THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K



Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh J&K Muay Thai athletes shine at National Championship

Website : www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com CM calls for joint efforts to restore, revive J&K tourism

Highlights adventure tourism, infrastructure boost, new destinations



RNI No. : 66908/96

Dr Jitendra convenes meeting of Northeast

U U Technology Institutes, emphasises enabling ecosystem

Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/2025-27

CM Omar Abdullah interacting with delegation of the Indian Association of Tour Operators at Srinagar on Tuesday

STATE TIMES NEWS

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way Near Thandi Khui, Jamm

Contact : 9086035550, 9086035551

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday held an interactive session with a visiting delegation of the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) and acknowledged their continued interest and efforts in promoting Jammu and Kashmir as a premier tourist destination.

The interaction was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Secretary Commissioner

Tourism Yasha Director Tourism Kashmir Yaqoob Raja IATO President Gosain, senior officials, key tourism stakeholders and IATO office bearers. "We are very grateful to

organizing this visit, because trust works both ways. Your presence assures us that we are on the right path," the Chief Minister said while addressing the gathering.

Mudgal, dent earlier this year, the Farooq, Ravi IATO for coming here and

Chief Minister said, "To call it unfortunate would be an understatement. It impacted not just 26 families directly but affected the confidence of many more. Just when the season had begun to look promising, the downturn by mid-June was quite telling. Highlighting the resilience of the tourism sector, Omar

> Abdullah expressed optimism about the revival. "Since the 2022 season, we've seen a surge in tourist vehicles. It

was encouraging to see Srinagar bustling with activity, taxis with luggage on rooftops heading to Pahalgam, Gulmarg, and bevond."

He stressed that the goal is not to have tourists visit Kashmir just once. "We want them to return again and again. That's why your feedback is essential-for improving the experience, enhancing infrastructure and expanding the adventure tourism potential."

Touching on the progress of developing nine new destinations, the Chief Minister said the government is working closely with the Government of India to develop and operationalize them. "Destinations across both Jammu and Kashmir hold immense tourism potential, and both regions will be equally promoted."

On infrastructure and CONTD ON PAGE 9

in J&K reopened STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: Several parks

Parks at tourist destinations

PM Modi meets presidents of South Korea,

Mexico on sidelines of G7 Summit

in Jammu and Kashmir's tourist places, including some in Pahalgam, that were closed in the aftermath of the April 22 terror attack were reopened on Tuesday, officials said.

The reopening of the parks has been welcomed by the tourists and local visitors alike who thronged the parks at several places.

CONTD ON PAGE 9

MHA to handle 'progression' of ex-Agniveers

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Union Home Ministry has been tasked to "coordinate activities for further progression" of ex-Agniveers after their term with the armed forces ends, according to a government notification.

government had The amended the Allocation of Business Rules, 1961, by inserting a new point in the second schedule under the Department of States of CONTD ON PAGE 9

Union Home Secy reviews security arrangements for Shri Amarnathji Yatra

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan on Tuesday reviewed the security arrangements for the upcoming Amarnath yatra, officials said.

Intelligence Bureau Director Tapan Kumar Deka was also present in the meeting which was attended by top officers of Army, BSF, CRPF, police and other security agencies, the officials said.

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

The first batch of pilgrims will leave for Kashmir from Bhagwati Nagar camp on July 2 and reach the twin base camps at Nuwan on Pahalgam route and Baltal on Sonamarg route same evening.

3, various security arrange-

During the meeting, the August 10. Union Home Secretary was briefed about various security measures -- including use of facial recognition system, CCTV surveillance and use of radio frequency identification (RFID) tags for the pilgrims -- taken to ensure peaceful and incident-free

pilgrimage, the officials said. The meeting was also informed about declaration of the entire Amarnath yatra route a no fly zone, which bars operating any UAVs, drones or balloons over the twin routes from July 1 to

Mohan was also informed about the multi-laver security blanket thrown all along the yatra route and various base camps en route the holy cave shrine, the officials said. The Union home secretary directed the officers to maintain high level of alertness to keep inimical elements at bay and ensure coordination between various sister agencies for smooth passage of the vatra.

The security around the annual Amarnath yatra CONTD ON PAGE 9

Khan Patwari is leading a

ACB registers FIR against Patwari in disproportionate assets case

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday booked a revenue officer in a case of possessing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

"A discreet verification was conducted by ACB into the allegations of accumulation of disproportionate assets raised by one Ayoub Khan, son of Gulsheer Khan, resident of Doniwari Lolab, Patwari in Revenue Department on receipt of a complaint," an ACB official said.

