



RNI No. : 66908/96
Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/2025-27

Vol. 30 Issue 218 • Jammu • Friday • August 8, 2025 • Pages 12 • ₹ 3.00
Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh

03 Dr Jitendra informs RS about unique initiative for IAS aspirants

05 Activity fest for Prep Wing held at JKPS Panjtirthi

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

Tourism expansion will create employment opportunities: CM

■ 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 country.

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 youth 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 Gurezi;

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13 SHOs transferred

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Jammu, Joginder Singh, on Thursday transferred thirteen 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 Pacea 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 Novabad; Inspector Vikas Dogra as SHO Jhajar Kotli; Inspector Inderpaul Singh as SHO Bus Stand, and Inspector Shakti Devi has been appointed as SHO City.

Vehicle falls into nallah in Udhampur, 3 CRPF jawans die

LG Sinha, MoS PMO express grief

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Three Central Reserve Police Force (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 on 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,



where one more succumbed to injuries, taking the toll to three.

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

"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

said on X.

Sinha 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

■ 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, Pavnesh Kumar Sharma, son of Ram Chander Shastri, resident of House No. 153, Residency Road, Jammu, has been booked for cheating and misrepresentation after a detailed verification process.

"A written complaint was

received wherein the complainant 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 government sector," the official said.

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 purportedly from the Food Corporation of India (FCI). To appear genuine, the accused made the complainant travel to Chandigarh, Delhi,

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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 said.

The recovery was made from the Berighouth-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 Devasdas, as forfeited for "promoting

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 33.0°C Min: 23.4°C

Humidity
Max: 95 Min: 64

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 29.2°C Min: 17.0°C

Humidity
Max: 77 Min: 53

Sunset : 19:24 Hours
Sunrise : 05:49 Hours

CS reviews issues facing J&K varsities; assures early resolution

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: In a significant move to strengthen the higher education in J&K, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to take stock of the issues confronting various universities operating across the Union Territory.

The meeting aimed at accelerating the resolution of pending matters hampering the academic and infrastructural growth of these institutions.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Higher Education Department,



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting at Srinagar.

Shantmanu; Principal Secretaries of the Finance, Public Works (R&B), and Agriculture Production Departments; Secretaries of Health and Rural Development; Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir; Deputy

Commissioners concerned; Managing Directors of JPDCL and KPDCL; Director General, Budget and other senior officials.

Vice Chancellors of all the major universities in J&K, both academic and

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GoC reviews security of 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 the Jammu region to enhance the operational preparedness of troops ahead of Independence Day.

"GOC White Knight Corps, along with GOC Counter

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

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHANDIGARH: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Thursday welcomed the Punjab 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 (SIA).

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



Punjab's fertile lands to Kejriwal's cronies," he said.

Chugh alleged that the entire scheme is driven by 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 intentions.

Tarun Chugh asserted that Bhagwant Mann has lost

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NIA court frames charges against 2 men in terror-funding case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: An NIA court here has framed charges against two men in a terror-funding 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 Javid Ahmad Yatoo from Patalbagh Pampore.

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

"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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