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# STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

RNI No. : 66908/96  
Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/22-24  
Vol. 29 Issue 205 • Jammu • Thursday • July 25, 2024 • Pages 12 • ₹ 5.00  
Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

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**SOWING SKILLS**  
SHAPING INDIA

**03 Dr Jitendra informs Lok Sabha about DoPT's 'Mission Karmayogi'**

**09 18 killed as plane crashes after takeoff at Nepal's Kathmandu airport, pilot survives**

**09 SSP Jammu asks border dwellers to strengthen vigilance**

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

## Pak trying to disturb peace in Jammu, every drop of blood will be avenged: Sinha

'Situation in J&K will be back to normal within few months'

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Pakistan is trying to disturb peace in Jammu to hinder its progress but every drop of people's bloodshed by terrorists will be avenged, Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha said on Wednesday.

The LG's remarks came in the backdrop of a series of terrorist attacks in the Jammu region over the last 45 days.

At a function at Raj Bhawan, Sinha said, "Today, once again, the terrorist country of Pakistan is making efforts to disturb peace in the Jammu division."

"From Poonch-Rajouri to Kathua-Reasi and Doda, the families of those who want to build a bright future for themselves are being targeted. All of you should always remember that every drop of (people's) blood shed by Pakistani terrorists will definitely be avenged," he said.

Sinha said the need of the hour is to stand together against terrorism.

### LG lays wreath; pays homage to martyr



LG Manoj Sinha paying homage to Martyr Naik Dilwar Khan.

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha laid wreath and paid homage to Naik Dilwar Khan, who laid down his life during anti-terror operation in Kupwara.

"I salute the indomitable courage of our braveheart, who made supreme sacrifice for the nation. His valour and sacrifice will never be forgotten. The entire nation stands firmly with the family of the martyr in this hour of grief," the Lt Governor said.

Underlining that Gujjars and Bakarwals are considered the first line of defence on the border, he urged people from the two communities to share information with the security forces.

"Your help is also needed to destroy the drug network. Those who support terrorism and drug smuggling do not belong to any community or caste. If action is taken against such people, then I think it should be welcomed," the LG said.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said the situation in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will be back to normal within a few months as inimical elements will be given a befitting response.

"Those who cannot digest (the peaceful atmosphere here), they should be (ready) for their end. People here have given a befitting response to them before also. The situation demands so. I think the situation will be back to normal again

■ **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

### 2,900 pilgrims leave Jammu for Shri Amarnathji cave shrine

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: More than 2,900 pilgrims left Jammu for the 3,880-metre-high Amarnath cave shrine in the South Kashmir Himalayas amid tight security arrangements on Wednesday morning, officials said.

More than four lakh pilgrims have already paid obeisance at the naturally-formed ice lingam at the

■ **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

## Budget 2024: Rs 3,694 Cr allocated to J&K to accelerate development of rail infra: Vaishnaw



Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw briefing media at New Delhi on Wednesday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday said a substantial amount of Rs 3,694 crore has been earmarked for ongoing railway projects in Jammu and Kashmir this fiscal year.

Addressing media persons, the Minister said this funding is aimed at accelerating the development of railway infrastructure in the region.

He said the dream project—

and two other lines. Additionally, work is going on to develop four terminals from Budgam to Baramulla and establish four new stations: Budgam, Jammu Tawi, Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, and Udhampur station," he said.

"The Chenab Bridge and the railway line up to the Sangaldan section are already operational. The Sangaldan to Reasi section has been completed, and the Commission of Railway Safety certificate has been received for these sections," the Minister said.

Vaishnaw stated that the completion of USBRL marks a significant milestone.

"This comprehensive investment and development in railway infrastructure underscore the government's commitment to enhancing connectivity and transportation in Jammu and Kashmir, which is expected to facilitate economic growth and improve connectivity for residents and visitors alike," he said.

### Soldier martyred, terrorist killed in Kupwara encounter

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: An unidentified terrorist was killed and a soldier martyred in an overnight encounter in Kupwara district, officials said on Wednesday.

The Army and police had launched an anti-terrorist operation in the Lolab area of Kupwara a few days ago following information about possible terrorist movements, the officials said.

The security forces established contact with the hiding terrorists on Tuesday, leading to an encounter, they added.

"Based on specific input regarding presence of terrorists in general area Kovat, Kupwara, a Joint Search

Operation was launched by #IndianArmy and @JmuKnrPolice on days leading up to 23 July 24," the Srinagar-based Chinar Corps posted on X.

