

03 Sawan Mahotsav 2025 begins at Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir with devotional splendour

05 Dr Jitendra inaugurates IIM Jammu hostel, Director authorised Rs 200 cr tender approval

08 Narco-terror module in J&K: NIA Court rejects bail plea of Branch Manager

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Adventure tourism vital for boosting repeat visits to Kashmir: CM



CM Omar Abdullah speaking at the launch ceremony of Mehmood Shah's book "Valleys of Jammu and Kashmir".

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said that in order to promote repeat tourism in Kashmir, it is essential to offer something new and refreshing each time-like adventure tourism.

He was speaking at the launch of the book "Valleys of Jammu and Kashmir - A Tribute to the Soul of Jammu and Kashmir" authored by Mehmood A. Shah, Managing Director, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited, at a local hotel here.

"If we aspire to promote repeat

tourism, we must recognize that tourists won't return solely for our Mughal gardens or the Tulip bloom, nor just for the gondola rides. They return when offered something new-something refreshing each time. Adventure tourism provides exactly that. No two experiences are ever the same. The trail looks different in the morning than it does at sunset. Each trek offers a unique story," the Chief Minister said.

Calling for preservation and promotion of the region's historic trekking routes, he said these trails, connecting Jammu with Kashmir and Kashmir

with Ladakh-are not just physical pathways, but cultural corridors of heritage and sustainable tourism.

"It is imperative that we market our trekking routes not just as a tourism product, but as part of our ecological and cultural legacy. We must not confine ourselves to markets where advisories act as obstacles. There are many countries with no such restrictions, whose tourists would be eager to explore our terrain," he said, calling for joint efforts with Ladakh to keep traditional routes alive and accessible.

Referring to the current situation, Omar Abdullah said it was unfortunate that the book is being released at a time when many of the trekking routes described in it remain inaccessible due to recent developments.

"Reading this book evokes both admiration and sadness. Admiration for the unmatched natural wealth we possess, and sadness because we are not able to experience or share it at present. It is my heartfelt hope, and indeed my effort, that these routes will soon be reopened for our youth, trekkers and visitors," he said. Reflecting on his personal regret at not having trekked these trails, Chief Minister Omar

Another batch of pilgrims leaves for Shri Amarnathji Shrine

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A fresh batch of over 6,100 pilgrims left here on Monday for the twin base camps of the Amarnath shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said.

Over two lakh pilgrims have paid obeisance at the shrine since the start of the 38-day annual yatra, which commenced from the twin tracks of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district on July 3. The yatra will conclude on August 9.

Escorted by CRPF and police personnel, the 13th batch of 6,143 pilgrims,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Union Jt Secy reviews Baramulla district's progress under NITI Aayog's ADP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: Union Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Central Prabhari Officer for NITI Aayog's Aspirational Districts Programme, Ajeet Kumar Sahu, on Monday chaired a meeting to review district's progress under various indicators of NITI Aayog's Aspirational District Programme (ADP).

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Kavinder Gupta appointed LG Ladakh, Gajapathi Raju as Goa Guv

Kunal Gosh will be new Governor of Haryana



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Former civil aviation minister Puspapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju was on Monday appointed as the Governor of Goa and former deputy chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir Kavinder Gupta named as the new Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh.

Senior BJP leader from West Bengal, Ashim Kumar Ghosh, will be the new Governor of Haryana, according to an official communicate.

The appointments will take effect from the dates they will assume charge of their respective offices, it said.

Newly appointed Ladakh LG Gupta is a senior BJP leader from Jammu and Kashmir. He had been former deputy chief minister of J-K and ex-speaker of the erstwhile state's legislative assembly.

Hailing from Jammu city's Janipur area, 66-year-old Gupta served as the mayor of Jammu for a record three consecutive terms

BJP leaders felicitate Kavinder

JAMMU: Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Kavinder Gupta, was felicitated by the top leadership of the J&K BJP upon his appointment as the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of the Union Territory of Ladakh at party headquarters Trikuta Nagar, and later at his home in Jammu.

BJP J&K President Sat Sharma, accompanied by party MLAs and senior leaders, extended heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Kavinder Gupta for his new responsibility. The event witnessed an atmosphere of pride and celebration as party members hailed the decision

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

from 2005 to 2010.

Gupta, who is also the national executive member of Bharatiya Janata Party, will replace incumbent Brigadier B D Mishra (Retired), as Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Ladakh.

President Droupadi Murmu has accepted the resignation of Brigadier Mishra, said the communicate issued by the president's office. He was appointed as the second LG of Ladakh on February 19, 2023.

The president is pleased to appoint Kavinder Gupta as the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, it said.

Raju, a veteran Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader from Andhra Pradesh, will succeed P S Sreedharan Pillai as the Goa Governor. Pillai was sworn in as the Governor of Goa on July 15, 2021.

Raju (74) served as the civil aviation minister between May 27, 2014 and March 10, 2018 under Prime

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

CAT stays mandatory Urdu clause for Naib Tehsildar posts; JKSSB to accept all applications

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A Bench of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) Rajinder Dogra and Ram Mohan Johri stayed the operation of the relevant provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Revenue (Subordinate) Service Recruitment Rules of 2009, insofar as they mandate Graduation with knowledge of Urdu as the minimum qualification for the post of Naib Tehsildar.

