

Vol. 30 Issue 169 • Jammu • Friday • June 20, 2025 • Pages 10+2=12 • ₹ 5.00

Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh **Terrorist OGW detected in face** 

recognition system, nabbed

'Operation Sindoor' testimony to scientific **U** advancement gained in last 11 years: Dr Jitendra

# Manjit Club to face Poonch Club in Volleyball final

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

# Shekhawat visits Pahalgam attack site; hails people's strength, resolve

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

# Interacts with CM Omar Abdullah

#### **STATE TIMES NEWS**

ANANTNAG: Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat visited the Pahalgam terror attack site on Thursday and said the strength of the people and the "quiet resolve" to not let fear define them represent the "real soul of Kashmir".

Shekhawat, who also visited the ancient Martand sun temple at Mattan in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, promised topmost security for Amarnath Yatra pilgrims.

On the second day of his official trip, Shekhawat visited the verdant tourist site at Pahalgam in Anantnag district and interacted with locals and tourists.

"A heavy heart but one filled with hope in Pahalgam this noon. Visited the site of the dastardly terror attack and interacted with locals and tourists who have brought the region back to its lively spirit and everyday rhythm," the Union minister said in a post on X.



Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat at Pahalgam on Thursday.

He asserted that the "strength of the people, their unwavering hospitality, and the quiet resolve to not let fear define them. This is the real soul of Kashmir. #IncredibleIndia", and also shared a video clip of his interaction with a group of

Shekhawat offered prayers at the Mata Kheer Bhawani shrine in Tulamulla and Naranag temple complex in central Kashmir's Ganderbal on Wednesday.

On Thursday, after visiting the Martand Sun Temple, the minister appealed to pilgrims to preserve the environment and natural beauty of the

"People should come for the Amarnath Yatra. The Amarnath Yatra is safe, the government of India and the

state government are committed, and you will not get even a scratch," Shekhawat told PTI Videos after visiting the temple.

The annual Amarnath Yatra is scheduled to be held from July 3 to August 9.

Shekhawat asserted that Kashmir is safe, adding that tourists should visit the valley not only to enjoy its natural beauty, but also for its rich cultural heritage.

"I appeal to the 140 crore people of India to try to get to know about Kashmir's heritage and its historical grandeur and divinity, along with its natural beauty as well," he said.

To a question on the preservation of famous historical monuments in the valley, the Union minister said some restoration work has been carried out, but there is a need to do more.

"Those monuments that comeunderArchaeological Survey

## **ADCs named Nodal Officers** for Kashmiri Migrant property complaints STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government Thursday designated Additional (ADCs) Commissioners posted at district headquarters across the Kashmir Division as nodal officers for handling complaints related to Kashmiri migrants.

"It is ordered that Additional Deputy Commissioner(s)

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### Safiya Abdullah promoted to Time Scale of JKAS ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Thursday promoted Safiya Abdullah, Junior Scale JKAS officer of 2012-11 batch, to the Time Scale of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service.

"Sanction is accorded to the promotion of Safiya Abdullah, Junior Scale JKAS officer of 2012-11 batch, to the Time Scale of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service in level 11 (67700-208700), with effect

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

# Satisfied with steps taken for comfortable Shri Amarnathji Yatra: Omar

Reviews essential services, supplies in Jammu Div



CM Omar Abdullah chairing a meeting in Jammu on Thursday.

#### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday reviewed the delivery of essential services and supplies, and expressed satisfaction with steps taken by the administration for a comfortable annual Amarnath Yatra beginning July 3.

The 38-day-long Yatra is scheduled to start from the twin routes - the traditional 48-kilometre Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the 14-kilometre shorter but steeper Baltal route in Ganderbal district - to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave

shrine of Amarnath. The first batch of pilgrims will leave for Kashmir from Bhagwati Nagar a day before the start of the Yatra.

"I reviewed the situation concerning hot weather conditions in Jammu. All officers, including the divisional commissioner, were present. I asked about the arrangements for Muharram and the Amarnath Yatra. I am satisfied with the steps taken in this direction," Abdullah told reporters in Samba.

He said, "Now we are waiting for pilgrims so that their Yatra is comfortable."

Commissioner Ramesh Kumar apprised the Chief Minister about the routes decided for Muharram along with other elaborate arrangements pertaining to power, water supply, health and other essential services for the people participating in Muharram processions

across the division He also apprised the Chief Minister on the ongoing preparations for Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025 with detailed arrangements right from Lakhanpur- the gateway to Jammu Kashmir- to

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

# India's first-ever hydrogen-powered buses to begin plying in Leh

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH/JAMMU: Five hydrogen fuel cell-based buses will soon begin to commercially ply in Leh district of the Union Territory of Ladakh, which has the highest motorable roads in the world.

