

"One secret of success in life is for a man to be ready for his opportunity when it comes."
—Benjamin Disraeli

Inking the Truth

IN BRIEF

Jumat-ul-Vida holiday to be observed today

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Thursday announced the postponement of the holiday on account of Jumat-ul-Vida, shifting it from March 20 to March 13, 2026 across the Union Territory.

According to a government order, the decision has been taken in partial modification of Government Order No. 1894-JK(GAD) of 2025 and Government Order No. 1895-JK(GAD) of 2025, both dated December 12, 2025.

The order states that the holiday for Jumat-ul-Vida will now be observed on Friday, March 13, 2026, instead of the previously scheduled March 20.

The order has been issued by order of the Lieutenant Governor, J&K, vide Government Order No. 323-JK(GAD) of 2026 dated March 12, 2026, and signed by ► P11

LG attends closing ceremony of All India Police Kabaddi Cluster

Peace in J-K built on sacrifices of Police, Army, CAPFs: Sinha

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said that the peace we enjoy today, the peace that lets families gather, athletes compete, and communities thrive, did not come without a price.

"This peace was secured through the sacrifices of the J&K Police, the Army, and the CAPFs. Thousands of police personnel, soldiers, and CAPF bravehearts gave their lives protecting the people of Jammu & Kashmir. Our duty is not just to remember them, but to ensure their sacrifice endures, preserving the peace they won," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor issued a stern warning to those who seek to destroy this peace: "You will find no place



LG assures Dr Farooq of probe into attack

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday spoke to former chief minister Farooq Abdullah following the attack on him at a wedding function and assured him that a thorough investigation would be conducted. Abdullah (88) had a narrow escape when a gunman opened fire at him from behind ► P11

to hide. We will hunt you down from the deepest depths".

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the closing ceremony of 2nd All India Police Kabaddi Cluster 2025-26 (Men & Women) at MA Stadium Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor felicitated the sportspersons from State Police Forces and CAPFs participated in different sports disciplines including Kabaddi, Gymnastics, Fencing and Kho-Kho. He said the discipline, and determination displayed by the participants truly reflect the core values of policing.

"Sports have always bridged divides through their unmatched reliability. Language, geography, social status, rank, and authority fade away on the field. ► P11

JKCA SCAM

Court recalls non-bailable warrant against Dr Farooq

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: A local court on Thursday recalled a non-bailable warrant hours after issuing it against former chief minister Farooq Abdullah in the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) scam case, considering his condition following a murderous attack a day before.

Earlier in the day, Chief Judicial Magistrate Srinagar Tabassum had issued a non-bailable warrant as Abdullah failed to appear in Court either in person or online.

However, Abdullah's counsel, Ishiyaq Khan, moved an application seeking the recall of the warrant as medical consultants of the former chief minister had advised him against any travel after the life-threatening attack on him at Jammu last night.

"While the Applicant survived the attempt, the physical

and psychological after-shock has severely exacerbated his pre-existing medical conditions, including fluctuating blood pressure and cardiac distress," the counsel said in the application.

Khan said consequent to the attack, Abdullah has been placed under strict clinical

observation and "Restricted Security Protocol."

"His medical consultants have strictly prohibited any travel, particularly air or road travel between Jammu and Srinagar, as the same would pose a grave risk to his life and health. That in light of these insurmountable circumstances, the ► P11

'God saved me', says NC chief

JAMMU: Veteran politician and National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Thursday described his narrow escape from an assassination attempt as an act of divine intervention, while raising serious questions over the "total absence" of police deployment at a high-profile wedding where the incident took place.

The 88-year-old former chief minister was targeted at point-blank range on Wednesday night while leaving a marriage pavilion in the Greater Kailash area on the outskirts of Jammu. "I am fine and God has saved ► P11



LG, CM greet people on Jumat-ul-Vida

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has extended his greetings to the people on the occasion of Jumat-ul-Vida, which will be celebrated tomorrow on March 13.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said, "On the auspicious occasion of Jumat-ul-Vida, I extend my hearty greetings and good wishes to all. I pray for the health, happiness, and prosperity of every citizen.

