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Air surcharge 50 paisa for Leh JKPS Panjtirthi celebrates

Gurupurab with great ardency

Dr Jitendra addresses IMD's 150th year ceremony, **U** announces Regional Meteorological Centre for Jammu 69th Senior National Volleyball Championship: J&K defeats Manipur, qualifies for pre-quarterfinals

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Can discard old ideas, embrace new if they fit into ideology of 'nation first': Modi

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DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said he is willing to discard old ideas and embrace new ones as long as they fit into his essential ideology of "nation first"

Appearing for the first time in a podcast, which was hosted by Zerodha co-founder Nikhil Kamath and released on Friday, Modi said he sees his success in how he prepares a team who can deftly

handle things, as he asserted that there are many young politicians with potential. He declined to name any, saving it will be injustice to many

When Kamath asked him if he has planned for the time beyond him, training those he has faith in, not for today but after 20-30 years, Modi said, "I can see people with a lot of potential. When I was in Gujarat, I would say that

Social media strengthened democracy: PM

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said social media has strengthened democracy by opening up ways to verify information which earlier was available from a handful of sources with little alternatives.

In an interaction with Zerodha founder Nikhil Kamath, Modi said earlier there were very few persons who used to report on events and their version was considered as the

"You were trapped as there was no opportunity to seek verification. But, today you have an alternative to verify information on different platforms. Everything is available on your mobile phone," Modi said.

"If you pay little attention, you can find out the truth. This is the reason that social media can strengthen democracy," he

The prime minister said youngsters have the tendency to verify information on social media before believing anything as the truth.

Modi said he was amazed to see the amount of interest the youngsters have shown in developments in the space sector. "Chandrayaan's success has created a new enthusiasm in

today's youth. I meet many children who are aware of Gaganyaan's time able. See, the strength of social media. They are following

Modi said students are aware of the details of the astronauts of the Gaganyaan mission and the place where they are undergoing training. "The children ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

ACB books 2 Govt officials, conducts searches at 7 locations in Kashmir

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Anti-Bureau on Friday booked two senior officers of Srinagar Smart City Limited in disproportionate assets (DA) cases here, officials said.

The Bureau also conducted searches at seven different locations in connection with these cases in the valley.

"ACB has registered DA cases against Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Sajid Yousef and Executive Engineer Zahoor Ahmad Dar of Srinagar Smart City Assistant Inspector General (AIG) of

NIA chargesheets Bihar man for being part of Lashkar's terror conspiracy STATE TIMES NEWS

DELHI: NEW Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday chargesheeted a Biharnative for allegedly being part of conspiracy by Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit to carry

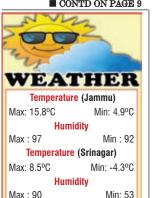
out terror acts in India.

The NIA has charged Vikram Kumar alias Chota Usman, a native of Bihar's Begusarai, under sections of the Indian Penal Code and Activities (Prevention) in a supplementary chargesheet filed before a court in Bengaluru, according to an official state-

ment.

The case, which NIA took over from the Bengaluru city police in October 2023. relates to the seizure of arms, ammunition and digital devices, including two walkie-talkies, from the accused who conspired to commit terror activities in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

"The conspiracy was aimed at promoting the proscribed ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9



Sunset: 17:42 Hours

Sunrise: 07:34 Hours

ACB Abdul Waheed Shah During the investigation, it

told reporters here. Searches are currently underway at seven locations associated with these cases. the AGI said.

He revealed that the ACB conducted a preliminary verification into allegations that both the CFO and the Executive Engineer, presently posted in Srinagar Smart City Limited, had accumulated assets disproportionate to their lawful sources of income.

Both suspects are also reportedly leading a lavish and luxurious lifestyle, the

was found that Sajid Yousuf Bhat, son of Mohammad Yousuf Bhat, resident of Namblabal Pampore, at present Doulatabad Khanyar Srinagar (CFO), owns a commercial property in Srinagar's Rambagh with an actual price significantly higher than the value record-

Gaganyaan closely," he said.

ed in the sale deed, he said. Additionally, multiple bank accounts with suspicious transactions were also discovered, Shah said.

A case has been registered at Police Station ACB Srinagar, he said.

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Two brothers killed as truck falls into gorge in Ramban STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Two brothers were killed when a truck skidded off the road and rolled down into a gorge on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in the Ramban district, officials said. The truck carrying iron rods was on its way to Kashmir from Jammu when the accident took place at Monkey Morh in the Battery Cheshma area late on Thursday night, they said. The SDRF, police, and locals launched a rescue operation on Friday morning and recovered both the bodies from the 400-foot-deep gorge, they added. The deceased have been identified as Yasir and Danish from north Kashmir.