CAT further directed the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Recruitment Board (SSRB) to accept applications for the

post of Naib Tehsildar from candidates who possess Graduation with knowledge of any of the five official languages enumerated in the Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Act, 2020, which includes Hindi, Kashmiri, English, Dogri, and Urdu.

This landmark order has been passed in petition filed by Rajesh Singh & Ors.

CAT after hearing Sr. Advocate Abhinav Sharma with Adv Abhirash Sharma who have sought a declaration that the Jammu and Kashmir Revenue (Subordinate) Service

Recruitment Rules of 2009, to the extent it stipulates that a candidate must possess Graduation with knowledge of Urdu as the minimum qualification for the post of Naib Tehsildar, is ultra vires the Constitution of India. The petitioners contend that this requirement discriminates against those who possess knowledge of other official languages recognized under the Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Act, 2020, such as Hindi, Kashmiri, English, and Dogri, thereby violating the principles of equality

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

CB registers FIRs in overseas job fraud, vehicle loan scam

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Special Crime Wing, Crime Branch Jammu on Monday registered two separate criminal cases involving serious allegations of cheating, criminal conspiracy, and financial fraud, causing significant loss to both individuals and financial institutions.

"A written complaint was received in the Special Crime Wing, Jammu, from a resident of RS Pura alleging that he was duped of Rs 17.5 lakhs by two individuals, Kartik Choudhary, son of Gurnam Choudhary and Ravinder Choudhary

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

'Citizens must know value of freedom of speech, expression': SC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Monday said citizens must know the value of the right of freedom of speech and expression, and exercise self restraint as it mulled guidelines to regulate offensive social media posts.

A bench comprising Justices B V Nagarathna and K V Viswanathan was hearing a plea of one Wazahat Khan booked in FIRs in several states, including West Bengal, for posting against a Hindu deity on X.

"One of the fundamental duties is to uphold the unity and integrity of the country India. So that is being violated. See all these divisive tendencies, at least on social media, must be curbed," the court said.

The top court continued, "But to what extent can the state curb? Instead, why can't the citizens themselves regulate themselves? Citizens must know the value of freedom of speech

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 33.9°C
Min: 25.2°C

Humidity
Max: 83
Min: 76

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 24.7°C
Min: 19.0°C

Humidity
Max: 85
Min: 45

Sunset : 19:40 Hours
Sunrise : 05:33 Hours

ACB arrests Postal Assistant for accepting Rs 6,500 bribe

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday trapped and arrested a Postal Assistant in Bandipora district while demanding and allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 6500.

"A complaint was received by Anti Corruption from a resident of Bandipora against Mudasir Ahmad, Postal Assistant posted at Sub Post Office Bandipora for demanding bribe. It was alleged by complainant that he had obtained financial assistance under PME/GP scheme through KVIC for

the activity Mobile and Electronic equipment and the loan amount was released by the bank concerned but for release of subsidy amount which was due, subject to physical inspection of unit by postal office Bandipora, the concerned dealing hand Mudasir Ahmad demanded bribe of Rs 6500 from him," an official said.

As complainant was against payment of bribe he accordingly approached ACB with written complaint.

On receipt of the complaint, official said, a secret verification was conducted by ACB which prima facie dis-

closes commission of offence punishable under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 on the part of the accused Mudasir Ahmad, Postal Assistant posted in sub post office Bandipora. Accordingly, official added, a case FIR No 05/2025 under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 was registered at PS ACB Baramulla against accused Mudasir Ahmad and the investigation was initiated during which a trap was laid and the accused was caught red handed while demanding and accepting

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Advisor to CM flags off FICCI CASCADE's Auto Rally

Says smuggling, counterfeiting silent threats; need to educate citizens to be vigilant consumers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: To amplify its commitment towards building awareness against the growing threat of illicit trade in India, FICCI CASCADE (Committee Against Smuggling and Counterfeiting Activities Destroying the Economy) on Monday organized an Auto Rally in Srinagar.

This initiative witnessed over 200 auto rickshaws forming a convoy as they traversed a designated route which commenced from Nehru Park, Boulevard Road.

Flagging off the rally, Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor to the Chief Minister said, "Smuggling and counterfeiting are silent threats that infiltrate our markets, harm



Advisor to CM, Nasir Aslam Wani during the flag off ceremony of auto rally at Srinagar.

local businesses, deprive the government of vital revenue, and put the lives of citizens at risk. While their impact may not always be visible, the consequences are grave. This rally is an important step in educating our people and encouraging them to be vigilant consumers. I commend

FICCI CASCADE for bringing this campaign to the heart of Kashmir and urge every citizen to be a responsible part of this movement."

"There is a need for widespread public sensitization and societal change to effectively combat the

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

For resolution of your complaints against RBI Regulated Entities (RE)* follow these steps

1
Lodge your complaint first with the RE

2
Get acknowledgement/reference number

3
If no resolution is received from the RE in 30 days or you are not satisfied with it, you may file your complaint with the RBI Ombudsman on RBI's CMS portal (cms.rbi.org.in) or by post to CRPC**

Filing complaints directly with the RBI Ombudsman may lead to rejection.

For more details, visit <https://rbikentahai.rbi.org.in/ios>
For feedback, write to rbikentahai@rbi.org.in

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