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# STATE TIMES

RNI No. : 66908/96  
Regd. No. L-29/JK-346/2025-27

Vol. 30 Issue 13 • Jammu • Monday • January 13, 2025 • Pages 10+2=12 • ₹ 5.00

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**J.K. PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
KUNJWANI JAMMU  
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**SOWING SKILLS**

**SHAPING INDIA**

**03** Dr Jitendra hosts dinner for J&K youth attending ‘National Festival’, emphasises innovation, StartUps

**04** Old mortar shell found in Bhatta Qila Darhal

**08** Mahakumbh: A opportunity to Explore UP and India-CM Yogi

# Modi to inaugurate Z-Morh tunnel today: SFs intensify area domination exercise

# Z-Morh tunnel will help Sonamarg become winter sports destination like Gulmarg: Omar

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: The security forces on Sunday intensified sanitization efforts and area domination exercise in Kashmir, a day ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the valley for inauguration of the strategically important Z-Morh tunnel in Ganderbal district, officials said.

The deployment of security personnel has been increased in the vulnerable areas and dozens of checkpoints have been set up at important intersections in various districts to ensure that anti-national elements are not able to move around freely, they said. The officials said that random checking and frisking of people and vehicles, including two-wheelers, has been intensified while patrolling is also taking place.

"Security has been tightened near the Z-Morh tunnel. Multi-layered security arrangements have been put in place and the PM's security team, comprising the SPG personnel, has taken over the venue," they said.

The prime minister is likely to address a public rally after the inauguration of the tunnel at Gagangir, the officials said, adding the venue is



now off-limits for the public.

Jammu and Kashmir Police, paramilitary forces and the Army are part of the security apparatus for Monday's inauguration. Extensive area domination exercises, searches and patrols are being conducted for the smooth conduct of the event, the officials said.

The sharpshooters have been deployed at vulnerable points while aerial and technical surveillance, including through drones, is also being undertaken. The area is being monitored round-the-clock, they

shut for the prime minister's visit.

Built at a cost of Rs 2,400 crore on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway, the strategic 6.5-km Z-Morh tunnel will be a major step towards making the Ladakh region accessible by road throughout the year. The work on the project began in May 2015 and was completed last year.

The soft opening of the tunnel was done in February 2024.

The tunnel is vital in terms of the defence needs of the country in the Ladakh region and also connecting the youngest Union Territory to the rest of the country.

Situated at an altitude of 8,650 feet, the Z-Morh tunnel is a two-lane road tunnel equipped with a parallel 7.5-metre-wide escape passage for emergencies.

The tunnel ensures seamless connectivity between Gagangir and Sonamarg, and will ease summer travel to Ladakh.

Along with the under-construction Zojila tunnel, the Z-Morh tunnel will ensure uninterrupted connectivity to Baltal and Ladakh regions for civilian and military traffic.

The National

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday said the opening of the Z-Morh tunnel will enable the development of Sonamarg resort in Ganderbal district as a winter sports destination, similar to the famous Gulmarg skiing resort town.

"Tomorrow, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Z-Morh tunnel. This will allow the development of Sonamarg as a winter sports destination," Abdullah told reporters in Gulmarg.

The Prime Minister is scheduled to inaugurate the 6.5-kilometer Z-Morh tunnel, which will make the Sonamarg town accessible throughout the year.

Abdullah is in Gulmarg to promote winter sports activities in the scenic north Kashmir town.

"Over the next five years, we will make full efforts to develop Sonamarg as a winter sports destination, just



CM Omar Abdullah talking to reporters in Gulmarg on Sunday.

like we have developed Gulmarg," he added.

Abdullah said he had come to Gulmarg to record a program for tourism promotion.

"If more tourists come here, it will mean more earnings for the local people, whether they are ski guides, ski instructors, sledge operators, ATV and snowmobile operators, or small businesses like restaurants and dhabas," he said.

The chief minister also said that the Khelo India Winter Games would be held in Gulmarg in February this

## Minor girl dies of mysterious disease in Rajouri

Senior officers visit area to assess ground situation

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAJOURI/JAMMU: A five-year-old girl died and her five other siblings were admitted to a hospital after they fell seriously ill in a village in Rajouri district on Sunday, officials said.

