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# Youths will create brighter future for J&K, ensure long-lasting peace: LG



LG Manoj Sinha addressing gathering at Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Program at IUST.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday addressed the Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Program at Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Avantipora.

Yuva Connect is a flagship initiative under Viksit Bharat-Yuva Connect Program launched by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

In his address, the

» **Addresses Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Program at IUST**

» **Says, transformative platform for youth engagement aims to bridge gap between young citizens and policymakers while empowering youth to become active stakeholders in nation-building**

» **Leveraging MY Bharat platform, program emphasizes fostering dialogue, participatory governance, and leadership development among India's youth, thereby preparing them to contribute effectively to country's growth and development journey towards 2047**

Lieutenant Governor lauded the transformative platform for youth engagement which aims to bridge the gap between young citizens and policymakers while empowering youth to become active stakeholders in nation-building.

He said the initiative is a step toward fostering structured youth engagement and building a stronger link between young citizens and policymakers.

"Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Program aims to create a platform where youth can share ideas, engage in policy dialogues and be inspired to contribute actively to India's development journey towards Viksit Bharat.

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi had outlined four main objectives for Youth Connect: Engage, Encourage, Enable and Inspire. Leveraging the

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Central Govt employees can avail 30 days leave to take care of elderly parents: Govt

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The service rules allow 30 days' leave to Central government employees, which can be availed for any personal reason including that of taking care of elderly parents, Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said in Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

The minister was asked whether there is any provision for government employees to avail leave to take care of their elderly parents.

"The Central Civil Services (Leave) Rules, 1972 provides for 30 days of earned leave, 20 days of half pay leave, eight days of casual leave and two days of restricted holiday per annum, apart from other eligible leaves to a Central government employee, which can be availed for any personal reasons, including that of taking care of elderly parents," Singh said in a written reply.

# Omar takes serious view of misbranded machine-made carpets



Delegation members meeting CM Omar Abdullah at Civil Secretariat Srinagar on Thursday.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday took a serious note of counterfeit machine-made carpets passed off as authentic Kashmiri hand-knotted products and gave instructions to Industries & Commerce department to take strong action against showrooms and retail outlets which are selling machine-made carpets under the label of Kashmir handmade carpets. CM observed that these fakes would damage the globally renowned brand of Kashmiri hand-made carpets and adversely affect the artisan families who depend on this craft for their livelihood.

A delegation of Carpet Export Promotion Council, Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Meeras Carpet Weavers Cooperative, Kashmir Carpet Cluster Development Organization & Kashmir Carpet Manufacturers Association

met the Chief Minister at Civil Secretariat Srinagar calling for prohibiting sale of machine-made carpets in all handicrafts-registered showrooms and stronger enforcement mechanisms. They also raised the issue of some unscrupulous traders making use of fake GI label on machine-made carpets. They called for preserving this craft, Kashmir's identity and livelihood of artisans.

A delegation from Manigam, Ganderbal called on Chief Minister requesting

for safe-guarding parcel of land in their area for future Institutional use. A delegation of HR agency voiced their grievance regarding their pending emoluments with J&K Housing Board. A delegation of Dental surgeons submitted their demand for creation and filling up of posts of dental surgeons.

MLA Sopore, MLA Trehgam also met the Chief Minister to discuss issues concerning their

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## Op Sindoor: India's actions were measured, non-escalatory, says Govt

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Operation Sindoor was launched in response to a "barbaric" attack by "Pakistan-sponsored terrorists", and the action focussed on dismantling terror infrastructure and neutralising terrorists likely to be sent across to India, the government said on Thursday.

In a written response to a query in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh also said India's actions were "focussed, measured and non-escalatory".

The Ministry of External Affairs was asked whether it

is a fact that Operation Sindoor was "announced under international pressure", and the "factual position" in this regard.

Rajya Sabha MP Ramji Lal Suman also asked about the impact of "sudden announcement of ceasefire in Operation Sindoor" on the morale of the Indian forces which were "achieving significant success", but suddenly "declaring ceasefire was against their morale and the sentiments of the people of the country".

Union minister Singh said Operation Sindoor was launched to respond

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## Lord Shiva's holy mace taken to Shankaracharya Temple

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Chhari Mubarak -- the saffron-robed holy mace of Lord Shiva -- was taken to the historic Shankaracharya temple here on Thursday for special prayers on the occasion of 'Haryali-Amavasya' (Shravan Amavasya) as per age-old customs.

The Chhari Mubarak Swami Amarnath Ji led by Mahant Deependra Giri was taken to the temple located at Gopadri hills for prayers as part of the ongoing annual Amarnath Yatra.

Giri, the custodian of the mace, said the Chhari Mubarak was taken from its abode at Dashnami Akhara



near Lal Chowk here to the temple where a 'pujan' was held.

The sound of conch shells charged the atmosphere and 'pujan' was performed chanting vedic hymns, he said.

The sadhus, who accompanied the holy mace, partici-

pated in the pooja as collective prayers were also offered for peace and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir, Giri added.

He informed that Chhari Mubarak will also be taken to 'Sharika-Bhawani'

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**3,500 Amarnathji pilgrims leave from Jammu base camp**  
JAMMU: A fresh batch of 3,500 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here on Thursday to offer prayers at the holy cave shrine of Amarnathji, officials said.

The 22nd batch of pilgrims, comprising 2,704 men, 675 women, 12 children and 109 sadhus and sadhvis, left the base camp in two convoys of 140 vehicles for Pahalgam and Baltal under tight security.

While 2,668 pilgrims left for Pahalgam in a convoy

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## Residential property used for harbouring terrorists in Sopore attached

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: A residential property used for harbouring terrorists was attached in Baramulla district, police said on Thursday.