It said suspicious movements were noticed on Tuesday and the suspects were challenged by vigilant troops. In response, the terrorists opened indiscriminate fire, leading to a gunbattle. "In the ensuing fire fight one terrorist has been eliminated and a NCO injured. Operation is in progress," the Army added on the microblogging platform.

The officials said the injured soldier later succumbed to his injuries.

## Major relief to power consumers: No tariff increase for FY 2024-25

Govt continues subsidy amidst rising power cost

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: In a major relief to power consumers, the J&K Power Development Department (PDD) on Wednesday announced that the Jammu & Kashmir government has taken a significant decision to absorb any increase in electricity tariff in the current financial year (2024-25) by continuing its support in the form of subsidy on electricity bills.

The decision of the government will effectively offset any rise in tariff requirements as projected by the Distribution Companies (discoms) i.e. JPDC for

Jammu region and KPDC for Kashmir region, for covering the rising power purchase cost, inflation and other factors and also to bridge the revenue gap.

Providing details on the decision, the spokesperson of J&K Power Development Department (PDD) informed that a major portion of discoms expenditure constitutes of the power purchase cost, which is rising day by day due to rise in coal prices. Therefore, such escalations in power purchase costs demand increase in power tariff too. Besides, the discoms incur other sizeable

expenditures also such as the O&M costs for its expanding infrastructure.

In absence of any intervention of the Government, the aforesaid expenses would have otherwise been passed on to consumers. He further informed that although a proposal for tariff increase for FY 2024-25 has been submitted by the discoms to the Joint Electricity Regulatory Commission (JERC) for approval, the government's decision indicates that there will effectively be no tariff increase for consumers, with the estimated loss on that account being borne by the government.

Speaking about the current tariff in Jammu & Kashmir, which is among the lowest in the country, the spokesperson provided an overview of the tariff revision history. It was highlighted that after a gap of six years without any tariff hike, there was an around 17% increase in electricity tariffs implemented in October 2022.

In the tariff revision for FY 2023-24, although metered consumers faced a 15% tariff hike, the government balanced this out by removing the 15% Electricity

### Either jail or 'Jahannum' for terrorists: Union MoS Home on J&K terror attacks



Union Minister of State Home on J&K terror attacks.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Terrorists active in Jammu and Kashmir will either land in jail or be sent to 'jahannum' (hell), Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday while asserting that the Narendra Modi gov-

ernment has zero tolerance for terrorism.

Rai was replying to a supplementary question from Congress MP Pramod Tiwari.

Terrorist activities witnessed recently will soon end, the minister said. "They (terrorists) will not succeed in their design," he added.

In the past few days, 28 terrorists have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir and some security personnel have also lost their lives, which is very unfortunate, Rai said.

According to the minister, security forces have killed about 900 terrorists

### ACB arrests SIDCO employee for accepting Rs 15,000 as bribe

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday successfully laid trap and apprehended Mohammad Yaseen Sheikh, Senior Accountant at SIDCO, Khummoh, Srinagar, for corruption charges following a written complaint.

An ACB spokesperson said, "The complaint alleged that Sheikh was demanding a bribe of Rs 20,000 from a complainant in exchange for processing a case related to a supplementary partnership deed. After negotiations, the bribe amount was reduced to Rs 15,000."

Instead of complying with the demand, the complainant chose to report the matter to the Anti Corruption Bureau, which initiated discreet verification, confirming the public servant's demand, the spokesperson said, adding that subsequently, a Case FIR No. 18/2024 under Section 7 PC Act 1988 was registered at Police

### Justice Tashi chairs State Level Consultation Meeting on Child Protection 2024 focusing on persons with disabilities

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In a significant move towards strengthening the child protection mechanisms in UTs of J&K and Ladakh, Justice Tashi Rabstan, Chief Justice (Acting), High Court of J&K and Ladakh, and Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee presided over a crucial meeting on Wednesday that aimed at finalizing the date, venue and all other allied arrangements for organizing the State Level Stakeholders Consultation for the year 2024 focusing on the welfare of persons with disabilities.