"It was alleged in the complaint that Mohd Ayoub

grandiose lifestyle besides being the owner of large number of orchards and agricultural land, houses at Bemina, Srinagar/Doniwari Lolab, District Kupwara and possessing number of cars and has spent hefty amount on admission of his wards in professional colleges as donations etc," the official added. The discreet verification conducted revealed that during the Check period, suspect Patwari has incurred huge expenditures & accumulated/raised various assets. which were prima facie dis-

proportionate to his

CONTD ON PAGE 9

Referring to the tragic inci-LA Committee on Public Undertakings holds introductory cum-review meeting

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR:

The the importance of proactive Public Committee on participation from all mem-Undertakings of the Jammu bers and officials in strengthand Kashmir Legislative ening the operations and efficiency of Public Sector Assembly on Tuesday con-Undertakings (PSUs). vened an introductory-cumreview meeting at the He highlighted the urgent Complex, need to take concrete steps Assembly

Srinagar. The meeting was presided Committee by over Chairman, Ali Mohammad Sagar and attended by

the members including Ali Mohammad Dar, Baldev Raj Sharma, Mir Mohammad Favaz, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Showkat Hussain Ganai, Said-U- Din Bhat and Tanvir Sadiq.

departments to submit the status of public undertakings along with audit reports to enable informed CONTD ON PAGE 9

Amarnath Yatra routes declared 'No Flying Zone' STATE TIMES NEWS The Chairman emphasised

NATE

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday declared the Amarnath yatra routes as 'No Flying Zone' as part of beefed up security measures for the annual pilgrimage. The Amarnath yatra has

two routes - the traditional Pahalgam route and the shorter Baltal route.

The declaration issued by Jammu and Kashmir Home Department on the orders of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said flying of any kind of aviation platforms and devices, including UAVs, drones, balloons, is prohibited from July 1 to August 10. However, the restrictions

will not be applicable in the subsequently. cases of medical evacuation. disaster management and for surveillance by security forces. A detailed SOP for

ments are being undertaken for smooth and peaceful conduct of the yatra. "All stakeholders have discussed the prevailing security scenario in the UT of Jammu

and Kashmir and have proposed additional logistics provisions," the order said. It said the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has also advised that the entire route of Shri Amarnathji Yatra may be declared as 'No

Flying Zone' from July 1 to August 10. such exceptions will be issued "Therefore, with a view to ensure strengthened security The order said in view of during the Shri Amarnathji the Shri Amarnathji Yatra, Yatra, 2025, all the which is scheduled from July

CONTD ON PAGE 9

J&K on June 18-19, to meet Omar **STATE TIMES NEWS**

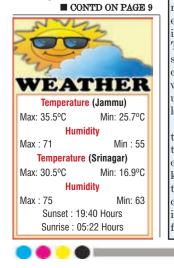
NEW DELHI: Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat will pay a two-day official visit to Jammu and Kashmir beginning Wednesday, during which he is scheduled to meet Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, official sources said.

Shekhawat is also scheduled to visit many ancient temples located in the Union Territory such as Kheer Bhawani Temple, Martand Surva Temple, as well as Pahalgam and Betaab Valley in Anantnag district, they said

His official visit comes nearly two months after the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22.

A day after the terror attack, Shekhawat had said that he and his office were in "continuous touch" with the Chief Secretary and the Tourism Secretary of the UT and keeping an eye on the situation.

He had asserted that his ministry would do the



Shekhawat to visit US knows where Khamenei is hiding, urges Iran's unconditional surrender: Trump

STATE TIMES NEWS

for revival of loss-making

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said Tuesday the US knows where Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is hiding during the Israel-Iran conflict but doesn't want him killed "for now.

Trump urged, in a social posting, media Iran's "UNCONDITIONAL SUR-RENDER" as the five-day conflict continues to escalate. "We know exactly where the

so-called Supreme Leader' is hiding," Trump added. "He is an easy target, but is safe there - We are not going to take him out (kill!), at least



not for now. But we don't want missiles shot at civilians, or American soldiers. Our patience is wearing thin.

Trump's increasingly muscular comments towards Tehran come after urging Tehran's 9.5 million residents to flee for their lives as

he cut short his visit to an international summit to return to Washington for urgent talks with his national security team.

Trump arrived at the White House early Tuesday at a moment of choosing in his presidency. Israel, with five days of missile strikes, has done considerable damage to Iran and believes it can now deal a permanent blow to Tehran's nuclear programme - particularly if it gets a little more help from the Republican president.

But deepening American involvement, perhaps by CONTD ON PAGE 9

Four inter-state drug peddlers held with contraband substance **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Four inter-state drug peddlers including a juvenile were arrested along with narcotic substances in three districts of the Jammu region on Tuesday, police said.

The raids took place in Samba, Kathua and Udhampur districts.

