

# STATE TIMES

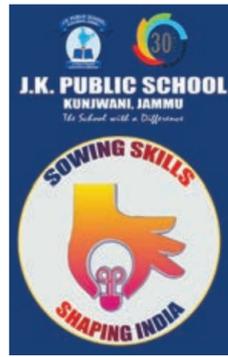
THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

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Air surcharge 50 paise for Leh



**08** LG Kavinder asks youth to take lead in nation building through democratic participation

**09** Jammu South Police nabs woman peddler with heroin, cash

**10** JK Public School hosts Inter-House Swimming Meet 2025 with enthusiasm, declares pool closure for winter

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

## Gadkari, Omar review Srinagar-Jammu Highway traffic restoration

### CM calls for uninterrupted passage of fruit-laden trucks to ease crisis

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday participated in a high-level virtual meeting chaired by Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari to review the status of restoration of Srinagar-Jammu National Highway.

Highlighting the difficulties faced by fruit growers and traders due to prolonged closure of the highway, the Chief Minister urged the Union Minister for uninterrupted passage for heavy vehicles. He said while blacktopping and maintenance of the road is necessary, it must not come at the cost of prolonged disruption of vital traffic movement.

"Blacktopping can wait for its turn. But large vehicles, especially 4-axle and 5-axle trucks, cannot be diverted through Mughal Road. This is the only route available for them, and huge number of trucks stranded on the Kashmir side alone, clearing this backlog is crucial," the Chief Minister said.

He added that the fruit season is at its peak and further delays in transportation are causing heavy losses to growers and traders.



Union Minister Nitin Gadkari chairing a virtual meeting from New Delhi on Tuesday.

The Chief Minister emphasized that while small vehicles could be diverted, the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway (NH-44) must remain open for heavy traffic until all stranded vehicles are cleared. He stressed that blacktopping works should only be undertaken after backlog traffic on both sides is fully cleared.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari assured the Chief Minister that his concerns

would be addressed.

He said the backlog of trucks and other heavy vehicles would be cleared on priority before blacktopping resumes. The Chief Minister asked Chief Secretary to ensure lane discipline and to regulate traffic on the highway to facilitate smooth clearance.

Yesterday, Minister for Agriculture Javid Dar inspected the National Highway to

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## Manoj gets Addl charge of Joint Controller LMD Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Tuesday assigned look-after charge of the post of Joint Controller, Legal Metrology Department (LMD) to Manoj Prabhakar.

"It is ordered that Manoj Prabhakar, Deputy Controller, Consumer Protection, Legal Metrology Department, Jammu shall look-after the charge of the post of Joint Controller, Legal Metrology Department, Jammu, in addition to his own duties till further orders," reads an order issued by Saurabh Bhagat, Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs.

## Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrimage to resume today after 22-day halt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The pilgrimage to Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills will resume on Wednesday, subject to favourable weather conditions, SMVDSB said.

The pilgrimage was suspended on August 26, hours before a major landslide hit the route leading to the shrine that resulted in the death of 34 pilgrims and injuries to 20 others.

"Jai Mata Di...Vaishno Devi Yatra shall resume from September 17, 2025 (Wednesday) subject to favourable weather conditions. Devotees are requested to stay updated through official communication channels," Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) said in a post on X.



The decision to resume the yatra comes two days after a group of pilgrims staged a protest at Katra base camp in support of their demand for resumption of the pilgrimage. Earlier, the shrine board had decided to

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## Rajnath exhorts Armed Forces to remain alert to deal with invisible challenges

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KOLKATA: Asserting that the nature of warfare is continuously evolving, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday exhorted the Armed Forces to go beyond the traditional concepts of war and remain alert and ready to deal with invisible challenges.

He said that the recent global conflicts have underlined the relevance of a "technology-friendly" military.

Addressing the 16th Combined Commanders' Conference (CCC) 2025 in Kolkata, the defence minister asked the Armed Forces to be ready to deal



with "invisible challenges emanating from unconventional threats such as information, ideological, ecological and biological warfare."

Singh emphasised the need for constant assessment of the changes taking

place across the globe, and its impact on the security system of the country, in view of the turbulent global order, regional instability and the emerging security landscape.