Like-minded countries should strive together for collective actions for peace: Rajnath

STATE TIMES NEWS NEW DELHI: Defence

Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said like-minded countries should

strive together for collective actions for peace in view of the state of flux triggered by multiple conflicts in the world.

In an address at the Ambassadors' Round Table, Singh said the next month's Aero India aerospace exhibition in India pres-

ents an opportunity for nations to jointly explore

and address "strategic" and "tactical needs".

The defence minister said



aerospace power is the "new frontier of military domi-

India's biennial aerospace exhibition Aero India will be held at Yelahanka on

the outskirts of Bengaluru fromFebruary 10-14 with an aim to project the country as a hub for defence manufactur-

"It is of paramount importance that the like-minded countries should strive together for collective actions for peace and prosper-

ity," he said. "Without these, our future generations

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Kashmir continues to reel under cold conditions

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Kashmir valley continued to be under the grip of cold conditions on Friday, with minimum temperatures settling several degrees below the freezing point, officials said.

There is a possibility of light snowfall, especially in the higher reaches, from Saturday, they added. Due to clear skies, Kashmir

continued to experience subzero night temperatures, with the minimum temperatures remaining several degrees below freezing, officials said.

They said that most parts of the Kashmir valley have been experiencing clear skies with bright sunshine during the day over the past few days, which contributed to



the drop in night temperatures.

The minimum temperature in Srinagar settled at minus 4.3 degrees Celsius, slightly up from the previous night's minus 4.4 degrees, officials

Gulmarg, a popular tourist destination known for skiing activities in north Kashmir.

recorded a low of minus 8.1 degrees Celsius, up from the previous night's minus 9.6

In Pahalgam, one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra in south Kashmir, the minimum temperature settled at minus 10 degrees Celsius, up

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

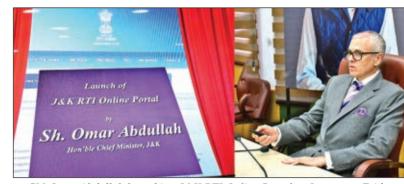
CM launches J&K RTI Online Portal to simplify citizen access to information

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Minister Abdullah on Friday launched the Jammu & Kashmir Right to Information (RTI) Online Portal at the Civil Secretariat, marking a significant step towards enhancing transparency and accountability in governance.

The launch event was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Cabinet Ministers Sakeena Itoo, Javed Ahmad Rana, and Javed Ahmad Dar. Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, administrative secretaries and senior officers were also present.

In his address, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah congratulated the officers involved in developing the portal, emphasizing its transformative potential in simplifying the RTI application



CM Omar Abdullah launching J&K RTI Online Portal at Jammu on Friday.

process for citizens.

"This initiative will provide easy access to government information under the RTI Act, empowering citizens with a faster, more transparent, and cost-efficient mechanism," he stated.

The Chief Minister also urged the con-

cerned authorities to ensure widespread publicity of the initiative so that citizens across Jammu & Kashmir become aware of its benefits.

Developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) Jammu and Kashmir, the portal introduces a **CONTD ON PAGE 9**

recovered in Kupwara

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The government on Friday extended the deadline for filing monthly GST sales return form GSTR-1 and GST payment by 2 days after taxpayers reported technical glitches in the GSTN system.

As per a notification by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), the last date for filing GSTR-1 for December is January 13, while that for taxpayers opting for quarterly payment under the QRMP scheme for the October-December period will be January 15. Normally, the last date for

Govt extends monthly GST return, payment deadline

filing GSTR-1 for monthly return filers is January 11, while for quarterly taxpayers it is January 13. The deadline for GST payment by filing GSTR-3B for

December has been extended to January 22, from the existing date of January 20. For taxpayers who pay GST quarterly, the due date

been extended to

registration of the business. Earlier in the day, GST Network said in a post on X

January 24 and January 26,

depending on the state-wise

that it has sent an "incident report" to the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) on the technical glitches in the system and requested an extension of the filing date of GST sales return or GSTR-1.

"GST portal is currently experiencing technical

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Cache of arms, ammunition

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Security forces recovered a cache of arms and ammunition from a forest area in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said on Friday.

Security forces launched a search operation in Tee Pee forest in the Kralpora area of the north Kashmir district, based on a specific input, the officials said.

They said that during the ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

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