Amarish Kumar, a resident Piparpanti Koila Khagaria in Bihar, was nabbed after 1.6 kg of ganja was recovered from his possession in the Ramgarh area of Samba this morning, a police spokesman said. He said Kumar was residing CONTD ON PAGE 9

Troubles at Air India continue: Seven intl flights cancelled; DGCA raises concern over maintenance

STATE TIMES NEWS

MUMBAI/KOLKATA: Troubles mounted for Air India as the beleaguered airline cancelled seven more international flights on Tuesday, bringing the total number of cancellations to 83 since the devastating Ahmedabad crash, which has led to the aviation safety watchdog raising concerns about its maintenance prac-

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) asked Air India for the training records of the pilots and dispatchers of the June 12 flight AI171 from



Ahmedabad to London that crashed seconds after take off. The death of over 270 onboard the Boeing 787 Dreamliner and on the ground spawned the biggest crisis for the airline since the Tata Group bought it threeand-a-half years ago.

While Air India cancelled the six flights due to DGCA's checks, a San Francisco-Kolkata-Mumbai flight had to be terminated at Kolkata because of a problem in the engine of the Boeing 777-200 jetliner. Its Ahmedabad-CONTD ON PAGE 9

What attracts J&K students to pursue MBBS in Iran, Pakistan, Bangladesh?

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir leaders are deeply concerned over the escalating crisis in Iran-and with good reason. Hundreds of students, the majority of **DOST KHAN** them enrolled in medical programs, are currently awaiting vacuation from Tehran, which is now facing the threat of targeted military action. The anxiety is reminiscent of the recent situation in Bangladesh during the political upheaval and anti-Hindu violence. when scores of J&K students had to be urgently evacuated to safety. Pakistan, less said about the rogue nation the better. Question arises about the recurring pattern of young students from this part of

the country opting to study medicine in countries that, more often than not, are known not for academic excellence, but for their troubling associations with ideological radicalization. Over the years, a growing trend among Indian students opting for MBBS courses in the Islamic

Republics of Pakistan, Iran and Bangladesh has raised serious concerns. Is this shift driven solely by the lure of a cheaper medical degree, or is there a deeper, more concerning undertone of "educational jihad"? Regardless of the reason, both possibilities carry significant risks for India-be it the influx of under-qualified doctors or the danger of ideological indoctrination.

The increasing migration of Indian students to these neighboring countries for medical education prompts serious questions-not just about educational quality, but also about national security and ideological influence

So, why are Indian students looking to Pakistan, Iran and Bangladesh for their MBBS dreams? It's certainly not due to superior infrastructure or academic excellence. India proudly hosts globally recognized institutions like AIIMS and PGIMER, whose standards remain unmatched across South Asia. The real catalyst lies in the fierce competition and exorbitant fees of private medical colleges in India. Many students, especially from

economically weaker backgrounds, or those who do not get admission in any medical college across the country, are left with limited options. While a private MBBS degree in India can cost upwards of Rs 1 crore, a full medical course in Bangladesh is available for around Rs 25 lakh-with living costs substantially lower. Pakistan offers these degrees on lower costs.

For some students from India's border states or specific religious communities, cultural proximity or family ties with Bangladesh may further ease the decision to study there. As per available estimates, between 7,000 to 8,500 Indian students are currently enrolled in Bangladeshi medical colleges, with around 1,250 joining each year. Degrees from Bangladesh are recognized by India's National Medical Commission (NMC), which permits graduates to practice in India after passing the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE). In contrast, while education in Pakistan is cheaper, the medical degrees from there are not recognized by the NMC, making it nearly impossible for such graduates to legally practice in India.

However, the affordability comes with its own price. Recent violence against Hindus in Bangladesh underscores the volatile undercurrents that non-Muslim Indian students might face. The political unrest, particularly the mass protests in Dhaka that culminated in the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, has left Indian students and families deeply unsettled.

Similar concerns persist in Pakistan, where the presence of extremist elements and terror camps poses a graver risk-not just to safety, but to the ideological purity of education itself. The rogue state's agenda of nurturing jihadist sentiments under the banner of "Ghazwa-e-Hind" casts a dark shadow over its academic institutions.

If the academic environment in secular and democratic India can become turbulent over issues like the hijab in schools and colleges, how can one expect the campuses of Pakistan and Bangladesh to remain unaffected by religious diktats? In such an environment, how prepared are Indian non-Muslim students-especially girls-to cope with the cultural and religious pressures in institutions steeped in a conservative ethos? The recent history of Afghanistan under Taliban rule is a grim reminder of what happens when radica ideologies take hold of the education sys tem. Bangladesh and Pakistan continue to harbour ideological undercurrents that could influence not only female students lifestyles but also affect male students through the possible blending of Madrasa linked philosophies into mainstream academics

Despite all these risks and vulnerabili ties, the surge in students pursuing medical education in these countries reflects : broader social obsession-where parents push their children into medicine and engineering at any cost. Unfortunately, in chasing these dreams through shortcuts many ignore the broader consequences substandard education, cultural alienation, and the potential risk of radicaliza tion. While individuals may bear the cost of this decision financially or psychologically, it is the nation that ultimately pays the price if it ends up with doctors who are either unqualified or ideologically compromised.