As we observe the final Friday of the holy month of Ramzan, may the Almighty graciously accept our prayers and devotions and ► P11

Drone-dropped heroin worth Rs 12 Cr seized

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Around 2 kg of heroin worth Rs 12 crore "dropped" by a Pakistani drone was recovered near the International Border here, officials said on Thursday.

The recovery was made by Jammu Police and 101 Battalion BSF from an agricultural land in Bahadurpura village in the Bishnah area late Wednesday night, they said.

"Acting on the inputs regarding a suspicious drone dropping, a search operation was launched, leading to the

recovery of a bag attached with a rope and hook containing small packets of heroin," police said.

Police termed the recovery as a significant achievement on the anti-drug trafficking front and said the area is just a few kilometres from the International border.

The recovered packets contain around 2 kg of heroin worth Rs 12 crore in the international market, they said.

A case under relevant sections of the NDPS Act has been registered at the Bishnah police station. ► P11

NC takes out protest march Man who opened fire at Farooq sent to five days police remand

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: A court here on Thursday remanded a man who allegedly made an assassination attempt on National Conference president Farooq Abdullah to five-day police custody for questioning.

The 63-year-old accused, Kamal Singh Jamwal, was produced in the city court amid tight security.

Police sought his custody stating that further interrogation was necessary to ascertain the motive behind the attack and to verify whether the accused had any links with

any organisation or individual. The court, after hearing both sides, allowed five days' police remand and also asked the police to ensure proper medical checkup of the accused every 24 hours.

Earlier, Jamwal, a resident of Purani Mandi, was taken to hospital where he underwent medical checkup.

"I have not done this at the behest of anyone. I have fired at him," he told reporters.

Abdullah had a narrow escape on Wednesday night when the accused allegedly opened fire at him from be-

hind while he was leaving a marriage function at Greater Kailash on the outskirts of Jammu.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC) on Thursday staged a protest march in Jammu against the attack on its president and former chief minister Farooq Abdullah, demanding a thorough probe into the incident and "restoration of law and order".

Abdullah (88) had a narrow escape when a gunman opened fire at him from behind while he was ► P11

Shabir Shah gets bail in terror funding case

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday granted bail to Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Ahmed Shah in a terror funding case, in which he was arrested by the National Investigation Agency on June 4, 2019.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said a detailed order will follow with some stringent bail conditions on Shah.

The bench passed the order after hearing rejoinder arguments on behalf of Shah, represented by senior advocate Colin Gonsalves. Senior advocate Siddharth Luthra appeared on behalf of the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

During the hearing, the

bench pointed out several anomalies in the trial and flagged the long incarceration of Shah.

On September 4 last year, the apex court refused to grant interim bail to Shah in the case and issued notice to the NIA, seeking its response on his plea challenging a Delhi High Court order dated June 12, 2025, that denied him relief.

The high court refused to grant bail to Shah, observing that the possibility of his carrying out similar unlawful activities and influencing witnesses could not be ruled out.

In 2017, the NIA booked 12 people on allegations of conspiracy for raising ► P11

Hideout busted; IED recovered

JAMMU: Security forces busted a terrorist hideout in a remote forest area in Rajouri district and recovered an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), officials said on Thursday.

The hideout was unearthed during a search operation by troops of the Rashtriya Rifles in the Chamrer forest area of Thanamandi on Wednesday evening, they said.

Besides a ready-to-use IED, some eatables and clothes were also recovered from the hideout. However, no one was arrested ► P11

Omar reviews works' progress under SASCI CM stresses faster fund utilization, timely completion of Govt projects

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday chaired a meeting to review the progress of projects under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme.

