

03 Dr Jitendra, Norway Minister Marianne hold bilateral; discuss marine resource management

05 Divisional Commissioner Jammu visits Sukrala Mata Shrine, reviews civic amenities

10 India bounces back strong in CAVA U-19 Volleyball Championship after tough opener

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Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra -2025

LG performs 'Pratham Puja' at Holy Cave



LG Manoj Sinha performing 'Pratham Puja' at Holy Cave, marking the ceremonial beginning of annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra on Wednesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GANDERBAL: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday performed the Pratham Puja at the Holy Cave, marking the ceremonial beginning of the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

The Lieutenant Governor urged all the devotees of Baba Barfani to visit in large numbers for the Holy Yatra and pray to Mahadev for progress of J&K and the nation. He said, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board and Administration have

- Urges devotees of Baba Barfani to visit in large numbers for Holy Yatra; pray to Mahadev for progress of J&K and the nation
- J&K Admin, SASB, Army, BRO, CAPFs, J&K Police, all stakeholders are working with complete devotion, dedication, collaboration and clear objectives for hassle-free, safe pilgrimage
- Foolproof security arrangements made
- Lauds invaluable contributions of people of J&K, Civil Society Groups and all service providers
- Says, I have full faith that significant improvements to essential facilities and services will ensure this year's pilgrimage is memorable and spiritually fulfilling for all devotees

improved the pilgrims facilities and Jammu Kashmir Police, Army, CRPF, CAPFs have made foolproof security arrangements.

"J&K Administration, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, Army, BRO, CAPFs, J&K Police and all stakeholders are working with complete devotion, dedication, collaboration and clear objectives for hassle-free and safe pilgrimage starting from 3rd July," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor

Sinha visits Baltal, reviews healthcare facilities

GANDERBAL: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha visited Baltal on Wednesday and reviewed the arrangements in place for medical and healthcare at the Baltal Base Camp Hospital.

The Lieutenant Governor interacted with the officials and directed them to ensure the availability of adequate numbers of doctors, paramedical staff and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government on Wednesday transferred 17 IAS and seven JKAS officers. As per an order issued by M Raju Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), Anil Kumar Singh,

Department, has been transferred and posted as Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs; Zubair Ahmad, JKAS, Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Food, Civil Supplies and

Transport Department, has been transferred and posted as Administrative Secretary, Public Grievances Department; Dr. Piyush Singla, IAS (AGMUT:2012), awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD as Secretary, Information

Anil Singh Prpl Secy Social Welfare; Saurabh Comm Secy Food, Civil Supplies; Niraj Adm Secy Public Grievances Deptt; Guralp Director SW; Baseer MD NHM: Dr Bilal DC Budgam; Akshay DC Srinagar; Haseeb Comm SMC; Rupesh VC JDA; Pankaj DC Kishtwar; Alyas Khan DC Ramban

IAS (AGMUT:1995), awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD has been posted as Principal Secretary, Social Welfare Department. He shall also hold the charge of Administrative Secretary, Mining Department, in addition to his own duties.

Saurabh Bhagat, IAS (A G M U T : 2 0 0 2), Commissioner/Secretary, Science and Technology Department, holding additional charge of the post of Administrative Secretary, Information Technology

Consumer Affairs, as Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Floriculture, Parks and Gardens; Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, IAS (AGMUT:2009), awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD, as Secretary Government, Science and Technology Department. He shall also hold the charge of Administrative Secretary, Civil Aviation Department, in addition to his own duties.

Niraj Kumar, IAS (A G M U T : 2 0 1 0), Administrative Secretary,

Technology Department; Naveen S L, IAS (AGMUT:2012), awaiting orders of adjustment in the GAD as Secretary, Transport Department; Nazim Zai Khan, IAS (AGMUT:2013), Mission Director, National Health Mission, J&K, as Mission Director, ICPS, J&K; Majid Khalil Ahmad Drabu, IAS (AGMUT:2013), Mission Director, ICPS, J&K as Commissioner of Enquires, J&K; Owais Ahmed, IAS

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Fire breaks out in Legislative Assembly in Jammu



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A fire broke out in the lobby of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly here on Wednesday, causing minor damage to furniture and some old photographs, an

official said. The fire was reported at 9.34 am and was controlled within a few minutes, the official said.

An official of the Fire and Emergency Services

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

36 centres set up to facilitate Amarnath pilgrims in Kathua

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Over three dozen lodgement centres and six Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) registration counters have been established in the Kathua district to facilitate pilgrims intending to join the annual Amarnath Yatra, an official said.

Lakhanpur, the gateway to Jammu and Kashmir bordering Punjab, is being decked up to receive the pilgrims from across the country during the yatra, the official said.

The 38-day-long yatra is scheduled to start from the twin routes -the traditional 48-kilometre Pahalgam in Anantnag district and the 14-kilometre shorter but steeper Baltal route in Ganderbal district - on July 3.

"Our aim is to transform Lakhanpur into a multi-facility hub. We have

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 44.4°C Min: 29.9°C

Humidity
Max: 37 Min: 20

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 33.9°C Min: 17.6°C

Humidity
Max: 60 Min: 31

Sunset : 19:38 Hours
Sunrise : 05:22 Hours

Modi unfurls new era of speed, development in J&K: Chugh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: BJP National General Secretary and Incharge for Jammu & Kashmir, Tarun Chugh, on Wednesday said that the overwhelming participation of pilgrims over the years in the Amarnath Yatra stands as a powerful rebuttal to Pakistan's malicious agenda and a reaffirmation of Kashmir's unshakable bond with the rest of India.

