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# STATE TIMES

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## Rajnath warns Pakistan to dismantle terror camps or face consequences

"PoK India's crown jewel, J&K incomplete without PoK"

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The ninth Armed Forces Veterans' Day was celebrated at multiple locations across the country on January 14, 2025. Veterans' rallies and wreath laying ceremonies were organised at a number of places, including Jammu, Mumbai, New Delhi, Pune, Nagpur, Visakhapatnam, Bengaluru, Bareilly, Jaipur and Siliguri to pay respects to the ex-servicemen for their selfless duty and reinforce solidarity towards the Next of Kin of these bravehearts.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addressing gathering during ninth Armed Forces Veterans' Day celebration at Akhnoor.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh led the celebrations by addressing around 1,000 ex-servicemen during an event at Tanda Artillery Brigade, Akhnoor in Jammu. He interacted with the ex-servicemen and expressed gratitude to the Armed Forces personnel, both retired and serving, for their selfless service towards protecting the borders with unmatched bravery, dedication, sacrifice and patriotism.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha; Chief Minister Omar Abdullah; Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan; General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar; other senior civil and military officers; Director, War Wounded Foundation; Director, Directorate of Indian Army Veterans; veterans and representatives of various ex-servicemen organisations attended the event.

The Defence Minister asserted that the nation will forever remain indebted to the Armed Forces, adding that every Indian holds deep respect for the gallant soldiers. This respect for the values of the country, he said, pointing out that the conduct of multiple Veterans' Day events is one such way to show that respect.

Rajnath Singh also described the Veterans' Day celebrations at Akhnoor as a testament to the fact that Jammu & Kashmir has been, is and will always remain an integral part of India. He reasserted Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Government's unwavering resolve to bridge the distance between J&K and the rest of the country, describing the abrogation of Article 370 as a crucial step in this direction.

He said that 2025 is the diamond jubilee year of the 1965 Indo-Pak war, and India's victory was the result of the valour and sacrifice of the Armed Forces. "Pakistan has lost every war it fought with India, whether it was the attack in 1948, the war of 1965, the war of 1971 or the Kargil war of 1999. Pakistan has been promoting illegal infiltration and terrorism since 1965 and has tried to

### "BJP Govt treats Delhi, Kashmir equally"



JAMMU: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday lauded Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for his efforts to reduce the distance between hearts of people of Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi, and asserted that the BJP government treats Delhi and Kashmir equally. "Kashmir was treated differently (by previous governments) in the past as a result our brothers and sisters in the region could not get connected with Delhi as it should have been. I do not want to go into the past as our government's biggest achievement is that we have been working to bridge 'dil ki duri' (distance between hearts) between Kashmir and the rest of the country. "I congratulate Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for taking the right steps to help overcome the little bit of gap (which is still there)," the Defence Minister said.

### Our veterans are heroes, enduring symbols of patriotism: Modi

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: On Armed Forces Veterans' Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday hailed the brave women and men who dedicated their lives to safeguarding the nation and said our veterans are heroes and enduring symbols of patriotism.

On Armed Forces Veterans Day, we express gratitude to the brave women and men who dedicated their lives to safeguarding our nation. Their sacrifices, courage and unwavering commitment to duty are exemplary," Modi said in a post on X.

"Our Veterans are heroes and enduring symbols of patriotism. Ours is a Government that has always worked for the welfare of veterans and we will keep doing so in the times to come," he said. Armed Forces Veterans' Day is

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### Soldiers protecting borders guarantee of security, development of nation: LG

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
AKHNOOR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said soldiers protecting the borders are the guarantee of security and development of the nation.

"It is the collective responsibility of the society to take concrete measures for welfare of soldiers and Veterans," he said on the occasion of the Veterans Day at a commemorative event presided over by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh at Akhnoor.

Manoj Sinha paid tribute to ex-servicemen of the Armed Forces, saying: "I bow my head in gratitude to all the veterans, valiant Jawans, Veer Naris and families of our Armed Forces' brave-hearts. We will forever remain indebted to our Veterans who have protected the nation



LG Manoj Sinha speaking during Veterans' Day celebration at Akhnoor.

from the enemies and continue to contribute to the nation's growth and development." The

**LG pays tribute to ex-servicemen of Armed Forces**  
**Says, I bow my head in gratitude to all the veterans, valiant Jawans, Veer Naris and families of our Armed Forces' brave hearts**  
**It is the collective responsibility of society to take concrete measures for welfare of soldiers and Veterans**  
**A martyr's house is sacred temple. This feeling and respect should be there in minds of common man**  
**Administration and society can express their gratitude to those who**

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### CRS authorises opening of newly constructed BG line to connect Kashmir with rest of country

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Commissioner of Railway Safety (Northern Circle) Dinesh Chand Deswal on Tuesday authorised the opening of the newly constructed Broad Gauge line to connect Kashmir with the rest of the country, railway officials said.

This comes nearly a week after conducting a two-day statutory inspection of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway link.

They said the CRS gave the authorisation for the start of public carriage of goods and passenger traffic in a seven-

page letter to the concerned ministry and railway authorities including the Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety, based on his detailed inspection of the track on January 7 and 8, signalling the completion of the much awaited 'dream project'.

The work on the project to link Kashmir by train was started in 1997 and has missed several deadlines given geological, topographical and meteorological challenges.

Out of the total 272 km USBRL project, 209 km was commissioned in phases with the first phase of the

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### 5 killed, 2 injured in road accident in Ladakh

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KARGIL: Five people were killed and two critically injured after two vehicles collided head-on, before plunging into a 500-foot gorge near here, along the Srinagar-Leh national highway, in the Union Territory of Ladakh, police said.

