

**"If we take care of the moments, the years will take care of themselves."**

—Maria Edgeworth

*Making the Truth*

**INBRIEF**  
**NHAI hikes annual pass fee by Rs 75**

**NEW DELHI:** The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on Sunday said it has increased the rate of its annual pass by Rs 75 to Rs 3,075 for the next 2026-27 financial year.

The annual pass facility was launched on August 15, 2025, to provide financial relief to commuters using national highways.

In a statement, NHAI said it is revising the applicable fee for the FASTag Annual Pass from the current Rs 3,000 to Rs 3,075 for the Financial Year 2026-27.

Effective April 1, the revision in the fee has been carried out in accordance with the provisions of the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) said.

With over 56 lakh users, the adoption of the FASTag Annual Pass has been growing among private vehicle owners.

The revised rate will be applicable for eligible P11

**LPG refill bookings fall to 77 lakh**

**NEW DELHI:** LPG refill bookings have declined to about 77 lakh from 88.8 lakh earlier, indicating some easing of panic buying, even as the government said there is no shortage of petrol, diesel or cooking gas, and supplies remain stable despite the West Asia conflict.

In a daily update on the impact of the West Asia situation, the government said the share of online LPG bookings has risen to about 87 per cent from 84 per cent, attributing the increase to a campaign by oil marketing companies promoting digital booking and discouraging people P11

**Judicial system should work like hospitals: CJI**

**MANDI (HP):** Chief Justice of India Justice Surya stated on Sunday that judicial complexes should operate with the same spirit of service as hospitals, as people come to courts with hope seeking relief and justice.

While addressing a legal literacy camp after laying the foundation stone for the Mandi Judicial Court Complex, the Chief Justice emphasised that with increasing facilities comes a greater responsibility for the judicial system.

He highlighted that while discussions often focus on fundamental rights, fundamental duties are also a crucial part of the Constitution and should be upheld.

**NC MLAs urge LG to withdraw cases against youths held during protests**

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** A four-member delegation of the ruling National Conference MLAs called on Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha here on Sunday to seek withdrawal of cases against youths arrested during the recent protests in the Valley over the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The delegation comprised MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq, MLA Chadoora Ali Mohammad Dar, MLA Pattan Javid Riyaz Bedar, and MLA Sonawari Hilal Akbar Lone.



Speaking to reporters after meeting the L-G, Sadiq told reporters that the delegation raised the issue of the arrest of youth and registration of cases against them.

27 NoKs, CB photographer's kin get job letters  
**Terror cases to reopen; executors will be held accountable: LG Sinha**



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday handed over appointment letters to 27 Next of Kins (NoKs) of vic-

tims of terrorism, at Lok Bhavan Srinagar. Appointment letters were also handed over to 22 NoKs of deceased government employees, under Jammu & Kashmir Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme-

2022 and SRO 43.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated his resolve to secure justice for every terror victim's family. He stated that pending cases will be reopened to hold perpetrators accountable.

Paying homage to the civilian martyrs, the Lieutenant Governor said that for decades, NoKs of our poor and vulnerable brothers and sisters, felled by terrorists' bullets, had clung to the hope of redress. He said the campaign launched from Baramulla last year has provided these families with support, courage, and renewed self-belief.

"Our campaign to deliver justice to terror victims' families has restored their tomorrow. We have succeeded in dispelling the shadow of injustice and ushering a new dawn of justice at doorsteps of terror victims' families. To date, around 400 NoKs have P11

**3-day RSS' ABPS meet concludes in Haryana**  
Govt working for nation first: Hosabale

**SAMALKHA:** A three-day Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha meeting of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh concluded here on Sunday with a resolve to expand organisational work, encourage active participation of the "positive forces" in national interest, and strengthen social harmony.

On the final day of the meeting, RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale said there has been a significant expansion in organisational



work over the past year. The number of 'Sangh Shakhas' has increased by nearly 6,000 and has now crossed 88,000, he said.

The number of places where 'Shakhas' are conducted has grown to more than 55,000. The number of 'Saptahik Milans' and 'Mandalis' has also increased, he said.

Hosabale said that organisational expansion should also be viewed in terms of the Sangh's presence in regions such as Andaman, Arunachal Pradesh, Leh, and remote tribal areas, where 'shakhas' are now being conducted. P11

**Jaishankar speaks to FMs of UAE, Saudi**

**NEW DELHI:** Against the backdrop of spiralling hostilities between Iran and the US, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke to his counterparts from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emi-

rates (UAE) focusing on various aspects of the evolving situation in West Asia.

Jaishankar held the phone conversations with UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al

Nahyan and Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan Saturday night.

"Discussed ongoing developments related to the conflict in West Asia," the external affairs minister P11

**Election dates out for four States, UT**

**NEW DELHI:** Assembly elections in Assam, Kerala and Puducherry will be held on a single day on April 9, in Tamil Nadu on April 23 and in two phases in West Bengal on April 23 and 29, while votes will be counted for all polls on May 4, the Election Commission announced on Sunday.