The buses were formally handed over by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited to the State Industrial Development Corporation in a ceremony held at the green hydrogen mobility station in Palam. Leh, on Thursday.

The initiative marks the first-ever commercial deployment of hydrogen-powered buses in India. The deploy-

**Srinagar witnesses** 

hottest June day in 20

vears at 35.2 deg C

SRINAGAR: The heatwave

gripping Kashmir is on a

record-breaking spree, as

several parts of the Valley,

including Srinagar, on

Thursday witnessed the

hottest June day in 20 years,

According to the India

Meteorological Department

(IMD). Srinagar recorded a

maximum temperature of

35.2 degrees Celsius, the

hottest in June in 20 years,

and seven notches above the

The hottest June tempera-

ture in Srinagar was record-

ed on June 25, 2005, when

the mercury soared to 36.5

Qazigund, the gateway

town to Kashmir in Kulgam

district, recorded the hottest

day in 37 years, as the mer-

cury rose to 34.7 degrees

Celsius, IMD data showed.

On June 26, 1988, Qazigund

recorded a high of 35.7

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

officials said.

seasonal average.

degrees Celsius

degrees Celsius.

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

#### ment of these buses running on clean energy on the highest motorable roads in the world makes it a globally significant milestone towards

Following the formal flagoff of the hydrogen buses, Transport Department Administrative Secretary Bhupesh Chaudhary conducted a detailed inspection of the NTPC's green hydrogen plant, including its production, storage and dispensing systems.

green mobility, officials said.

He appreciated NTPC's efforts in implementing such a technologically advanced project in Ladakh'

# **Northern Army Commander visits** operational logistic units in J&K



during visit to an operational logistics unit.

STATE TIMES NEWS

**CONTD ON PAGE 9** Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma on being undertaken to boost operational multi-domain operational demands.

Thursday visited operational logistics

readiness in Jammu and Kashmir. He commended the personnel for their high state of logistic readiness to sustain multi-domain operational demands. 'Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, Army Commander Northern Command, visited an operational logistics unit, reviewing the operational and logistics transformation being undertaken with the vision of boosting operational readiness," the Army's Northern Command headquarters said on X. He appreciated the automation initiatives, highlighting the role of tech-driven logistics in modern warfare. The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) commended the personnel for their high state of logistic readiness, automated functioning and capacity to sustain

#### Govt announces Rs 10-Cr prize for new drug to treat sickle cell disease STATE TIMES NEWS Eradication Mission on July

# NEW DELHI: The govern-

Thursday on announced an award of Rs 10 crore to develop a drug for the treatment of sickle cell disease, which disproportionately affects India's tribal populations.

Sickle cell disease is a group of inherited blood disorders that affect haemoglobin, causing red blood cells to become sickle-shaped and block the blood flow, which can lead to serious complications such as stroke, eye problems and infections.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National

1, 2023, with the aim of eradicating the disease by 2047. The government aims to screen seven crore people up to 40 years of age as part of the mission.

At an event to mark World Sickle Cell Day here, Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Durgadas Uikey announced the institution of the Bhagwan Birsa Munda Prize for the development of a drug to treat the disease.

The minister said there is only one drug available as of now for the management of the disease. There is currently no option to select a

# CS explores ways to boost JK's skill ecosystem with Union Secy MSDE

### STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Thursday met with Union Secretary of Ministry SkillDevelopment

Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Atul Kumar Tiwari, to discuss strategies for enhancing the skill development and entrepreneurship initiatives across the Union Territory.

Present on the occasion were Regional Director, V Babu, MSDE; Director, National Council for Vocational Education & Training, Colonel Gunjan Chowdhary; Secretary SDD, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan; Director. Employment, Shahzad Alam besides other concerned officers

The productive discussions cantered on leveraging the new central schemes and strengthening the existing programs to create a more robust skill ecosystem in J&K.

The Union Secretary provided a comprehensive overview of the newly Centrally launched Sponsored Scheme aimed at modernizing the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across the nation. He said that this innovative scheme

would operate on a Hub and Spoke model with identified Centres of Excellence (CoEs) serving as the central hubs. He encouraged the UT to actively participate in this scheme and submit detailed proposals to harness its benefits for modernization of ITIs in the region.