The review focused on the progress of works, reforms and opportunities, covering a wide spectrum of projects being executed by different departments.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, besides the Administrative Secretaries of several depart-



ments and senior officers from the concerned departments, were present at the meeting.

Taking a comprehensive department-wise review, the Chief Minister examined the

physical and financial progress, utilisation of funds, and issues hampering the timely execution of the projects.

The Chief Minister issued clear directions for ► P11

Omar meets father; leaders demand probe

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah met his father and National Conference president Farooq Abdullah here on Thursday morning, hours after security personnel foiled an assassination attempt on the veteran leader at a wedding function ► P11

193 MPs sign notice seeking CEC's removal

NEW DELHI: As many as 130 Lok Sabha MPs and 63 Rajya Sabha MPs have signed a notice seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, sources said on Thursday.

According to a source, the notice is likely to be submitted in at least one of the two Houses on Friday, though it was not clear in which House it would be brought first.

An opposition leader said that MPs showed great enthusiasm in signing the notice, with several lawmakers coming forward to sign the notice on Thursday, even as the requisite numbers had already been achieved.

According to rules, at least 100 MPs need to sign a notice seeking the removal of the chief election commissioner (CEC) in the Lok Sabha, while the required strength in the Rajya Sabha is 50.

The notice has been signed by members from all the INDIA bloc parties, the source said, including the AAP, even though it is no longer officially part of the opposition alliance.

This is the first time a notice is being moved seeking the removal of the CEC.

According to a source, seven charges are listed against the CEC in the notice,

ranging from "partisan and discriminatory conduct in office" to "deliberate obstruction of investigation of electoral fraud" and "mass disenfranchisement."

The opposition parties have accused CEC Gyanesh Kumar of aiding the ruling BJP on several occasions, especially with the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which they alleged aims to help the saffron party at the Centre.

Special concerns have been raised against the SIR exercise in West Bengal, with Trinamool Congress supreme and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee ► P11

NIA conducts multiple raids in Poonch

JAMMU: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday conducted raids at multiple locations in Poonch district as part of its probe into a terror conspiracy case, officials said.

The raids were conducted at Mohalla Khorinar and Hari-Surankote in connection with a case related to a terror conspiracy involving the recovery of arms and ammunition, including a pistol and two grenades, from two people in the border district in 2024, they said.

The NIA had already filed a chargesheet against the accused -- Abdul Aziz and Munawar Hussain -- along with their Pakistani ► P11

Technology and e-governance tools to drive transparent Census 2027: DCO Amit Sharma

NEW DELHI: Emphasising the growing role of digital governance in national data systems, IAS officer Amit Sharma on Thursday said the integration of technology and e-governance tools in Census 2027 is aimed at ensuring greater transparency and accuracy in the country's largest demographic exercise.

Sharma, Director Census Operations and Director Citizen Registration for the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh under the Ministry of Home Affairs, shared details of the proposed digital framework of the upcoming Census while addressing two national forums -- the PSU Summit & Awards and a



WhatsApp--Meta discussion platform -- where he was invited as a keynote speaker and subject specialist.

Speaking at the events, Sharma said the next Census will depart from traditional

enumeration practices and adopt a comprehensive digital architecture designed to improve efficiency and reliability of demographic data. According to him, the extensive use of digital platforms ► P11

India rejects Pak 'storytelling' on border clash

NEW DELHI: India on Thursday trashed Islamabad's allegations of an Indian hand in the recent clashes between Pakistani troops and the Taliban and asserted that no amount of "storytelling" will alter the fact that Pakistan backs cross-border terrorism.

New Delhi also rejected Pakistan's criticism of the India-Canada uranium deal, describing Islamabad's reaction to it as "ludicrous" and an attempt to distract attention from its own "abysmal record".

It has become "second nature" for Pakistan to blame India for its misdeeds, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Islamabad's allegations relating to the Pakistan-Taliban border conflict.

"I would like to say that we reject such baseless allegations. It has ► P11

Jai Mata Di

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