In a major action under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the police in Sopore attached the residential property for its use in providing shelter and logistical support to terrorists involved in unlawful and anti-national activities, a police spokesman said.

He said the property comprises a single-storey residential house along with land measuring three kanals and three marlas situated at

Reban Ramham. The property falls under the ownership of Javaid Ahmad Dar, resident of Reban area of Sopore in the north Kashmir district.

The attachment has been made in connection with an FIR registered under various sections of the UAPA and the Arms Act, the spokesman said.

During the course of investigation, it was found that the said property was wilfully used for harbouring terrorists and facilitating their stay, thereby aiding the execution of terror activities in the Sopore area, he said.

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Those misusing democratic freedoms must be held to account: Modi

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
LONDON: Forces with "extremist ideologies" must not be allowed to misuse democratic freedoms, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday after meeting his British counterpart Keir Starmer, in remarks that came amid increasing concern in India over activities of pro-Khalistani elements in the UK.

With Starmer by his side, Modi also said that both India and the UK are "united in our view that there can be no place for double standards in the fight against terrorism" as he thanked the British government for its "strong" condemnation of the Pahalgam terror attack.

He made the remarks after Starmer hosted him at Chequers, the countryside residence of the British PM located 50 kms northwest of London.

"We agree that forces with extremist ideologies must not be allowed to misuse democratic freedoms. Those who misuse democratic

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## Sooner statehood is restored, better it will be: Azad

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Democratic Progressive Azad Party chairperson Ghulam Nabi Azad on Thursday expressed his firm belief that statehood would be restored in Jammu and Kashmir and said that the sooner it is done, the better it would be.

He asserted that statehood is an absolute necessity for the development and progress of the region.

Azad also played down speculation about him being nominated for the Vice-President's post and asked the media and people to stop resorting to such rumours.

"I am thankful to the Prime Minister and the Home



DPAP Chairperson Ghulam Nabi Azad briefing media at Reasi on Thursday.

Minister for promising that statehood will be restored in Jammu and Kashmir. I firmly believe that they will return the statehood. But the sooner it is done, the better it will be," Azad told reporters

during a visit to Jammu's Reasi district.

Responding to a question, Azad said, "For the development, progress and the overall betterment of the region, statehood is absolutely neces-

sary. This is not a matter of Hindu or Muslim, or of Kashmir or Jammu; it concerns every party, religion, and community. Statehood is essential for all political parties, whether the BJP, National Conference or PDP."

He said the statehood restoration should happen at the earliest. "When I was a minister, I had recommended the conversion of three Union Territories into states, and all the three were granted statehood. But, for the first time, I saw my own state being turned into a Union Territory. That was an unfortunate event."

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## Suspected drug peddler killed, another detained in cross-firing with police

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A suspected drug peddler was killed and another detained during a cross-firing with police in Jammu city, officials said. A police team was chasing suspected drug peddlers, and as per preliminary reports, the team was fired upon under the Satwari Police Station this evening, a police spokesperson said.

In the cross-firing that followed, one unidentified person was injured and has been shifted to Government Medical College Hospital in Jammu, he said.

One drug peddler was killed in the cross-firing, a senior

police officer said, adding that another was detained.

Senior police officers reached the spot, and further investigation is underway.

According to sources, a DSB team of Jammu district carried out a raid targeting drug peddlers in the Surre Chak area of Phallian Mandal.

During the operation, the team encountered heavy stone-pelting. In retaliation,

the DSB personnel fired a few rounds, during which Parvez Ahmad @ Bachu, (30-35) son



of Rehmat Ali, resident of Javed Nagar, Nikki Tawi died. Later, the body was sent to GMCH Jammu by SI Balbir Singh, Incharge PP Mandal Phallian for post-mortem, the sources added.

## Both Houses of Parliament adjourned over SIR in Bihar

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha proceedings were adjourned on Thursday for the fourth consecutive day amid persistent protests by the Opposition demanding withdrawal of the ongoing voter roll revision in Bihar.

In the morning too, Speaker Om Birla had to adjourn proceedings when Opposition members raised slogans, entered the Well of the House and also displayed placards.

When the House met again at 2 pm, Krishna Prasad Tenneti, who was chairing the House, urged members to participate in a bill which seeks to provide seats for Scheduled Tribes in the Goa Legislative Assembly.

Law Minister Arjun Ram

Meghwal questioned the Opposition for not allowing discussion on the bill which will benefit the Scheduled Tribe population of the state. As protests continued unabated, the proceedings were adjourned for the day.

Earlier in the day, Speaker Om Birla asked the protesting members to go back to their seats and assured that as per rules they will be given opportunities to raise issues.

He mentioned the name of senior Congress leader K C Venugopal and said it was not the culture of his party to indulge in sloganeering in the House.

Birla repeatedly mentioned that sloganeering and display of placards is not in accordance with the dignity of the House and

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**WEATHER**

**Temperature (Jammu)**  
Max: 32.1°C Min: 24.5°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 78 Min: 74

**Temperature (Srinagar)**  
Max: 29.9°C Min: 19.8°C

**Humidity**  
Max: 82 Min: 79

Sunset : 19:35 Hours  
Sunrise : 05:39 Hours



Director General of Income Tax, North West Region, Vatsala Jha speaking at the event in Jammu on Thursday.

expansion of tax base in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Principal Director of Income Tax (Inv.), Ludhiana Dr. Ashish Abrol,

and The Principal Commissioner of Income Tax (Central), Ludhiana Md. Tarique Kalim, were also present and encour-

aged the officers to administer the Income Tax Act in fair and transparent manner.

Addl Director of Jammu

Investigation, Anand Swaroop and Deputy Director of Jammu Investigation was also present at the venue.