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# STATETIMES

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

Vol. 30 Issue 93 • Jammu • Saturday • April 5, 2025 • Pages 12 • ₹ 5.00

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**03** Union Cabinet approves phase 2 of VVP

**10** Satish Sharma declares open ‘All India University Powerlifting Championship’

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**EIGHTH NAVRATRA**

**Maa Maha Gauri**

Eighth incarnation of Maa Durga is Maa 'Maha Gauri'. Her clothes as well as ornaments are white in colour.  
To have Lord Shiva as husband, she mediated so hard that her body turned black, but when Lord Shiva washed her body it started glittering and got white by virtue of which, she is called 'Maha Gauri'.  
By her worship one gets all pleasures of life and gets rid of all the sins.  
Mantra to be recited nine times of 'Maa Maha Gauri' is :-

"Om Aing Hreeng Kleeng Chamunday Bhagwati Maha Gauri Mum Sarvam Samridhim Vardhay Vardhay Swaha"

ॐ ऐं ह्रीं क्लीं चामुण्डायै भगवती महगौरी मम सर्वम् समृद्धिं वर्धय वर्धय स्वाहा

NC Govt will continue to work for economically, socially disadvantaged classes: Farooq

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah Friday highlighted the Jammu and Kashmir government's measures on free electricity and transport for women, saying his party would continue to work for the economically and socially disadvantaged classes.

During a meeting with a delegation from the Gujjar Basti Bandipora, Abdullah emphasised the party has consistently protected their interests and implemented initiatives to enhance their living conditions.

He said the recent budget presented by the Omar Abdullah government, which allocated resources to

alleviate the suffering of the poor by providing 200 units of free electricity and additional ration to those at the bottom of the economic ladder.

"The introduction of free transportation for women will also significantly improve their quality of life," the NC president said, assuring that all promises made in the party's manifesto, especially those concerning the economically and socially marginalised groups, will be fulfilled.

The NC, he added, has a long history of advocating for the rights of the underprivileged, and under the leadership of CM Omar Abdullah, this will continue.

RBI to issue Rs 10, Rs 500 notes bearing signature of Guv Malhotra

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India on Friday said it will shortly issue Rs 10 and Rs 500 denomination banknotes in Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series, bearing the signature of Governor Sanjay Malhotra.

The design of these notes is similar in all respects to Rs 10 and Rs 500 banknotes in Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series, the central bank said in a statement.

All banknotes in the denomination of Rs 10 issued by the Reserve Bank in the past will continue to be legal tender.

Also, all banknotes in the denomination of Rs 500 in Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series issued by the central bank in the past will continue to be legal tender.

Last month, the RBI announced to issue banknotes of Rs 100 and Rs 200 denominations, bearing the signature of

DB upholds CAT verdict quashing draft redrawn seniority list of Sr KAS officers

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In a series of petitions challenging the judgment of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), which had quashed the draft redrawn seniority list of senior KAS officers, a Division Bench of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court (Srinagar Wing) dismissed the petitions. The Court observed that the petitioners had failed to demonstrate that the private respondents were empanelled for the anticipated vacancies.

The Bench, comprising Justice Rajnesh Oswal and Justice Sanjay Dhar, noted, "In fact, the minutes of the

meeting dated May 29, 2008, clearly establish that the private respondents were considered against the vacancies for the year 2008. Moreover, it was not open to the Government to alter the seniority list to the detriment of the said respondents without giving them an opportunity of being heard. Once the Government accepted the judgment of the Tribunal, which had upheld the order dated June 24, 2011, it could not have altered the seniority list without challenging the said judgment through appropriate legal proceedings."

It is worthwhile to mention here that a Bench of Central

Administrative Tribunal (CAT) comprising its Chairman Justice L Narasimha Reddy and Administrative Member Jamsheed Akhtar has quashed the draft re-drawn seniority list of senior Jammu & Kashmir Administrative Service members.

The applicants had challenged various steps initiated by the Government since April 1, 2020, for the revision of the seniority list of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Services officers particularly in respect of appointments made to the Time Scale between

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The unscheduled meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and also attended by National Conference President Farooq Abdullah, began at Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary's residence at the Gupkar here.

Cabinet ministers, all MLAs of the NC, and four

Congress legislators led by chief whip Nizamuddin Bhat and independents supporting the National Conference government attended the meeting.

The meeting of the alliance partners comes in the backdrop of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha ordering transfer and posting of 48 officers

Over 10 kanals of land attached under UAPA

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAMBAN: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Friday attached agricultural land measuring 10.18 kanals in Ramban district under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, an official said.

The attached properties, registered in the name of Mohd Sharief Dalwah-Gool and Mohd Younis of Hara-Gool, are linked to an FIR filed last year, he said.

Earlier in February, police had attached 23.13 kanals of land belonging to five Hizbul Mujahideen operatives -- Saraj Din (48) of Sangaldan, Reyaz Ahmed (45) of Dalwah, Farooq Ahmed (46) of

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of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) and also assumes significance in view of three-day scheduled visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah to J-K from April 6.

Meanwhile, amid differences over transfer of state officials, ruling Jammu and Kashmir lawmakers have stressed the need for all to respect people's mandate, asserting their government's efforts towards building a coordination with the LG administration should not be construed as their weakness.

