

Anti-Paper Leak Law gets Prez’s approval

NEW DELHI: A bill that proposes to set up fast-track courts in every state for speedy trials of accused and enhance punishment in public examination question paper leak cases has received the assent of the president.

In a gazette notification issued on Friday, the law ministry said President Droupadi Murmu has given assent to the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 after it was cleared by both Houses of Parliament earlier this week.

Now, investigations into paper leak cases are to be completed within two months.

According to the legislation, individuals involved in paper leaks or unfair means in exams will get jail terms for a minimum of 5 years and a maximum of 10 years, and a fine of up to **► P11**

Eight SHOs among 18 cops shifted

JAMMU: In a significant administrative reshuffle aimed at strengthening policing and improving operational efficiency, the District Police Headquarters (DPHQ) Jammu on Saturday ordered the transfer and posting of 18 police officers, including Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors (SIs), Probationary Sub-Inspectors (PSIs), and Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs), with immediate effect.

According to Order No. 1016 of 2026 dated August 1, 2026, issued by Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Jammu Joginder **► P11**

Chief Secy Chairs 19th J&K UTLBC meet Banks disbursed Rs 84,384 Cr credit to 19.37 lakh beneficiaries in FY 2025-26



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Saturday chaired the 19th meeting of the Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory Level Bankers' Committee (UTLBC) at SKICC

here to review the performance of the banking sector and Government departments in deployment of credit and implementation of banking-related initiatives during the financial year 2025-26 ended March 31, 2026.

During the financial year 2025-26, banks operating in the Union Territory collectively disbursed credit worth Rs 84,384 Cr to 19.37 lac beneficiaries thereby achieving 108% of the annual target. Out of total credit disbursed during FY 2025-26, Rs. 44,228.30 Crore was deployed in priority sector. J&K Bank has the contribution of 63.41% in the total credit disbursed under Priority sector.

The meeting was attended by Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Finance Department, Shaileendra Kumar; Convener, UTLBC and MD & CEO, J&K Bank, Amitava Chatterjee; **► P11**

J&K Govt gears up to enforce FRA

JAMMU: Asserting that no encroachment on forest land will be tolerated, Jammu and Kashmir Tribal Affairs minister Javed Ahmad Rana on Saturday said Omar Abdullah-led National Conference government has taken a "major decision" to implement the Forests Rights Act in its true letter and spirit in the Union Territory.

The minister said the government has ordered inquiries into alleged excesses against tribal communities and that action will be taken wherever illegalities are established after examining the inquiry reports. **► P11**

Two migrant workers killed in Kulgam terror attack; LG chairs security meet

■ LG gives appointment letters to kin of 2 slain policemen



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday chaired a security review meeting in Srinagar in the wake of the killing of two migrant workers in a terror attack in Kulgam, and directed security forces to intensify precise and high-impact anti-terror operations to neutralise terrorists.

Sinha chaired the meeting at the Lok Bhavan, an official spokesperson said.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of the civil administration and police, including Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, DGP Nalin Prabhat, Principal Secretary Home Department Chandraker Bharti, Divisional Commissioners, SSPs, and Deputy Commissioners.

The lieutenant governor directed all the deputy commissioners and SSPs to conduct a comprehensive review of the Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) established to protect labourers from outside Jammu and Kashmir, the spokesperson said.

"We must intensify precise, high-impact anti-terror operations to neutralise the terrorists," the lieutenant governor said.

Sinha also directed that employers must ensure all workers from other states and UTs of the country are provided insurance and that their details are registered with local police and district authorities.

Sinha instructed authorities to ensure dignified last rites for the victims of the terror attack and to provide all the support to bereaved families.

Deepak Ratray and Bopinder, who were in their 20s and hailed from **► P11**

Livelihood quest turns tragic for two workers

SAKTI/SARANGARH: Driven out of their quiet villages in Chhattisgarh by crushing poverty, Deepak Ratre and Bhupendra Bhaina journeyed to Jammu and Kashmir in search of a better future but ended up becoming the latest victims of terror, plunging their families into despair.

The duo, both in their 20s, were gunned down at the brick kiln where they were employed in the Kelam area of south Kashmir's

Kulgam district late on Friday evening.

