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# STATE TIMES

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**SOWING SKILLS**

**SHAPING INDIA**

**03** Dr Jitendra announces gratuity benefits even for employees under 'Unified Pension Scheme'

**03** Mizoram creates history by inking Bhashini MoU with GoI to bridge linguistic gaps

**10** Poonch Open Volleyball tourney begins

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

## Modi calls out Trump's narrative on India-Pak conflict; says will never accept mediation

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KANANASKIS (CANADA): Prime Minister Narendra Modi has told President Donald Trump that India and Pakistan halted their military actions last month following direct talks between their militaries without any mediation by the US, calling out the American leader's narrative that he brokered the ceasefire.

In a nearly 35-minute phone call with Trump on Tuesday, Modi firmly stated that India does not and will "never accept" mediation and that the discussions between Indian and Pakistani militaries on cessation of military actions were initiated at Islamabad's request, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said. PM Modi also said that India no longer views "terrorism as a proxy war, but as a war itself", and that India's Operation Sindoor is still ongoing, the foreign secretary said.

The cessation of hostilities between India and Pakistan was first announced by



**"Don't turn blind eye towards challenge of terrorism"**

KANANASKIS (CANADA): India's neighbourhood has become a breeding ground for terrorism and turning a blind eye towards the challenge would be a "betrayal of humanity", Prime Minister Narendra Modi told G7 leaders, seeking action against Pakistan for its support to cross-border terrorist activities.

In an address at a G7 outreach session here, Modi said the April 22 Pahalgam attack was a direct attack on the "soul, identity, and dignity" of every Indian, adding any country that supports terrorism must be held

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President Trump on May 10. Since then, the US president

has been claiming that he brokered the ceasefire deal

## HED invites applications for need based academic arrangement positions in Degree Colleges

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Department of Higher Education has invited online applications for need based engagement of Lecturers, Teaching Assistants, PTIs and Librarians on academic arrangement basis in Degree Colleges of J&K for 2025-26 academic session.

The engagement shall be made strictly according to Government order number 137-JK(HE) of 2024, dated March 1, 2024.

The link for online submission of applications

shall open on June 25, 2025, at 10 am and close on July 10, 2025, at 5 pm via the official online portal: <https://jkaa.director-collegesjk.in>.

The candidates can apply for positions in Jammu and Kashmir divisions or both and no physical applications will be accepted.

The applicants are advised to review the Detailed Advertisement Notice, Terms and Conditions and the detailed Application manual available on the portal before applying.

## CM chairs high-level meeting to finalize Muharram arrangements

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting at the Civil Secretariat to review and finalize arrangements for the upcoming holy month of Muharram.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary; Ministers Sakeena Itoo, Javed Ahmed Rana, Javed Ahmad Dar, and Satish Sharma; Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani; Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta; administrative secre-



CM Omar Abdullah chairing a meeting at Srinagar.

taries; the Inspector General of Police Kashmir; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Budgam, Baramulla and Jammu; Members of the Legislative

## CRPF conducts sanitisation operation around Jammu base camp of Amarnath Yatra

Police asked to set up additional checkpoints in Jammu region



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The CRPF on Wednesday carried out an anti-sabotage and sanitisation operation in and around the Bhagwati Nagar Amarnath Yatra base camp here to ensure the safety and security of pilgrims, officials said.

Assisted by sniffer dogs, metal detectors and surveillance equipment, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) units conducted an extensive sanitisation exercise in the parking area and on the roads leading to the base camp, the officials said.

The sanitisation was also carried out on the banks of River Tawi adjacent to the base camp and in various other buildings, they said.

The security wing of the Jammu and Kashmir Police has taken charge of the Bhagwati Nagar base camp for the annual Amarnath Yatra, while the CRPF is managing the security around the base camp.

The Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu serves as the primary base camp for pilgrims from across the country before they proceed to the 3,880-metre holy cave

## GoC reviews security in Valley ahead of Yatra

SRINAGAR: The General Officer Commanding of Army's Chinar Corps Lieutenant General Prashant Shrivastava on Wednesday reviewed the security and operational preparedness of soldiers in Kashmir Valley.