The siblings belonged to Badhaal village of Kotranka sub-division where nine members of two different families had lost their lives due to a mysterious disease in December last year.

The officials said that six children of Mohammad Aslam were brought to community health centre Kandri for medical check-up on

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## Strength of youth will make India developed nation: Modi

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Sunday that the strength of India's youth will make it a developed nation which will be empowered economically, socially and culturally.

Addressing the 'Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue' here, Modi said some people may find the goal of India becoming developed difficult but it is not impossible. The capabilities of India's young population will power the country's rise to becoming developed, he said.

No power can stop India from becoming a developed



country if the spirit of 'Viksit Bharat' guides its every step, policy and decision, he said, highlighting the strength and numbers of the country's young population.

"The strength of India's youth will make India a

"A developed India will be the one that is empowered economically, strategically, socially and culturally," he added.

Modi noted that India has set the target of 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol by 2030 and will meet the goal before that.

The prime minister said that the government alone cannot drive the country forward and told youngsters drawn from across the country that the ownership in 'Viksit Bharat' is not Modi's alone but also of them.

Their ideas will be part of the country's policies and give it direction, he said.

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## Search ops to track down terrorists spotted near LoC intensifies

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A search operation to track down terrorists, whose movement near the Line of Control (LoC) in Akhnoor sector was reported last week, entered the second day on Sunday with forces deploying drones and other latest equipment, officials said.

The operation was launched by different units of the Army in Bhattal area on Saturday after the villagers reported the suspicious movements in the Jogiwan forest area. They suspected these were infiltrating terrorists.

The search operation is going on with more troops mobilised to cover more area even as there was no trace of the suspected persons so far, the officials said.

They said security forces have deployed drones and other latest equipment besides the sniffer dogs to sanitise the area, while police parties have also joined the search operation. Three heavily armed terrorists of

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## 35 Cr pilgrims expected to attend Mahakumbh Mela: UP CS

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
LUCKNOW/PRAYAGRAJ: Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh has said that 35 crore pilgrims are expected to attend the Mahakumbh Mela taking place in the vicinity of Sangam - the confluence of rivers Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati.

He also said that during the period of Mauni Amavasya, an estimated four-five crore devotees are expected to reach the holy city and participate in the festivities.

Singh said that the state budget for the 45-day-long



mega event is around Rs 7,000 crore, and added that "the last Kumbh was known for sanitation. This time it is sanitation, security and digital Kumbh.

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## Slight respite from cold in Kashmir

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Minimum temperatures rose marginally across Kashmir due to overnight cloud cover but remained below the freezing point, officials said on Sunday.

The minimum temperature in Srinagar settled at minus 3 degrees Celsius on Saturday night, up from the previous night's minus 3.6 degrees Celsius, the meteorological department said.

North Kashmir's tourist resort of Gulmarg, known for skiing, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 5.6 degrees Celsius, up from the previous night's

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## Rajnath, CDS to attend Armed Forces Veterans' Day event in Jammu on Jan 14

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan will attend the ninth Armed Forces Veterans' Day event here on Tuesday, a defence spokesman said.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah along with senior military and civil officials will also attend the event to be held at the Tanda artillery brigade in Akhnoor under the aegis of the army's Northern Command to honour the force veterans and "veer naris", the spokesman

said.

About 1,000 armed forces veterans from Jammu, Akhnoor, Pallanwala, Rakhmuthi, Naushera and Sunderbani are likely to attend the function, which will also include the hoisting of a 108 feet national flag and the inauguration of a heritage museum in Akhnoor, the spokesman said.

The J-K culture department will present cultural performances reflecting the region's rich heritage, he said.

As a special gesture, mobility equipment like

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## Cattle lifter detained under PSA

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: An alleged cattle lifter was detained under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) here on Sunday, police said.

Mohd Mansha alias "Gunnmu", a resident of Raipur Jagir Bhadrhote, was the fourth alleged bovine smuggler or cattle lifter booked under the PSA in the Nagrota sub-division of Jammu this month, a police spokesman said.

