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Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh

Dr Jitendra informs RS about unique **J** initiative for IAS aspirants

Activity fest for Prep Wing held at JKPS Panjtirthi

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

Seven J&K cricketers and a Coach in prestigious Duleep Trophy squad

Tourism expansion will create employment opportunities: CM

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

STATE TIMES NEWS

GUREZ: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday reaffirmed his government's commitment to the development and upliftment of Gurez and its people. Speaking at the valedictory function of the two-day National Tribal Festival Gurez-2025 held at the picturesque border village of Chorwan in Gurez, the Chief Minister assured residents that Gurez remains high on his government's priority list.

He lauded the peace-loving nature of the people of Gurez, acknowledging their unwavering commitment to peace even in challenging times. "Gurez has always stood as a symbol of resilience and harmony. My government recognises this spirit and is determined to ensure that the region progresses in all spheres," he said.

Emphasising the need for improved connectivity, the Chief Minister assured the people that efforts are underway to provide mobile network coverage to keep Gurez connected with the rest of the

Highlighting the tourism potential of Gurez valley, the Chief Minister urged the residents to work together to keep Gurez clean and pollution-free. "Gurez



CM Omar Abdullah speaking at the National Tribal Festival at Gurez on Thursday.

is blessed with immense natural beauty, and it is our collective responsibility to preserve it for future generations. While we want development and progress for the region, it must be balanced with safeguarding its heritage, culture and traditions " he said

The Chief Minister noted that the expansion of tourism will create employment opportunities, especially for the vouth of Gurez.

Earlier, the Chief Minister toured various stalls showcasing local produce, herbs, traditional foods, and handicrafts. Tribal dance performances by cultural troupes from Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat added colour and diversity to the celebrations.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also distributed appreciation certificates to women-led Self Help Groups for their entrepreneurial efforts.

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; MLA Gurez, Nazir Ahmad

13 SHOs transferred

Superintendent of Police (SSP) Jammu, Joginder Singh, on Thursday transthirteen Station House Officers (SHOs) in Jammu District.

As per the official order, Inspector Jai Paul Sharma has been posted as SHO Gandhi Nagar; Inspector Arun Parkash as SHO Bakshi Nagar; Inspector Azad Manhas as SHO Miran Sahib: Inspector Rakesh Manni as SHO Pacca Danga; Inspector Rakesh Singh as SHO Bishnah; Inspector Sushil Chodhary as SHO Bahu Fort; Inspector Rajesh Jasrotia as SHO Akhnoor; Inspector Deepak Pathania as SHO Channi; Inspector Sanjeev Chib as SHO Gangyal; Inspector Deepak Pathania as SHO Channi; Inspector Nishant Gupta as SHO Nowabad; Inspector Vikas Dogra as SHO Jhajjar Kotli; Inspector Inderpaul Singh as SHO Bus Stand, and Inspector Shakti Devi has been appointed as SHO

Vehicle falls into nallah in Udhampur, 3 CRPF jawans die LG Sinha, MoS PMO express grief

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Three Police Reserve (CRPF) personnel lost their lives and 15 injured when a vehicle carrying them skidded off the road and rolled down into a nallah in Udhampur district Thursday, officials said.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Union Minister Jitendra Singh expressed grief over the loss of lives, and directed officials to ensure best possible care and assistance to the injured personnel.

The incident took place around 10:30 am in the Kadwa area when the personnel were returning in a bunker vehicle from an operation from Basant Garh.

The vehicle, which belongs to the 187 battalion of the force, was carrying 23 personnel. While two personnel died on the spot, 16 others were injured. They were evacuated to a hospital,

to injuries, taking the toll to

LG Sinha said he was saddened by the death of the CRPF personnel.

three

"We will never forget their exemplary service to the nation. My thoughts are with bereaved families. Praying for speedy recovery of injured. Directed senior officials to ensure best possible care & assistance", the LG

Singh also condoled the loss of lives, and noted that "The vehicle was carrying several brave jawans of the CRPF".

He said he has spoken to Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai, who is personally monitoring the situation.

"Rescue measures have been initiated immediately. Locals have voluntarily come forward to assist. All

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SCW registers case for Rs 12 lakh job fraud

received wherein the com-

plainant stated that while he

was employed at a private

firm, he came in contact with

the accused who promised to

secure him a job in the gov-

ernment sector," the official

He further added, "The

accused initially handed over

a fake appointment letter in

the name of the Military

Engineer Services (MES)

and later another one pur-

portedly from the Food

Corporation of India (FCI).