"We are repeatedly saying this and this is our final request that do not push us to the wall,"

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Manoj Kumar, Hindi cinema's ‘Bharat’, dies at 87

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
MUMBAI: Actor-filmmaker Manoj Kumar, who personified the angst and aspirations of an evolving 'Bharat' in films such as "Upkar", "Purab Aur Paschim" and "Roti, Kapda Aur Makana", died in a Mumbai hospital early Friday. He was 87.

The actor, who came to be known as 'Bharat Kumar' for his roles in a series of patriotic films, had been ailing for a while and died of age related issues at the Kokilaben Ambani Hospital around 3.30 am.

"He is out of his misery

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The new Pamban Rail Bridge, India's first vertical lift sea bridge, is all set to be inaugurated in Tamil Nadu on April 6, on the occasion of Ram Navami, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at about noon.

He will flag off a train and a ship from the road bridge and witness the operation of the Bridge, according to a PMO statement.

After the inauguration, he will perform darshan and pooja at Ramanathaswamy temple in Rameswaram.

"The Bridge carries a deep cultural significance. According to the Ramayana, the construction of Ram Setu was initiated from Dhanushkodi near

Rameswaram," it added.

The Bridge, built at a cost of over Rs 550 crore and linking Rameswaram to the mainland, is 2.08 km in length, features 99 spans and a 72.5-metre vertical lift span that rises up to a height of 17 metres, facilitating smooth movement of ships while ensuring seamless train operations.

Constructed with stainless steel reinforcement, high-grade protective paint and fully welded joints, the Bridge boasts increased durability and reduced maintenance needs, the statement mentioned.

It is designed for dual rail tracks to accommodate future demands, and a

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accountable, transparent and equitable and this will benefit the poor, women and children of the Muslim community.

"I congratulate the Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi and the Minister of Minority Affairs Shri @KirenRijiju for this important bill that gives justice to crores of people. Also, I express my heart-

felt gratitude to all the parties and MPs who supported it," he said.

The bill seeks to strengthen Waqf tribunals and reduce to 5 per cent from 7 per cent the mandatory contribution of Waqf institutions to Waqf boards.

Waqf institutions earning over Rs 1 lakh will undergo audits by state-sponsored auditors.

Modi to inaugurate India's first vertical lift sea bridge on Ram Navami

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 33.2°C Min: 16.6°C

Humidity  
Max: 45 Min: 33

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 22.4°C Min: 5.6°C

Humidity  
Max: 65 Min: 41

Sunset : 18:52 Hours  
Sunrise : 06:15 Hours

**ANCHOR**

**ST**

**DOST KHAN**

## Jammu's political parties must rise to the occasion

JAMMU: At this point in time when Jammu is experiencing not a very happy situation as the terror activities have diverted its attention from development to countering terrorism, political parties should have risen to the occasion by drawing a roadmap to defeat terrorism. This is as much crucial as the security forces fighting terrorism from borders to the hinterland.

The stakes of Jammu are highest at the moment. The political parties have a special responsibility to play a positive role in shaping a narrative that would boost confidence of the people and invigorate the atmosphere to resist the forces opposed to the development and progress of the region.

Jammu is wandering in a state of little confusion, which is to put things quite mildly. The situation is a little bit fragile because of the mounting terror activities, which may not constitute terror attacks but these are manifestations of violent terrorism. There are many instances in which Pakistan has been able to penetrate into the normalcy and disrupt it in few pockets with an overall impact on the mood of the people. A sense of uncertainty is being injected in the atmosphere. Undoubtedly, J&K police and other security agencies are fighting these fear-infusing activities. The people have full confidence in the security forces that have kept the things stable in the most adverse circumstances in the past.

Jammu's problems cannot be addressed in isolation. These need to be articulated, understood by the powers that be, and accordingly solutions need to be worked

out by making the people as the stakeholders. Here the political groups, be that BJP, Congress, National Conference or few other groups they need to come on the same page. But unfortunately, it has been noticed with alarming rapidity that these parties display their concern over the terrorism by blaming one another.

There is an undeniable truth that BJP

### NEWS ANALYSIS

has been at the helm of affairs in J&K in the recent years, both in terms of its political standing and administrative reach. The party rules at the Centre and has been in control of all affairs of Jammu and Kashmir. It is equally true that ever since the party took over the reins of the country, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Jammu and

Kashmir came out of the dark shadows and saw the sunrise of a participative democracy - the Assembly elections preceded by Lok Sabha elections last year offered an irrefutable evidence of the changed situation.

It was impossible to think of people queuing up for voting outside polling booths, and voting with their faces visible to the cameras; there was no trace of fear or attempt to hide the faces while waiting for their turn to vote. All this was made possible by the Modi government that invested in peace and development and helped democracy to grow at the grass-roots level.

Jammu wanted to be equal partner in the benefits that flowed with the completion of the democratic exercises. The elections were free of any untoward incident. But after the elections, there have been some disturbing incidents. This has led to

political slugfest. National Conference and its ally Congress have picked holes in the BJP's anti-terrorism strategies and mocked full normalcy claims. The leaders of these two parties have made some stinging remarks against the saffron party. And, not to be left behind, the local BJP leaders, continue to dig the past and remind NC, Congress and PDP that what was the situation during their times. The saffron party has also been hitting at ruling NC and its allies for pedaling narratives that help, directly and indirectly, the inimical forces.

All these parties are mature enough and they know what the truth is. Politicizing the situation may prove counterproductive. This is not the time or political squabbling but to summon the courage to evolve a consensus how terrorism should be countered. Rise to the occasion. Jammu's future is at stake.