The accident took place at Katpakasa, near Shilikchay, around 1 pm, they said, adding that the vehicles involved were a Drass-bound Mahindra Scorpio car and a load carrier coming towards Kargil.

The two vehicles collided head-on and rolled down into the gorge, police said, adding that five people were killed on the spot while rescuers evacuated two critically-injured persons to a hospital.

Both the vehicles have turned into mangled iron following the accident, causing hardships for the rescuers to retrieve the bodies, they said.

The deceased have been identified as Muhammad Hassan, son of Muhammad Hussain, a resident of Stakpa; Liyaqat Ali, son

### Maha Kumbh: First 'Amrit Snan' on Makar Sankranti held, around 3.5 cr devotees take dip

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
MAHAKUMBH NAGAR: Seers from various 'akharas' took the first 'Amrit Snan' at the Maha Kumbh on Makar Sankranti on Tuesday as an unbroken stream of people converged at the Triveni Sangam on the occasion with around 3.5 crore devotees taking a dip.

Leading most of the akharas were ash-smeared Naga sadhus or naked seers who mesmerised onlookers with their discipline and mastery of traditional weapons.

From skillfully wielding spears and swords to energetically playing the 'damru',



their demonstrations were a vibrant celebration of age-old traditions, an official statement said.

In addition to the male Naga sadhus, female Naga ascetics were also present in significant numbers.

According to the Uttar Pradesh government, around 3.5 crore devotees took a

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### Landmine explosion in Rajouri, six injured

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: At least six Army personnel were on Tuesday injured in a landmine explosion in a forward village in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The troops were on patrol duty when one of the soldiers accidentally stepped over the landmine near Khamba Fort in Nowshera sector around 10.45 am, triggering the explosion, the officials said.

They said the injured were immediately shifted to hospital and their condition was stated to be stable.

As part of an anti-infiltration obstacle system, the forward areas near the

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### CM reaffirms his Govt's commitment to ensure welfare of Army veterans

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
AKHNOOR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said his government remained steadfast in its efforts to ensure that all benefits for Army veterans are delivered promptly and without hindrance.

This assurance was reiterated by the Chief Minister during his address at the 9th Armed Forces Veterans' Day celebration in Akhnoor, Jammu, where he paid tribute to the selfless contributions of the nation's veterans.

The Chief Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment to addressing the needs of veterans, ensuring their welfare and strengthening the bond between servicemen and the administration.

He stated, "Taking care of you is not a favour-it is our duty. Your immense contributions deserve nothing less than our utmost respect, gratitude and support. The Jammu



CM Omar Abdullah speaking at Armed Forces Veterans' Day celebration at Akhnoor.

and Kashmir government will continue its efforts to ensure that

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### Mysterious disease claims 2 more lives in Rajouri; death toll 14

**CS directs for coordination between Health, Police Depts**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
RAJOURI: The death toll due to a mysterious disease in a remote village of the Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir has risen to 14 with two more members of a family including a six-year-old girl succumbing to it, officials said on Tuesday.

The 14 fatalities including 11 children and three elders in three families in the last 30 days have caused panic among the residents of Badhaal village of Koteranka Sub-division. The government has deployed various health teams to collect samples to identify and address the potential health risks, the officials said.

They said Safina Kousar breathed her last at a hospital in Jammu where her three other siblings died over the past two days and two others are still battling for their lives.

The grandfather of the children Mohd Rafiq also died in a hospital in



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting in Jammu.

Rajouri on Monday, the officials said. Meanwhile, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chaired a meeting of all the concerned from Divisional and District administrations along with Health experts from several national health institutions to take stock of the measures taken so far to identify the real causes behind the mysterious deaths reported from village Badhaal in district Rajouri.

The meeting, besides Secretary Health & Medical Education Department was attended by ADGP, Jammu; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; DIG, Rajouri-Poonch Range; DC, Rajouri; SP, Rajouri; Principal, GMC, Jammu; Principal, GMC, Rajouri; Director, Health Services, Jammu and Experts from PGIMER, CSIR, National Institute of Virology (NIV), National Centre

for Disease Control (NCDC), DRDO and others.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the Health and Police Departments to assess the reports received from different institutes of repute to identify the real cause of these deaths. He asked them to work in close coordination to take this investigation to its logical conclusion.

He also directed the Police Department to utilize the best of their resources to study these reports along with using other scientific measures to reach to the conclusion. He also urged the Health Department to study these reports to find the reasonable leads causing these deaths.

He made out that the reports furnished by different institutions are now available with us and more are going to be received soon. He maintained that these should be enough to conclude

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### Natural cave of Vaishno Devi shrine opened for devotees

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATRA/JAMMU: The natural cave at Mata Vaishno Devi shrine atop Trikuta hills in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district was opened for devotees for Makar Sankranti celebrations on Tuesday, officials said.

The doors of the old cave was opened for devotees after special prayers which was among others attended by Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board Anshul Garg, they said.

The natural cave within the sanctum sanctorum of the shrine is usually opened during winter months when the rush of devotees is less. Many devotees wait eagerly for the day to have 'darshan' at the shrine through the



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**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 19.9°C Min: 6.4°C

Humidity  
Max: 88 Min: 68

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 7.4°C Min: -2.2°C

Humidity  
Max: 91 Min: 68

Sunset: 17:46 Hours  
Sunrise: 07:33 Hours