Mansha, who was named in five FIRs at different police stations since 2021, was apprehended from the Domana area and subsequently sent to a jail

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## Modi's 'Nation First' mantra brought J&K into national mainstream in real sense



The underlined theme of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his debut podcast with entrepreneur Nikhil Kamath on Friday was that for him old and embracement of new ideas translate into one thing only: "Nation First". This is his mantra of doing things not only as Prime Minister of the country but as citizen of this country. This made Jammu and Kashmir as part national mainstream in real sense as J&K is entrenched in the idea of Nation First with a single frame of India before it.

The profoundness of this idea became palpable in Jammu and Kashmir when, as Prime Minister, he took upon himself to inculcate the values of being "Bhartiya" in the territory where this concept and conviction was under challenge during the peak of terrorism. The whole purpose behind the terrorism in Kashmir was to deny the space for idea of India through

violent means. That's why Modi took upon himself to do the course-correction in Kashmir through hard and soft power.

Ever since Modi's tenure began in May 2014, he started his work on making Jammu and Kashmir to believe in the Nation First, and he took a number of measures in the following years. In the chronological order, it comes down to five points

One - appeal to sense of peace in Kashmir.

His original idea was to debate on the merits and demerits of Article 370. It was an open invitation to the people of Jammu and Kashmir that they should understand the whole dynamic of the Article 370 that had created differences and distances between the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the country. This denoted that he would take the people of the state into confidence and go by the conclusion of the debate, the idea he floated at "Lalkar Rally" in MAM Stadium Jammu in December 2013. The overarching idea was to draw Kashmir toward peace as that alone could ensure secure

future for the people, especially the youth.

Second, political experiment of aligning with the political forces in Kashmir

After the 2014 Assembly elections, which threw a deeply fractured mandate, J&K was confronted with a huge crisis. Political instability was on the cards as neither of the major parties was in a position to form the Government on their own. The PDP had emerged the single largest party with 28 seats, BJP was close second with 25 seats, NC had 15 and Congress reduced to 12. The mandate was also fractured on the regional lines. Jammu Hindus had voted en masse for BJP, while the Valley was divided between PDP, NC and few small parties. Narendra Modi gave a green signal to the alliance between BJP and PDP in the overall national interest. The whole thing centered in making PDP to realize the futility of its self-rule and soft separatism and court the idea of Kashmir at the core of the Indian nationhood.

Third, development with a special focus on connectivity

The Prime Minister, after having ensured that the disruptive elements were denied the space to influence the political decision-making, paced up the development projects in which connectivity projects were given a frontline position. Besides, announcing Rs. 80,000 crore-package for Jammu and Kashmir, he highlighted and worked for ensuring access to all in the state through road and railways. One after another, connectivity project saw its completion. The Chenani-Nashari, Banihal-Qazigund tunnels and Jammu to Banihal rail link have been completed. On Monday, PM will be inaugurating 6.4 km-long Z-Morh tunnel. These connectivity projects are a living testament to the Nation First idea's translation on the ground.

Fourth: Abrogation of Article 370

It was in the first few weeks of his second term in 2019, when on August 5, 2019 the Modi government removed Article 370 from the Indian constitution, thus demolishing all the walls that stood between the

erstwhile state and the rest of the country. The removal of this Article was not deemed as an end in itself. The Modi government started a movement of balancing the scales of social justice. West Pakistan Refugees got their citizenship rights; women married outside J&K were given their rights as are available to the women across the country. Pahadis were given ST status, thus getting them due place in the system.

Fifth - emergence of grassroots democracy

J&K got the three-tier democracy of Panchayati Raj for the first time in its history. Something unimaginable happened, as the people in J&K were lost in wilderness of a particular narrative where all democratic exercises stopped at electing the MLAs. The definition of the democratic institutions changed and the people benefitted the most. Last year's Lok Sabha and Assembly elections added more stars to the democracy in Jammu and Kashmir as large numbers of electorate voted in an atmosphere of peace and order that the territory had not seen before.

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 19.0°C Min: 10.5°C

Humidity  
Max: 86 Min: 69

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 10.0°C Min: -3.0°C

Humidity  
Max: 96 Min: 66

Sunset : 17:44 Hours  
Sunrise : 07:33 Hours