To appear genuine, the

accused made the com-

travel

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plainant

Chandigarh, Delhi,

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a significant

move to strengthen the high-

er education in J&K, Chief

Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on

Thursday chaired a high-

level meeting to take stock of

the issues confronting vari-

ous universities operating

The meeting aimed at

accelerating the resolution of

pending matters hampering

the academic and infrastruc-

tural growth of these institu-

The meeting was attended

Secretary (ACS), Higher

Chief

Department,

Additional

across the Union Territory.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Special Crime Wing (SCW) of Crime Branch Jammu has registered a case against an accused for allegedly duping a complainant of Rs 12 lakhs under the false pretext of providing a government job, a senior Crime Branch official confirmed on Thursday.

According to the official, Pawnesh Kumar Sharma, son of Ram Chander Shastri, resident of House No. 153, Residency Road, Jammu, has been booked for cheating and misrepresentation after detailed verification

"A written complaint was

Terror hideout busted; AK-47, ammunition recovered

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Security forces on Thursday busted a hideout and recovered one AK-47 rifle and ammunition in Kishtwar district, officials

The recovery was made

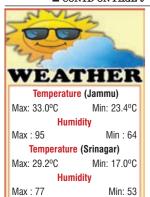
the Berighouthfrom Dugadda area in the Chatroo area after a hideout was busted during a routine search operation, they said. One AK-47, a magazine of the weapon, 30 rounds, including some Pak rounds,

and a binocular were recovered, they said. JK Govt bans 25 books for propagating false

narrative, secessionism

■ STATE TIMES NEWS SRINAGAR: The Jammu

and Kashmir government has declared the publication of 25 books, including those written by famous authors like Moulana Moudadi, Arundhati Roy, A G Noorani, Victoria Schofield and David Devadas, as forfeited for "promoting CONTD ON PAGE 9



Sunset: 19:24 Hours

Sunrise: 05:49 Hours

EC notifies VP poll; 3 submit nominations, papers rejected

STATE TIMES NEWS NEW DELHI: The Election

Commission on Thursday issued a notification for the September 9 vice presidential poll, kick starting the exercise to elect Jagdeep Dhankhar's successor. Rajya Sabha Secretary

General P C Mody, the returning officer for the election, received three nomination papers, which were rejected for not being in According to the notifica-

tion, August 21 is the last date for filing nominations and the documents will be scrutinised on August 22.

The last date for the withdrawal of nominations is

CS reviews issues facing J&K varsities;

assures early resolution

Secretaries of the Finance.

Public Works (R&B), and

Departments; Secretaries of

Commissioners of Jammu

Kashmir;

and

Shantmanu;

Agriculture

Development;

Health

NDA authorises PM Modi, Nadda to pick its VP candidate

NEW DELHI: The National Democratic Alliance or Thursday authorised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president J P Nadda to pick the ruling bloc's vice presi dential candidate, Union minister Kiren Rijiju said. It was a unanimous decision, the Parliamentary Affairs

A meeting of key BJP leaders and their allies was held at

the Parliament complex where the decision was taken. Union ministers Rajnath Singh and Amit Shah besides Nadda, JD(U)'s Lalan Singh, Shiv Sena's Shrikant Shinde TDP's Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu, and Chirag Paswan of LJP (Ram Vilas) were among those who attended the meeting. Rajnath Singh chaired the meeting.

August 25.

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting at Srinagar.

Principal

Production

Divisional

Rural

The vice presidential poll was necessitated following the surprise resignation of Dhankhar on July 21, citing health reasons. His term was

to end in August 2027. The ruling BJP-led NDA has begun internal consultations for fielding candidates

Doda, Kishtwar districts

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A top Army official on Thursday reviewed the security situation of the twin mountainous districts of Doda and Kishtwar and conducted threat assessment at key checkpoints in the region.

General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Army's White Knight Corps, Lieutenant General P K Mishra, is currently visiting various operational areas in Jammu region to enhance the operational preparedness of troops ahead of Independence Day

"GOC White Knight Corps along with GOC Counter

for the vice presidential elec-

The NDA has authorised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP president J P Nadda to pick the ruling bloc's vice presidential candi-

According to constitutional provisions, in case of a midterm poll, the incumbent gets a full five-year term.

A person cannot be elected as the vice president unless he is a citizen of India, has completed 35 years of age and is qualified for election as a member of Rajya Sabha. A person is also not eligible if he holds any office of profit under the government

Anti-terror operation in Kulgam enters 7th day, 3 security personnel injured

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Three security force personnel were injured in a fresh gunfight on Thursday as the anti-terror operation in Kulgam district entered the seventh day, the longest so far this year, officials said.

Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Nalin Prabhat visited the operation area to take stock of the situation.

Northern Armv's Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma reviewed the security situation and counter-terrorism grid in South Kashmir, where he was also briefed on the ongoing opera-

"The operation has entered its seventh day and is going on," an official said.