"Chinar Corps Commander reviewed the security apparatus and operational preparedness in North and South Kashmir, emphasising upon the necessity of persistent vigilance," the Srinagar-based strategic corps posted on its official X handle.

It said the corps commander commended the troops and hailed their dedication, underscoring that vigilance, agility and readiness are mission-critical.

"He reinvigorated the Chinar Corps' resolve of enduring spirit and to prevail against all adversity for a peaceful and harmonious Kashmir," the corps said in the post.

The security review comes two weeks ahead of the start of annual Amarnath Yatra to the holy cave shrine in South Kashmir Himalayas.

shrine of Amarnath in the majestic Himalayas of south Kashmir.

CRPF Director General (DG) Gyanendra Pratap Singh and Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat

visited the Bhagwati Nagar base camp and chaired high-level security review meetings ahead of the annual

Amarnath Yatra.

Meanwhile, police have been asked to identify locations to set up more checkpoints in the border districts of Jammu, Samba, and Kathua for the security of pilgrims.

Jammu-Samba-Kathua (JSK) Range Shiv Kumar Sharma, reviewed

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## Dr Sunil Gupta appointed DIG, BPR&D

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr Sunil Gupta, a 2007 batch IPS officer of the AGMUT cadre, has been appointed as Deputy Director/Deputy Inspector General (DIG) in the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) on deputation basis.

"The appointment of Dr. Sunil Gupta, IPS(AGMUT:2007) as Deputy Director/Deputy Inspector General (Level-13A in Pay Matrix) in Bureau of Police Research and Development(BPR&D) has been made against existing vacancy as per usual terms and conditions of deputation," read an order issued by Sanjeev Kumar, Under Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs.

Dr. Gupta, who has previously served as Incharge IGP Crime and DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range, has been asked to take up his new assignment immediately, and his parent cadre has been requested to relieve him at the earliest.

## Govt to roll out Rs 3,000 FASTag annual pass for private cars from Aug 15

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: In a bid to ease toll payments on National Highways, the government will from August 15 bring a Rs 3,000 FASTag-based annual pass that would allow up to 200 trips on the highways in one year on a single charge.

The annual pass will be applicable only for non-commercial private vehicles such as cars, jeeps, and vans. It will allow seamless travel across National Highways without the need for repeated recharging of FASTag cards or toll payments, Road Transport and Highways

Minister Nitin Gadkari said, announcing the move through a post on X.

In closed tolling highways such as Delhi-Mumbai Expressway - where toll collection occurs exclusively at exit points - a single trip includes both entry and exit points. On the other hand, on open tolling routes like Delhi-Chandigarh, each toll plaza crossing would constitute a separate trip.

The pass can be recharged multiple times once the 200-trip limit in a year is crossed. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) clarified that

those who already have a FASTag will not need to purchase a new FASTag.

"The annual pass can be activated on your existing FASTag, provided it meets the eligibility criteria (i.e., it is properly affixed on the vehicle's windshield, linked to a valid Vehicle Registration Number; not blacklisted etc)," it said.

The annual pass will be valid only at National Highway (NH) and National Expressway (NE) fee plazas. At fee plazas on Expressways, State Highways (SH), etc.,

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## India, Canada agree to post envoys

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI/KANANASKIS (CANADA): Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney have agreed to pursue "constructive" steps to restore stability in India-Canada ties including the early return of envoys to each other's capitals, signalling their intent to repair the strained relations.

Modi and Carney held bilateral talks on Tuesday on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Kananaskis focusing on resetting the bilateral ties that plummeted to an all-time low following a

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## Chugh salutes PM for big diplomatic step forward to help Punjabis in Canada

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Wednesday said that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's diplomatic stature and global credibility have reached new heights.

Chugh lauded the initiative taken by the Prime Minister to restore diplomatic ties with Canada keeping in view the wider interest of the nation.

