centre opposed the suggestion and sought a hearing before such a directive.

The top court also asked the Centre if Muslims would be allowed to be part of Hindu religious trusts.

"The properties declared by courts as waqfs should not be de-notified as waqfs, whether they are by waqf-by-user or waqf by deed, while the court

is hearing the challenge to the Waqf Amendment Act 2025," the bench said.

The top court went on, "All Members of the waqf boards and central waqf Council must be Muslims, except the ex-officio members."

A bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and K V Viswanathan in the hearing earlier considered referring the pleas to one high court but later heard at length a battery of senior advocates, including Kapil Sibal, Abhishek Singhvi, Rajeev Dhavan and solicitor general

Tushar Mehta, who represented the Centre.

The bench, which did not issue a formal notice as of now, said it would resume hearing on the petitions at around 2 pm on April 17.

The top court also expressed concern over the violence that followed the law's enactment and said it was disturbing when it was seized of the matters.

"One thing that is very disturbing is the violence that is taking place. If the matter is pending here then it should not happen," the CJ said.

Echoing a similar senti-

ment, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said, "They (protesters) think they can pressurise the system by this."

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for a Muslim organisation, opposed the submissions of the law officer and said, "Who is pressuring who we don't know."

The CJ then said there were "positive points in the bill" that should be highlighted.

The CJ further proposed to pass an order to say

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CJI Khanna recommends as Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai as next CJI

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna on Wednesday recommended to the Centre the name of Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai as the next CJI.

Justice Gavai, the second senior-most Supreme Court judge after the incumbent CJI Khanna, is set to become the 52nd CJI on May 14 after the retirement of CJI Khanna on May 13.

Justice Gavai, who was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court on May 24,

2019, would have a tenure of over six months as the CJI. He is due to retire on November 23, 2025.



CJI Khanna, who was sworn in as the 51st CJI on November 11 last year, recommended to the Union law

ministry to appoint Justice Gavai as the next CJI.

The retirement age of Supreme Court judges is 65 years.

Born on November 24, 1960 at Amravati, Justice Gavai was elevated as an additional judge of the Bombay High Court on November 14, 2003.

He became a permanent judge of the high court on November 12, 2005.

Justice Gavai has been a part of several Constitution benches in the apex court which delivered path-breaking verdicts.

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Gusty winds, thundershowers hit Jammu; civil secretariat's boundary wall damaged



Boundary wall of civil secretariat Jammu damaged, trees fell near Trikuta Nagar and a high-mast light of J&K Sports Council Parade ground broke on Wednesday evening.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A portion of the civil secretariat's boundary wall and dozens of vehicles and houses were damaged as gusty winds and thundershowers hit Jammu on Wednesday evening, also

plunging the city into darkness, officials said.

According to police, there was no report of any casualty due to the strong winds from anywhere in the city and elsewhere.

A portion of the civil secre-

ariat's boundary wall, near the women's park in the heart of the city, collapsed around 7:20 pm, the officials said.

Seven cars plying on the main road adjacent to the civil secretariat came under

the barbed fencing but none of their occupants was injured, they said, adding that four of the vehicles were removed from the spot by the traffic department and efforts are on to move the other trapped vehicles.

A mobile phone tower fell down in the city's Bahu Fort area, damaging four parked motorcycles and a residential house, the officials said.

They said a number of vehicles were damaged

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 36.7°C Min: 24.7°C

Humidity
Max: 52 Min: 35

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 26.1°C Min: 11.6°C

Humidity
Max: 50 Min: 22

Sunset : 19:01 Hours
Sunrise : 06:00 Hours