Compared to eight voting days spread across almost a month in 2021, there will be three polling days in a 20-day period in these elections, which will see the BJP trying to retain power in Assam, while it will be pitted against ruling parties in West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Puducherry is governed by NDA partner All India N R

Congress.

A total of 17.4 crore voters are eligible to vote in the elections to five assemblies with 824 constituencies, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said at a press conference here.

"Voting for all seats in Assam will be held on April 9. Voting in West Bengal will take place in two phases on April 23 and April 29.

"The voting for all seats in Kerala and Puducherry will take place on April 9, while all Tamil Nadu seats will go to polls on April 23," said Kumar, who was flanked by the two Election Commissioners - Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi.

The model code P11

**J&K has seen significant gains post abrogation of Article 370: Athawale**  
Union Minister hits Cong on US deal

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Union minister Ramdas Athawale appealed to Naxalites on Sunday to shun violence and join the mainstream, while strongly condemning a recent attack on National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah, saying such incidents are a matter of serious concern and unacceptable in a democratic country.

Athawale said the Centre stands with the people of Jammu and Kashmir, which has seen significant progress since the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in 2019, and reiterated that statehood to the Union Territory may be restored soon.

"The attack on Abdullah (on March 11) is unfortunate and condemnable. He has always supported strong relations between Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of India. There may be ideological differences, but we must respect democratic values. No one has the



right to take someone's life," the Republican Party of India (RPI) president told reporters here.

He said the NC was part of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) earlier and Farooq Abdullah's son, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, was a member of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's cabinet.

Athawale said Union Home Minister Amit Shah has spoken to Farooq Abdullah and given instructions to strengthen his security.

He said the Centre is against all forms of violence and wants peace to prevail in the country, referring to the Union government's efforts to eradicate Naxalism, and P11

**Army foils infiltration; terrorist killed**

**SRINAGAR:** The army on Sunday said that it has foiled an infiltration bid along the Line of Control in Uri sector of Jammu and Kashmir, killing a Pakistani terrorist.

"Based on a specific intelligence input provided by #JKP regarding P11

**Higher reaches receive fresh snowfall; Mughal Road shut**

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Few areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir, including the Gulmarg tourist resort, received fresh snowfall, while the plains were lashed by rains on Sunday, officials said.

The upper reaches of

Gulmarg, including Apharwat and Kongdoori bowls, received snowfall, which continued till last reports came in. Pir Ki Gali, along the Mughal Road in Shopian district of south Kashmir, and Sonamarg Zojilla axis also received fresh snowfall. The snowfall on the Zo-

jilla Pass forced the closure of the Srinagar-Leh national highway, the officials added.

The plains of the valley, including Srinagar, were lashed by rains which were going on till last reports, the officials said.

The wet weather has brought down the P11



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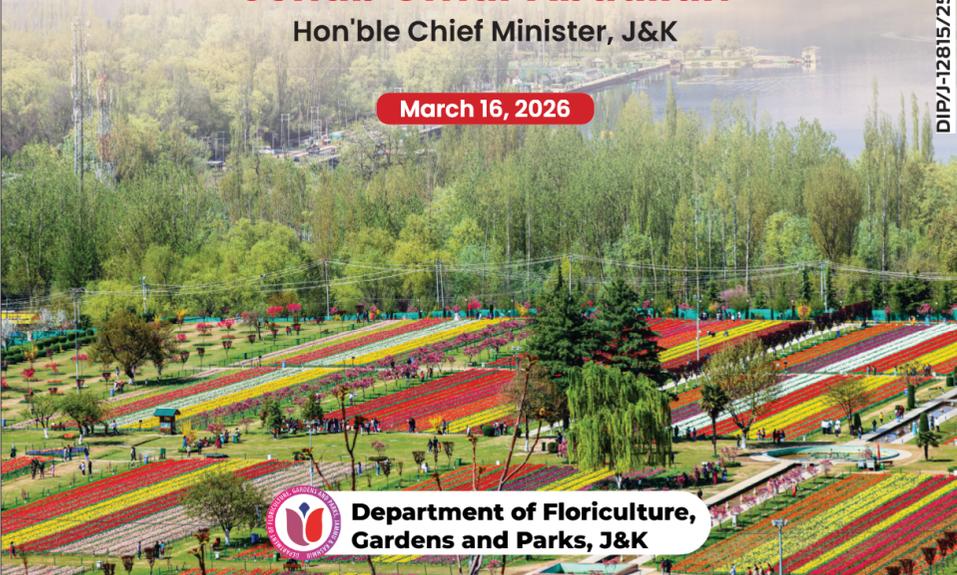


**Tulip Garden, Srinagar**

by

**Jenab Omar Abdullah**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister, J&K

**March 16, 2026**



**Department of Floriculture, Gardens and Parks, J&K**

DIP/J-12815/25