Deepak Ratre (24), the sole earner for a household with a disabled brother, an elderly mother, wife and a four-month-old infant son, leaves behind a grief-stricken family in Bundeli village of Sakti district, his uncle Haldhar Ratre said on Saturday.

He had travelled to Jammu and Kashmir with his wife around seven to eight months ago **► P11**

Chhattisgarh Govt declares Rs 20L aid

RAIPUR: The Chhattisgarh government on Saturday announced an ex gratia of Rs 20 lakh each for the families of two migrant workers from the state killed in a terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district, officials said.

Deepak Ratre, a resident of Sakti district, and Bhupendra Bhaina from Sarangarh-Bilaigarh district, both in their 20s, were gunned down **► P11**



Omar announces Rs 10L 'ex-gratia'

BENGALURU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday condemned the terrorist **► P11**

Kathua Biotech Park to drive innovation, jobs across J&K, north India: Dr Jitendra

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday said the Industrial Biotech Park (IBP) at Ghatti in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua would emerge as a major hub for biotechnology-driven innovation, startup incubation, research, entrepreneurship and industrial development, creating new opportunities for youth, scientists, farmers and industry in the Union Territory and across north India.

He was addressing a gathering during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu and the Jammu and Kashmir Sci-



ence, Technology and Innovation Council for the operationalisation and management of the Industrial Biotech Park.

Describing the project as another milestone in Kathua's development journey and a transformative initiative, the minister said J&K

possesses immense strengths in biodiversity, medicinal and aromatic plants, agriculture, horticulture, floriculture and other bio-resources, which can be transformed into high-value products through scientific research, biotechnology and innovation.

He said the **► P11**

Shah presents Lokmanya Tilak National Award to NSA Doval

PUNE: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday presented the Lokmanya Tilak National Award to National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval in Pune.

According to the Tilak Smarak Trust, Doval has been selected for the prestigious award for his significant contribution to national security.

Doval, 81, has handled crucial assignments in sensitive regions, including Mizoram, Sikkim, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. He also served in diplomatic roles at Indian missions in Islamabad and London.

He is the longest-serving National Security Advisor of India. Doval has served as India's special representative for the India-China boundary talks and is also credited with playing an important role in diplomatic efforts that helped resolve the Doklam standoff.

Instituted in 1983, the Lokmanya Tilak Award was first conferred on socialist leader S M Joshi, the Trust had said.

It is awarded every year on August 1, the death an-



niversary of freedom fighter Bal Gangadhar Tilak, to individuals who have made a remarkable contribution to the nation's progress and development.

Over the years, the award has been presented to several eminent personalities, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, former PMs Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Manmohan Singh, and Indira Gandhi, ex-President Pranab Mukherjee and veteran politician Sharad Pawar.

Separately, Shah paid tributes to legendary Marathi

poet and social reformer Lokshahir Annabhau Sathe on his birth anniversary during his visit to Pune.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, along with Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Sunetra Pawar, joined Shah in the Sarasbaug area, where several local leaders and dignitaries also offered flowers to Sathe's statue.

Born on August 1, 1920, Annabhau Sathe was a legendary social reformer, folk poet, and pioneer of Dalit literature in Maharashtra.

Shri Amarnathji Yatra resumes from Baltal

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra resumed on Saturday from the Baltal route after being suspended for a day due to inclement weather and necessary track repairs, officials said.

"The Yatra has resumed from the Baltal route, and pilgrims were allowed to visit the Holy Cave shrine this morning," the officials stated.

They noted that the Yatra resumed following improvement in the weather and the completion of repairs along the track.

On Friday, the Yatra was suspended due to poor weather conditions caused

by incessant rain, resulting in minor damage to the track.

Additionally, the yatra remains suspended via the Pahalgam route while essential repairs are being conducted.

Meanwhile, The Yatra was suspended from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here on Saturday as the 250-km strategic Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remained closed for the second consecutive day, due to incessant rain, officials said.

No fresh batch of pilgrims was allowed to leave the Jammu base camp for the Kashmir Valley due to repair work underway on the Ladha-Samroli **► P11**

Flash floods hit Chatroo; schools shut

JAMMU: At least two residential houses and as many shops were damaged, while two cars were swept away after a cloudburst triggered flash floods in the Chatroo area of Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district early Saturday, officials said.

