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Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

03 NDA-IV Modi Govt deciding to include caste enumeration in Census raises hopes for real good to many SC/ST/OBC

03 Dr Jitendra launches IAS officers' e-Book, proposes adding AI based options

05 4 blind Judokas of J&K represent India

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

Reviews reorganisation proposals of H&UD Dept CM calls for better urban governance, operational efficiency in UD set-up



CM Omar Abdullah chairing a meeting at Srinagar on Monday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday chaired a meeting to review proposals for the reorganisation of departments and agencies under the Housing & Urban Development Department (HUDD), emphasising the need to strengthen institutional capacity to ensure effective implementation and long-term sustainability.

The meeting was attended

by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary H&UDD Mandeep Kaur, Commissioners of the Srinagar and Jammu Municipal Corporations, Director General (Codes), Vice Chairpersons of the Srinagar Development Authority and Lakes Conservation & Management

Authority and other senior officials.

At the outset, Commissioner Secretary H&UDD presented a comprehensive overview of the proposed departmental reorganisation, aimed at restructuring various constituent bodies of the department to enhance operational efficiency, clarify roles and responsibilities and improve service delivery across Jammu and Kashmir.

Among the key proposals, the restructuring of the J&K Housing Board seeks to address the current staff imbalance-where over 50% of employees are Class IV-by rationalising and creating posts to improve technical capacity and overall functionality.

The reorganisation of the Lakes Conservation & Management Authority (LCMA) involves the re-designation of scientific and technical posts to align with Pollution Control Committee standards, along with rationalisation of

She informed the meeting that the proposals, which have received financial concurrence, seek to optimise human resource deployment, increase efficiency, and strengthen urban governance mechanisms in Jammu & Kashmir.

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■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Summer vacation in Jammu province district courts from June 9 to 23

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The district courts in the summer zone of Jammu province, excluding those in district Kishtwar, Doda, and specific courts in Ramban and Kathua, will observe a 15-day summer vacation from June 9 to 23, 2025.

The principal district and sessions judges, along with Chief Judicial Magistrates

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Schools in 30 border areas in Jammu region reopen

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Schools along the India-Pakistan border in Jammu reopened on Monday as normalcy has begun to return to the region.

After remaining shut for almost 12 days in the aftermath of the recent hostilities between the two countries, schools falling in 30 locations close to the Line of Control and International Border reopened in Poonch, Rajouri, Jammu, Samba

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

India-Pakistan conflict was always in conventional domain: Misri to parliamentary panel

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri told a parliamentary committee on Monday that the conflict between India and Pakistan was always in the conventional domain, and there was no nuclear signalling by the neighbouring country, PTI reported quoting sources.

The sources said Misri reiterated the government's stand that the decision to stop military actions was taken at a bilateral level, as some opposition members questioned US President Donald Trump's repeated assertions about his administration's role in stopping the conflict.

The Ministry of External Affairs, in a presentation to the Standing Committee on External Affairs which is headed by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, asserted that the initial probe into the Pahalgam terror attack revealed "communication



nodes" of terrorists with their "masterminds in Pakistan".

The ministry said Pakistan's track record as terror sanctuary is well established, rooted in solid facts and evidence, and said it blames India for the killings of some individuals on its soil despite its allegations being devoid of any facts or any evidence.

It is meant to draw a false equivalence between the two countries, the ministry said, adding that UN-designated terrorists roam freely in

Pakistan and continue to incite violence against India.

When some opposition members of the committee prodded him on the US leader's repeated attempts to take centre stage, India's top diplomat quipped that Trump did not seek his consent for doing so.

No other country, the foreign ministry in its presentation said, has "any locus standi" to comment on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, a clear

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Greater Kailash Murder case HC sets aside trial court order declining defer of cross of eye-witness

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a much publicized Greater Kailash Murder case in which nine accused including retired IPS Officer was allegedly involved, the accused have filed a petition before the High Court under Section 528 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (for short, "BNSS") read with Article 227 of the Constitution of India, for setting aside order dated April 15, 2025, passed by learned Principal Sessions Judge, Jammu, ["the trial court"] in case "UT of J&K v. Parshotam Singh and others"

under Sections 120B, 447, 427, 302, 307, 506, 147 and 201 IPC, in terms whereof, their plea for deferring cross examination of six eye-witnesses, came to be declined.

Justice Rajesh Sekhri of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court after hearing Adv Sakal Bhushan with Adv Rahul Sharma for the petitioners whereas Special PP RK Kotwal for the accused, allowed the petition and set-aside the impugned order passed by Trial Court and ordered that as a consequence, the application filed by the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

12 spies held in Punjab, Haryana, UP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH/LUCKNOW: At least 12 persons, including a YouTuber, have been nabbed on the charges of spying for Pakistan in the past two weeks from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh with investigations pointing out that they were allegedly part of a Pakistan-linked espionage network operating in north India, police said.

While six of them have been held from Punjab, four were nabbed from neighbouring Haryana.