"Wars of today are so sudden and unpredictable that it is extremely difficult to foretell their duration. It can be two months, a year, or even five years. We need to be prepared... We need to ensure that our surge capacity remains sufficient," he said. He commended the Armed Forces for their "outstanding performance" and "exemplary

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## Action must against those selling drugs 'Pudiya', narcotics traders sitting abroad: Amit Shah

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said the time has come to bring those who run drug trade in India by sitting abroad and stressed that the Narendra Modi government is determined to wipe out all kinds of narcotics from the nation.

Addressing the second national conference of heads of Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) of states and Union territories, he also said that strict action is

being taken against drugs cartels which are smuggling and selling drugs 'pudiya'



(small packets) in 'paan' shops or kiosks.

Shah said a triangular strategy has to be adopted in the fight against drugs.

"For the drug supply chain, we should have a ruthless approach, a strategic approach in demand reduction, and a human approach in harm reduction. The ANTF should move forward with these three approaches," he said.

The two-day conference, organised by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), began here on Tuesday.

Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a

## Criminal detained under PSA

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: An alleged criminal has been detained under the stringent Public Safety Act in Kathua district, police said on Tuesday.

Sharafat Ali, a resident of Lohai-Malhar, was taken into custody by police and later lodged in the district jail in Udhampur under the Public Safety Act (PSA), a police spokesman said.

"Ali is a habitual criminal who has been involved in various illegal acts over the past few years. To prevent his illegal activities, a dossier was prepared and sent to the Kathua district magistrate who ordered his

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## Arms smuggling bid foiled along IB; one AK rifle seized

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Security forces on Tuesday thwarted an arms smuggling attempt along the International Border in R S Pura sector here by recovering an AK assault rifle along with a magazine, officials said.

The recovery was made in a joint search operation by the Border Security Force (BSF) and police from Arnia after getting information about suspicious movement, the officials said.

They said the search operation in the area was still continuing when last reports were received.

## IGP V K Birdi reviews security scenario in Valley

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone, V K Birdi, on Tuesday reviewed the security scenario in the valley.

According to an official, Birdi chaired a meeting attended by all range officers, district police heads of Kashmir Zone and

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## Over 2,200 fruit-laden trucks evacuated via Mughal Road in Kashmir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: More than 2,200 fruit-laden trucks were evacuated via the Mughal Road, the alternative road link between the valley and Jammu, during the past 24 hours, an official said on Tuesday.

The trucks were stranded along the Srinagar-Jammu national highway due to its closure following landslides in the wake of incessant rains.

The 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, suffered

## Kashmir apple prices nosedive in Jammu

JAMMU: The nearly month-long closure of the Jammu-Srinagar national highway has disrupted the supply chain between the two divisions of the Union Territory, causing apple prices to drop sharply at the Jammu fruit mandi.

With truck consignments delayed by several days, perishable apples are arriving in poor condition, forcing traders to sell at drastically reduced rates. Growers and traders alike are now grappling with heavy financial losses, raising concerns over the future stability of the region's apple trade amid continued transport hurdles.

The 270-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, suffered extensive damage at several places, especially between

Nashri and Udhampur, ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

## CM reviews telecom, digital communications infra projects in J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday chaired a review meeting on strengthening telecom and digital communications infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir, with a particular focus on extending services to far-flung villages, dark zones and railway tunnels.

The meeting, attended by Minister for Information Technology Satish Sharma, Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, several Administrative Secretaries, and officials of BSNL, discussed the status of ongoing projects and the challenges delaying their execution.



CM Omar Abdullah chairing review meeting at Srinagar.

Underlining the significance of connectivity as a bridge to progress, the Chief Minister said robust mobile and internet services are essential for effective governance, quality education, accessible healthcare, vibrant tourism and overall public welfare.

Officials from BSNL

briefed the meeting on the progress of the Amended BharatNet Project (ABP) Phase-III, which aims to deliver high-speed internet to Gram Panchayats and rural areas. The Chief Minister directed that strict timelines be maintained and stressed the need for priority

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**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 33.7°C Min: 26.3°C

Humidity  
Max: 86 Min: 69

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 29.5°C Min: 18.2°C

Humidity  
Max: 80 Min: 43

Sunset: 18:36 Hours  
Sunrise: 06:15 Hours

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