The meeting was attended

physically by Additional Director General of Police Anand Jain representing the Police Department, UT of J&K and virtually by Sheetal Nanda, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, UT of J&K and incharge Women and Child Development; Dr. Shahid Iqbal, Secretary, Rural Development Department; Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, Health and Medical Education, UT of J&K; Iqbal Lone, Commissioner Disabilities, UT of J&K; Ghulam Nabi Bhat, Additional Secretary, School Education, UT of

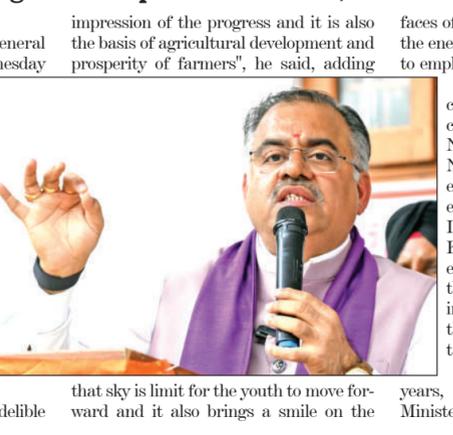
## Budget 2024-25 to lay foundation of developed India: Chugh

'J&K budget development-oriented, future-shaping'

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KISHTWAR: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Wednesday said that the first budget of the third term of the NDA government at the Center under the leadership of respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation of a developed India in 2024-25.

Addressing public meeting in Kishtwar, Chugh said this is an all-touching, all-inclusive and visionary budget that will strengthen industries and infrastructure, besides ensuring the welfare of the poor, women, youth and the breadwinner class.

"In this budget, there is an indelible



Tarun Chugh speaking at a public meeting.

impression of the progress and it is also the basis of agricultural development and prosperity of farmers", he said, adding

faces of the poor. This budget, filled with the energy of self-reliant India, dedicated to employment generation, he added.

On his own and on behalf of crores of party workers, Chugh congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and their entire team for this budget that embodies the concept of developed India. The budget of Jammu and Kashmir is also a development-oriented and future-shaping budget that has been formulated keeping in mind all sections of citizens of the Union Territory, he maintained.

Chugh said that in the past 10 years, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra

## Kashmir Marathon will place J&K firmly on global running map: LG

'J&K Admin to organise annual 'Jammu Marathon' soon'



LG Manoj Sinha addressing gathering after unveiling logo, website and teaser of inaugural edition of Kashmir Marathon on Wednesday.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday exuded confidence that the Kashmir Marathon will place Jammu and Kashmir firmly on the global running map and enhance global recognition of the Union Territory, highlighting our potential as a premier tourist destination.

"We aspire to make this event a beacon of peace and harmony" the Lieutenant Governor said after unveiling the Logo, Website and Teaser of the inaugural edition of the Kashmir Marathon, to be held on October 20 in

Srinagar. The Lt Governor congratulated the J&K Tourism department and all the stakeholders associated with the international running event. He invited the runners from all corners of the globe to participate in Kashmir Marathon

- ▶ Srinagar to host Kashmir Marathon on October 20
- ▶ LG unveils logo, website, teaser of inaugural edition of Kashmir Marathon
- ▶ Invites runners from all corners of globe to experience unique charm of J&K
- ▶ "We aspire to make this event beacon of peace, harmony"
- ▶ It will enhance global recognition of UT, highlight our potential as a premier tourist destination
- ▶ Kashmir Marathon will be celebration of resilience, beauty, unbreakable human spirit
- ▶ Marathon is next addition to series of world class events being organized in J&K following successful F4 racing event in Srinagar, Sunburn Music Festival in Jammu and J&K Tourism Development Conclave held recently in Srinagar
- ▶ Event will integrate cultural events, performances, exhibitions to showcase Kashmir's rich heritage, enhancing cultural experience for all participants
- ▶ Kashmir Marathon will also celebrate our breathtaking scenery, promote eco-friendly tourism that benefits local communities

### Oppn walks out of RS over 'neglect' of states in budget; FM hits back

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The INDIA opposition bloc parties, led by the Congress, staged a walkout from the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, in protest against all states except two being "ignored" in the budget, an allegation termed "outrageous" by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who said all the states never found a mention in any of the previous budgets, including those presented by the Congress.

After Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar rejected notices under Rule 267 that called for the suspension of the listed agenda to take up the issue, Leader of Opposition and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the Union Budget for the 2024-25 (April 2024 to March

2025) fiscal year provided funds and schemes for only two states -- Bihar and Andhra Pradesh.

All other states did not find any mention, he said, terming the budget a "kursi-bachao" document.

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) lost the majority in the recently-concluded general election and had to seek support from regional parties ruling in Bihar and Andhra Pradesh for forming the government.

The Janata Dal (United), which is in power in Bihar, and the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), the ruling party in Andhra Pradesh, have been demanding special economic packages for their states.

In the budget presented on Tuesday,

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 35.6°C Min: 26.1°C

Humidity  
Max: 79 Min: 60

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 35.6°C Min: 20.5°C

Humidity  
Max: 65 Min: 31

Sunset: 19:34 Hours  
Sunrise: 05:39 Hours