Among those arrested, two women, including the YouTuber from Haryana, were allegedly in touch with Pakistani officer Elshan-ur-Rahim alias Danish posted at the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi. On May 13, India expelled the Pakistani official for allegedly indulging in espionage.

Police investigations so far revealed that the accused were allegedly passing on sensitive information to Pakistani Intelligence Operatives (PIOs).

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Army Chief visits Longewala, praises role of soldiers in Op Sindoor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMUR/NEW DELHI: Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Monday visited Longewala in the forward areas of Rajasthan, where he interacted with troops and congratulated them for their "exemplary role" in the success of Operation Sindoor, officials said.

He also reviewed the joint actions undertaken in coordination with the Indian Air Force and the Border Security Force, they said.

Joint actions of the Indian Army, the Indian Air Force and the Border Security



Force during Operation Sindoor not only "blunted enemy intent" but also established a "new normal" in maintaining operational dominance along the western

front, the officials said.

The western front had faced attack from Pakistan military, including waves of drone assault into Indian

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Girl killed, father injured after tree uprooted by gusty winds falls on tent

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A 10-year-old girl died while her father was injured after a tree uprooted by gusty winds fell on their tent in Shopian district, officials said on Monday.

The tree fell on the tent of a nomadic family in Keller area of the district late Sunday leading to the spot death of Shobia Riyaz, they said, adding that her father, Riyaz Ahmad was injured in the incident.

High speed winds blew across Kashmir valley on Sunday night, causing widespread damage to residential houses and other

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

J&K Bank CISO honoured at ESCON 2025 Also recognised as 'Smart CISO of India' by CIO AXIS

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a moment of pride for J&K Bank, its Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), Muneer Hassan Kongawani, has been conferred with the prestigious 'CISO of the Year' award at Enterprise Security Connect (ESCON) 2025 - South Asia's premier cybersecurity summit. Bestowed during the conference held in Goa organised by StrategINK Pvt. Ltd. from May 16-18, the honour recognizes his exemplary leadership and significant contributions to cybersecurity and information risk management across industries.



J&K Bank's CISO Muneer Hassan Kongawani receiving award.

The award was presented by the Chief Guest Amitabh Kant, who is India's G20 Sherpa and former CEO of NITI Aayog.

Just a day earlier, he was also felicitated as one of the

'Smart CISOs of India' by CIO AXIS - a platform that honours transformative leadership in IT and information security in the country. Notably, over the past

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Search ops underway in Rajouri following reports of suspicious movement



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Security forces launched a search operation following reports of suspected movement in the border belt of Rajouri district, officials said on Monday.

A search operation in the forest belt of Poonch district is also underway.

Acting on information that a woman spotted three suspected persons in Nowshera area late Sunday night, a search operation was launched in the area, they said.

The operation is being carried out by a joint team of security forces, they said.

New e-Zero FIR will help nab cyber criminals with unprecedented speed: Shah

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), which comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs, introduced the new e-Zero FIR initiative to nab cybercriminals with unprecedented speed, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday. Started as a pilot project for Delhi, the new system will automatically convert into FIRs cyber financial crimes filed on the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) and helpline number 1930, initially above the threshold limit of Rs 10 lakh, he said. The minister said the process of issuing FIRs electronically, irrespective of territorial jurisdiction, will soon be extended to the entire nation.

This initiative will enable easy restoration of money lost by victims and facilitate punitive action against cyber criminals. It leverages the provisions of the recently introduced criminal laws, an official statement said.



"The MHA's Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) introduced the new e-Zero FIR initiative to nab any criminal with unprecedented speed.

"Launched as a pilot project for Delhi, the new system will automatically convert cyber financial crimes filed at NCRP or 1930 to FIRs, initially above the threshold limit of Rs 10 lakh. The new system, which will drive investiga-

tions swiftly cracking down on cybercriminals, will soon be extended to the entire nation," Shah wrote on 'X'.

The home minister said the Modi government is bolstering the cybersecurity grid to build a cyber-secure Bharat.

The I4C was established by the MHA in New Delhi to provide a framework and ecosystem for law enforcement agencies to deal with cybercrime in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.

The I4C is envisaged to act as the nodal point to curb cybercrime in the country.

This is a significant step to achieve Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a 'Cyber Secure Bharat', the official statement said.

The home minister had given instructions for the implementation of this initiative in a recent review meeting of the I4C, keeping in view the difficulties faced by victims of cyber financial crimes in the recovery of the money lost.

The National ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Govt extends CISF's mandate to check cargo, in-line baggage till May 21

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Union government has extended an order given to the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) for temporarily supervising cargo operations and in-line hold baggage screening system at 69 civil airports of the country under its counter-terrorist cover till May 21, official sources said Monday.

The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) had issued an official direction in this context on May 9 and had directed the CISF to undertake this task till May 18.

The order has been extended till May 21, sources told PTI. A CISF spokesperson had said earlier that the order mandated

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 39.6°C Min: 23.1°C

Humidity
Max: 50 Min: 23

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 29.1°C Min: 16.2°C

Humidity
Max: 62 Min: 36

Sunset : 19:25 Hours
Sunrise : 05:29 Hours