Persistent rain has also disrupted normal life across the Chenab valley, prompting authorities to close schools in Kishtwar, Doda and Ramban districts.

Officials said the schools have been instructed to conduct online classes.

The cloudburst struck Chatroo at around **► P11**

No society prospers on Govt jobs alone: Omar

BENGALURU: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said no society had ever become prosperous solely through government employment or public expenditure, stressing that enterprise is what converts opportunity into prosperity.

Delivering the keynote address at the inaugural session of the IIM Bangalore Alumni Association here, Abdullah said Jammu and Kashmir's experience

showed that societies changed course when institutions altered the incentives that shaped ordinary people's decisions over time.

He said Jammu and Kashmir was often discussed through the language of politics, security and geography, but those dimensions obscured another equally important story—one of human development and resilience despite structural constraints.

"If you were shown only the physical geography of Jammu and Kashmir, you would predict an economy constrained by mountains, high transport costs, dispersed settlements, difficult logistics and limited industrialisation," he said, while noting that life expectancy in Jammu and Kashmir remained among the highest in the country despite those limitations.

"The answer I came to believe lay less in any single programme than in institutions. They shaped the incentives that guided people's decisions. Development is rarely the consequence of one government or one budget. It is the slow work of institutions that determines whether ordinary effort is rewarded," Abdullah said.

He said the defining productive asset of the 21st century was no longer land but enterprise supported by knowledge, techno **► P11**

JKPSC submits 67th Annual Report to Lt Guv



■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: In compliance with Article 323(2) of the Constitution of India, Jammu & Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC) today submitted its 67th Annual Report for the year 2025-26 to the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, at Lok Bhavan Srinagar. The delegation of the Members of the Commis-

sion - Dr Rajiv Singh and Asaf Mahmood Sagar; Secretary, Bashir Ahmad Dar, was led by Chairman JKPSC, Arun Kumar Choudhary.

The comprehensive report highlights a year marked by significant administrative reforms, accelerated selection timelines, and robust recruitment drives across key administrative and judicial cadres in the Union Territory.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the JKPSC's commitment to fairness and speed, while upholding meritocracy and integrity throughout the recruitment drive.

Arun Kumar Choudhary, Chairman JKPSC briefed the Lieutenant Governor on the structural and technological interventions aimed at enhancing efficiency and trans-

parency:

The report outlines the achievement of the Commission, constitutional provisions, selections made, Departmental Promotion Committee meetings held, promotions effected and the recruitment rules of the departments approved.

In 2025-26, the Public Service Commission has made (1152) selections

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Against (1263) posts, the JKPSC received (94546) applications.
- JKPSC conducted (52) written tests/Preliminary exam and (02) Mains exam.
- The Commission has made (1152) selections against (1263) posts referred to it.
- The Commission held (29) DPC meetings and cleared (508) officers for promotion.
- JKPSC conducted (03) departmental exams and (813) candidates appeared.
- The Commission gave its assent to recruitment rules of (02) departments.
- JKPSC has adopted 100% written-exam-based recruitment to ensure transparency.
- It switched over to "On-Screen Evaluation" system to avoid delay in selection process.
- JKPSC is informing the candidates about exams/interviews via SMS service.

J&K Bank
Serving To Empower

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited
Human Resources
Corporate Headquarters
M.A. Road, Srinagar
Phone No's-0194-2713121-24

Result Notification – Engagement
of Apprentices

Pursuant to Notification No. JKB/HR/Rectt/2026-182 Dated: 17.04.2026 and JKB/HR/Rectt/2026-209 Dated 28.04.2026, result of candidates who appeared in Online Examination for Engagement as Apprentice has been made available on Bank's website @ jkb.bank.in under careers tab as shared by IBPS Mumbai. Candidates can check their result by clicking the link "Online Result – Engagement of Apprentices".
Date & Venue for Document Verification of shortlisted candidates shall be communicated separately via registered Email IDs as well as on Bank's website.
Note: Shortlisted candidates are informed to regularly check careers tab of Bank's website and their registered Email for further updates.
No.: JKB/HR/Rectt/2026-369
Dated:-31.07.2026
Sd/
General Manager-HR
Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L6510JK19385GSC000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928;
E : info@jkbmail.com ; W : <http://jkb.bank.in>