In a statement, Chugh said, "The Amarnath Yatra is not merely a pilgrimage - it is a living symbol of India's cultural unity and spiritual strength. The growing num-



ber of devotees each year is a befitting reply to Pakistan and its ecosystem of terror and separatism. Their repeated attempts to sow dis-

cord in Jammu and Kashmir have failed and will continue to fail."

He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decisive

and transformative policies for the positive shift in the region's atmosphere. "Today, Kashmir is breathing peace. Development is taking root, and the people are moving forward with hope. The presence of lakhs of pilgrims reflects a new era - one of security, stability, and national integration," Chugh said.

He further added, "This is a message to the entire world: Jammu and Kashmir is an inseparable part of India - culturally, constitutionally, and emotionally."

The BJP urged

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Man charred to death fighting forest fire

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI/JAMMU: A 68-year-old man was burnt to death while trying to control a forest fire in Rajouri district, officials said on Wednesday.

Abdul Aziz, a retired government teacher hailing from Panda Khetar village of Dalvota panchayat, voluntarily joined a team of forest officials to extinguish fire in Garn forest in Kalakote subdivision on Tuesday, the officials said.

While the forest fire was controlled to a large extent by late evening, Aziz went deep to oversee the situation when he found

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Searches underway after villagers report suspicious movement in Samba

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Security forces on Wednesday launched a search operation along Dhar road in Samba district after villagers reported movement of two suspected terrorists, officials said.

The operation is underway but so far there was no trace of the suspected persons who are said to be wearing combat uniforms, the officials said.

They said some villagers reportedly noticed the suspected persons near a school in the vicinity of Nud village during the



intervening night and accordingly informed the police.

The whole area was immediately cordoned off

by joint parties of police and army and a search operation was launched in the early hours of the day, the officials said.

Judicial activism shouldn't turn into judicial terrorism: CJI

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India B R Gavai has emphasised that judicial activism is bound to stay but cautioned that it should not

be turned into judicial terrorism. So, at times, you try to exceed the limits and try to enter into an area where, normally, the judiciary should not enter," Gavai said

in response to a question from a legal news portal.

Gavai described the Constitution as a "quiet revolution etched in ink" and a transformative force that not only guarantees rights but actively uplifts the historically oppressed.

Speaking at the Oxford Union in London on

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Court frames charges in Jammu youth murder case linked to online gambling

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Court of the 2nd Additional Sessions Judge, Jammu, presided by Judge Amit Sharma has ordered the framing of charges under Sections 103, 238, and 49 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) against two accused, Pardeep Singh and Rajinder Singh, in connection with the murder of a 21-year-old youth, Sandeep Singh.

The case, registered under FIR 117/2024 at Police Station Pacca Danga, has drawn significant public attention due to its links with online gambling.

According to the charge sheet, Sandeep Singh was reported missing on September 29, 2024, by his mother Naina Devi. Later, his father Sukhdev Singh alleged that Sandeep had been kidnapped and possibly murdered by Pardeep Singh and unknown accomplices.

The investigation revealed that Pardeep Singh had lost Rs 1.30 lakh while playing an online game called "Aviator." To recover his losses, he had borrowed the amount from the victim, Sandeep Singh. When Sandeep demanded repayment, Pardeep allegedly conspired with Rajinder

Singh to eliminate him.

On September 27, 2024, Pardeep Singh lured Sandeep Singh to Jammu under the pretext of repaying the borrowed amount. The two then traveled together towards Reasi and proceeded on foot to a secluded area near AC Morh, Talwara. There, Pardeep allegedly pushed Sandeep into the Chenab River. The body was recovered days later, with a postmortem indicating death due to cardiopulmonary arrest following drowning.

Investigators seized CCTV footage, recorded

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Addresses Travel Agents Association of India

Omar reiterates government's commitment to enhance visitors' experience

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Wednesday that his government is working to improve the experience of tourists coming to J&K, maintaining that tourists who come to Kashmir should want to return.

He stated this during his speech at the Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) event 'Rally for the Valley'-Let's go to Jammu and Kashmir-a tourism revival initiative in J&K. The event was organised by TAAI's J&K chapter.

"Tourists have a journey or an experience. That they go home and tell others about it. I think there are lessons we've all learned over the past few months," the Chief Minister said in his speech at the event.

The Chief Minister reiterated that



CM Omar Abdullah addressing members of Travel Agents Association of India in Srinagar on Wednesday.

the J&K government is using this time to improve infrastructure and overall visitor experience.

"I have already given instructions to the cable car corporation to upgrade the gondola in Gulmarg, so that capacity is increased, ticketing is improved, and the overall experience is enhanced. The same applies else-

where in J&K," he said.

He extended his gratitude to the TAAI delegation and its President Sunil Kumar for visiting Kashmir.

"At this moment, I would like to extend my thanks to the President of the TAAI delegation, Sunil Kumar, and all of you who have come from outside J&K for your trust and confi-

dence in us. It is often said: you truly know who your friends are in difficult times. Everyone wants to be your friend in good times," the Chief Minister said, who is also the in-charge Tourism Minister.

He said that for the tourism fraternity in Jammu and Kashmir, the TAAI delegation's visit under such circumstances is a true reminder of TAAI's commitment to J&K and the friendship and relationship shared with the region.

"Let me express deep gratitude, not just from my side or from the government's side, but on behalf of everyone connected with tourism in Kashmir-thank you for being here and for giving us this boost," he said.

Talking about the Baisaran terror attack

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9