The Union Secretary highlighted the considerable scope for J&K to enhance its engagement in other crucial Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) such as the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). Skill Strengthening for

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

### Govt asks all departments to maintain e-service book of employees

## ■ STATE TIMES NĚWS

NEW DELHI: All central government departments have been asked to maintain digital service books of employees and phase out the physical ones, the Personnel Ministry has said.

The service book of a government servant is a document to record all the events in his/her entire service period and career recording each and every administrative action right from the stage of recruitment till retirement to reflect the history of service. As per rules, a service book is to be maintained for a gov-

ernment servant and

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

upcoming Yatra season, Indian Army's Rashtriya Rifles has enhanced surveillance operations in the Bhadarwah hills to ensure a safe and secure environment for tourists and prevent terrorists infiltration, utilizing ground-to-sky surveillance via bulletproof vehicles, sophisticated weaponry, and

**STATE TIMES NEWS** 

DODA: Consequent to the

reopening of tourist destina-

To ensure a strong security grid with no gaps in area domination and to maintain the peaceful atmosphere of Bhaderwah, the Indian Army's 4 Rashtriya Rifles



has intensified its surveillance and patrolling opera-

tions in the dense forests and hilly terrains of the region. The ongoing patrolling by Army personnel is aimed at

reassuring the local popula-

tion and tourists alike while

deterring any anti-social or disruptive activities in the

With the recent opening of major tourist spots in Jammu and Kashmir, the

### over 200 Iranian missiles hit hospital, wound

BEERSHEBA (ISRAEL) : Israel's defence minister threatened Iran's supreme leader on Thursday after Iranian missiles crashed into a major hospital in southern Israel and hit residential buildings near Tel Aviv, wounding at least 240 people. As rescuers wheeled patients out of the smoldering hospital, Israeli warplanes launched their latest attack on the country's nuclear programme.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz blamed Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei for Thursday's barrage and said the military "has been instructed and knows that in order to achieve all of its goals, this man absolutely should not continue to exist."

While it remained unclear whether US President Donald Trump would task American forces to join Israel's sweeping campaign against Iran's



military and nuclear programme, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he trusted that Trump would "do what's best for America.

"I can tell you that they're already helping a lot," Netanyahu said from rubble and shattered glass

around the Soroka Medical Centre in Israel's southern city of Beersheba.

US officials said earlier this week that Trump had vetoed an Israeli plan to kill Khamenei. Trump later said there were no plans to kill him, "at least not for now."

The US has been weighing whether to join Israel's attack by striking Iran's well-defended Fordo uranium enrichment facility, which is buried under a mountain and widely considered to be out of reach of all but America's "bunker-buster" bombs.

The conflict began last Friday with a surprise wave of Israeli airstrikes targeting nuclear and military sites, senior officers and nuclear scientists. At least 639 people, including 263 civilians, have been killed in Iran and more than 1,300 wounded, according to a Washington-based Iranian human rights group

Iran has retaliated by firing hundreds of missiles and drones, killing at least 24 people in Israel and wounding hundreds.

More than 200 wounded, including dozens in the hospital strike

At least 240 people were wounded ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Indian Army has stepped

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## 27 Departmental Feeding Services officers promoted to JKAS Time Scale

### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

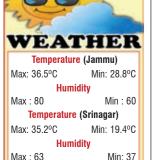
JAMMU: The government Thursday ordered appointment (by promotion) of the 27 officers of departmental feeding services to the Time Scale of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative

Service (JKAS). "In terms of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service Rules, 2008, sanction is accorded to the appointment (by promotion) of 27 officers of departmental feeding services to the Time Scale of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service [(Level 11 (67700-208700)], notionally from January 1, 2025 and prospectively from the date of issuance of this order, on

regular basis," reads an order issued by M. Raju, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department. As per order, these officers

included Ajit Kumar, Ajjaz Ali Lone, Neeraj Sharma, Sakhi Mohd Khan, Mohd Altaf Rather and Sunil Dutt from J&K Excise and Taxation (G) Service; Raman from Information (G) Service; Javid Ahmad Zargar, Nisar Ahmad Bhat, Imtiyaz Ahmad Badoo, Firdous Ahmad Qadri, Javid Iqbal Bhat and Rabia Yousuf Rather from J&K Revenue (G) Service; Sushil Kumar Mattoo, Manoj

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



Min: 37 Sunset: 19:40 Hours Sunrise: 05:22 Hours