Officials said three security forces personnel were injured in the fresh firefight in the morning. The total number of injured security forces personnel has now risen to seven, the officials added.

They said the security forces were using all means, including drones and helicopters, to track down the terrorists in the difficult terrain in the forest area.

Two terrorists have been killed in the encounter which began on Friday last after security forces launched

Chugh hails HC for putting Bhagwant Mann Govt in dock for its land pooling scheme

STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Thursday welcomed the Puniab and Haryana High Court's decision to stay the AAP government's land pooling policy, calling it a significant victory for Punjab's farmers and a crucial first step towards justice.

In a statement, Chugh said the policy has no legal standing, no farmer consent, and is being pushed without mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or Social Impact Assessment

may not give his own views,'

It went on, "The CJI bears

a significant moral respon-

sibility as the foremost judi-

cial officer to ensure that

the judiciary of the country

functions in a transparent,

efficient and constitutional-

Advising judges to be cau-

the bench said.

"This is not a policy-it is a Ponzi land grab scheme designed to hand over

fertile lands

Kejriwal's cronies," he said. Chugh alleged that the entire scheme is driven by a an alleged secret Rs 30,000 crore deal between Arvind Kejriwal and select real estate lobbies from Delhi.

"This has never been never

about development. It is a political barter to mortgage Punjab's farmland in exchange for campaign funds. Bhagwant Mann is acting not as a Chief Minister, but as a middleman for Delhi's builder mafia," he said, adding that the lack of rehabilitation plans, legal safeguards, and transparency had completely exposed AAP's true

Tarun Chugh asserted that Bhagwant Mann has lost

intentions

NIA court frames charges against

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Not mere post office, CJI bears responsibility to ensure judiciary transparent: SC

Commissioners concerned;

Managing Directors of

JPDCL and KPDCL;

Director General, Budget

Vice Chancellors of all the

major universities in J&K,

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and other senior officials.

both academic and

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Defending the Chief Justice of India's authority to act on any judimisconduct, Supreme Court Thursday said he couldn't be "merely a post office" but had the moral responsibility to ensure the judiciary functioned in a transparent, efficient and constitutionally appropriate man-

"We have no hesitation to say that the CJI is not a mere post office between the committee and the President/the Prime Minister that the report is to be forwarded without any remarks/recommendation. The CJI is clearly an important person, if not the most, in the larger scheme

ascertain whether a Judge has indulged in misconduct," the top court said.

The observations came while deciding the plea of Allahabad High judge Court Yashwant Varma, against whom an SC-appointed expert panel filed a damning report over the discovery of burnt wads of

cash from his official residence during his judgeship "As per the procedure, after receiving a complaint

against a judge or a report

from the Chief Justice of

the High Court of which he

is a Judge, the CJI has to apply his mind to the nature of complaint/report together with supporting materials, if any," a bench



of Justices Dipankar Datta and A G Masih said.

Observing procedure was scrupulously followed, the top court dismissed Varma's plea seeking invalidation of the in-house inquiry report finding him guilty of misconduct in the cash discov-In its judgement, the apex

court observed if the CJI believes the matter requires a deeper probe, he is required to

report to the President and

the Prime Minister. We see

no justification to hold that

in so forwarding, the CJI

constitute

in-house ly appropriate manner. inquiry. "The report of tious and exercise discretion in judicial conduct, the top inquiry may, or may not, find the allegations

committee for

against Judge to be serious, so as to call for any measure. However, if it does, the CJI is under an obligation to forward the

court said judicial officers in every rank, and more specifically, judges in the higher echelons of the judiciary "owe huge obligation" to the people of the country. "No judge, either of the Supreme Court or the High Courts, being above the law,

his judicial or ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

acting in the discharge of

2 men in terror-funding case STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: An NIA court here has framed charges against two men in a terrorfunding case involving handlers and commanders of the proscribed outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) from across the Line of Control (LoC).

The investigation was conducted by the Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) wing of the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

"The court of special judge designated under the NIA Act in Srinagar has framed charges in a high-profile terror-funding case registered under various sections of UAPA read with Section 120-B of the IPC," a CIK spokesman said.

He said charges have been framed against two individuals -- Shabir Ahmad Bhat, a

resident of Khadermoh Kakapora, and Yatoo Ahmad

Patalbagh Pampore. Criminal proceedings have also been initiated against absconding Pakistan-based LeT handler Sumama alias Babar alias Ilvas, who is also an accused in the case, he

"The case pertains to a meticulously crafted criminal conspiracy orchestrated by handlers and commanders of LeT from across the LoC, who, in close coordination with Pakistani nationals based in Gulf countries and other foreign territories. have been channelling terror funds into J-K.

"These funds were being routed through a well-organised network using

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