The normalization of diplomatic relations with Canada - done without compromising India's sovereignty - is a tes-



tament to how India now conducts foreign policy with self-respect and assertiveness.

Highlighting the bilateral meeting between PM Modi and Canadian PM Mark

Carney, Chugh said both leaders reaffirmed their shared commitment to democracy, rule of law, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. More importantly, both nations agreed to resume cooperation on law enforcement and counter-terrorism - a direct validation of India's zero-tolerance policy against terrorism.

Chugh welcomed this as a major relief for the Punjabi community living in Canada. He said that for lakhs of Punjabi families with relatives studying, working, or residing in Canada, this

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## Now voter I-cards to be delivered within 15 days: EC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Election Commission on Wednesday said it has introduced a new procedure to ensure the delivery of voter identity cards to electors within 15 days of an update in the electoral rolls, including new enrolment or change in any particulars of an existing voter.

As of now, it takes a little over a month for the Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC) to be delivered to voters, officials pointed out.

The new system will ensure real-time tracking of each stage right from the EPIC generation by the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) till the delivery of the

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## Iran's leader rejects call to surrender

■ AGENCY

DUBAI: Iran's supreme leader on Wednesday rejected US calls for surrender in the face of blistering Israeli strikes and warned that any military involvement by the Americans would cause "irreparable damage" to them, in recorded video aired by state TV.

It was the second public appearance by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei since the strikes began, and came a day after US President Donald Trump demanded "UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER" in a social media post and warned Khamenei that the US knows where he is but has no plans to kill him, "at least not for now".

Trump initially distanced himself from Israel's surprise

attack on Friday that triggered the conflict, but in recent days has hinted at greater American involvement, saying he wants something "much bigger" than a ceasefire. The US has also sent more military aircraft and warships to the region.

The Iranian nation is not one to surrender. Khamenei dismissed the "threatening and absurd statements" by Trump.

"Wise individuals who know Iran, its people, and its history never speak to this nation with the language of threats, because the Iranian nation is not one to surrender," he said. "Americans should know that any military involvement by the US will undoubtedly result in irreparable damage to them."



A state TV anchor had read Khamenei's statement earlier, before the video was aired. Iran followed a similar sequence in releasing an earlier statement from the supreme leader, perhaps as a security measure. His location is not known.

His voice echoed as he sat

in a room with beige curtains. An Iranian flag and a portrait of Grand Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who Khamenei succeeded in 1989, hung behind him.

An Iranian official had earlier Wednesday warned that US intervention would risk "all-out war".

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei did not elaborate, but thousands of American troops are based in nearby countries within range of Iran's weapons. The US has threatened a massive response to any attack.

Another Iranian official said the country would keep enriching uranium for peaceful purposes, apparently ruling out Trump's

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## Committee on Estimates to examine fund utilization

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Committee on Estimates on Wednesday resolved to conduct a comprehensive review of fund utilization in Jammu and Kashmir.

The decision was taken during an introductory-cum-review meeting conducted by the Committee at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar.

The meeting was presided over by Chairperson of the Committee, Shamim Firdous and attended by members including Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Abdul Majid Bhat (Larmi), Pawan Kumar Gupta, Chander Prakash Ganga, Pyare Lal Sharma and Arjun Singh Raju.

Secretary, Legislative

Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandita welcomed the participants and deliberated regarding functions on the Committee.

Also present were Director General, Accounts and Treasuries, Fayaz A Lone, Director General, Budget MS Malik and officers from the concerned departments.

The Chairperson emphasized that the Committee would examine whether the funds allocated for various developmental projects as per budgetary provisions have been properly utilized.

She stated that the Committee will also recommend effective and alternative policy measures to enhance the

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**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 37.6°C Min: 25.3°C

Humidity  
Max: 65 Min: 48

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 32.5°C Min: 16.3°C

Humidity  
Max: 66 Min: 38

Sunset : 19:40 Hours  
Sunrise : 05:22 Hours