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# STATE TIMES

THE BOLD VOICE OF J&K

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**03 Opportunity for J&K to focus on areas outside Valley for a 'one state, one global standard tourist destination'**

**05 J&K Bank celebrates Lohri with traditional fervour**

**10 JKCA empowers J&K's deaf cricketers with kitbags, gear to shine for India**

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## Decisive strike against Entire Terror Support Network LG Sinha terminates 5 Govt employees having terrorism links

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In a major move to target roots of terror ecosystem and its infrastructure within government machinery, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday terminated five government employees having terrorism links. Sinha's action is aimed at systemic clean-up of government machinery.

Since 2021 Sinha has terminated services of more than 85 government employees, who were found to be working for terrorist groups.

Over the past five years, Sinha has emerged as the strategic force behind the systematic dismantling of terror networks in Jammu and Kashmir. Guided by a deep sense of justice, his approach has been both firm and fair. While he has decisively removed terrorists and their enablers from government service, he has simulta-

neously extended opportunities and dignity to the genuine victims of terror by providing them employment. This balance of resolve and empathy defines his leadership. Compassionate towards the innocent yet uncompromising with terrorists, he has shown zero tolerance for terror and its sympathisers. His emphasis on dismantling terror structures and cleansing institutions through non-kinetic measures is steadily delivering tangible results.

Sources said, these active associates, who were planted within government machinery, by terror outfits and Pakistan ISI are time-bombs. They infiltrated the system over the last several decades to weaken the government machinery and to jeopardise national security.

"However, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launched major offensive in

2021 to expose and break the backbone of terror ecosystem. From financiers to foot soldiers, his decisive and widespread action against all the elements dismantled the terror infrastructure to a large extent," the sources within the security agencies revealed.

Sources gave details of the five government employees terminated by Lieutenant Governor Sinha.

Mohd Ishfaq, Teacher: He was appointed as Rehbar-e-Taleem in School Education Department and later got confirmed as a Teacher in 2013. According to the investigators Ishfaq was working for Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT). He was in regular contact with LeT Commander Mohd Amin alias Abu Khubaib, a Government of India designated individual terrorist,

who is operating from Pakistan. Ishfaq was given active operational role by LeT and he was tasked to execute the killing of a Police Officer in Doda in early 2022. His activities were put under the surveillance by security and intelligence agencies and sustained monitoring revealed that he was helped in the terror activities by certain OGWs of LeT. He was arrested in April 2022 by the J&K Police before he could execute the plan with the help of an OGW based in Marheen. After the arrest of Ishfaq and his associate police had recovered arms and ammunition and sustained interrogation revealed that Ishfaq exploited his position as a teacher and influenced youth to join terror groups.

"He used his influence to spread radical ideology,

**NGT imposes Rs 15,000 fine on Srinagar civic body for delay in filing report**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The National Green Tribunal has imposed a fine of Rs 15,000 on the Srinagar Municipal Corporation for the delayed filing of a report related to the implementation of waste management plans.

The green body passed the order while hearing the matter regarding the illegal and unscientific dumping of plastic, municipal solid, bio-medical and other waste in the Achan landfill of Srinagar district of Jammu and Kashmir.

In an order dated January 9, a bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and expert member A Senthil Vel said that the civic body's progress report, in pursuance of the tribunal's order in March last year, was not filed.

"In view of the above lapse, the tribunal is not in a position to examine and assess the progress which has been made in the meanwhile

## LAC stable, misadventures will face firm response on western front: Gen Dwivedi

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi said on Tuesday that the situation along the frontier with China in eastern Ladakh remains "stable but needs constant monitoring" even as he warned Pakistan against any "misadventure" in the western sector.

The Army Chief said India's "resolute" response under Operation Sindoor against cross-border terrorism provided strategic clarity and that his force had made forward mobilisation as part of preparations for ground offensives following the hostilities with Pakistan.

Gen Dwivedi, addressing a press conference ahead of the Army Day, said the troops were subsequently pulled back by the end of May, but asserted that "our eyes and ears are open" and "any misadventure" by the adversary will be dealt with effectively.

The Army Chief also men-



tioned "two turning points" during Operation Sindoor -- one of them being the 22-minute strike on terror targets in the early hours of May 7, while the other being "certain directions" given to the Indian military on May 10 on what to do if the conflict escalated.

In response to the Pahalgam terror attack, India launched a series of precision missile strikes on terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, eliminating at least 100 ter-

rorists in response to the horrific Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 innocent civilians.

General Dwivedi said at least six terror camps are still active across the Line of Control and two across the International Border even after Operation Sindoor, and India will act if any nefarious activities are carried out. He said 100-150 terrorists are present in these camps.

The Chief of Army Staff also listed a series of

## Trekking, camping, similar activities banned for 2-months in high altitude areas of Poonch

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Authorities in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch have imposed a ban on trekking, camping, hiking and similar outdoor activities in all high-altitude areas of the border district for a period of two months, an official said on Tuesday.

"It has been reported that unrestricted movement of individuals and groups in such areas poses a serious risk to public safety due to difficult terrain, adverse weather conditions and other unforeseen hazards," an order issued on Monday read.

Poonch District Magistrate

Ashok Kumar Sharma ordered the prohibition under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), following inputs from security agencies and field functionaries regarding security and safety concerns in certain high-altitude and forested areas.

The prohibition applies to individuals, groups, tour operators and adventure clubs, except those with prior written permission for official purposes. Security forces, emergency services and government officials on duty have been

## Not easy to erase India's Sanatan Dharma, culture: Shah

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
AHMEDABAD: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said it is not easy to erase India's Sanatan Dharma, culture, and people's faith, citing the reconstruction of the Somnath temple despite repeated attempts to destroy it over the centuries.

Those who attacked the temple eventually disappeared, but the temple still stands proudly at the same place on the seashore in Gujarat's Gir Somnath district, he said.

Shah was addressing a gathering at Mansa town in Gandhinagar district after inaugurating and laying the



foundation stone for various projects of Rs 267 crore.

On January 11, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Somnath Swabhiman Parv, marking 1,000 years since Mahmud of Ghazni's invasion of the

## Army opens fire on Pak drones along LoC in Rajouri

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Indian Army troops opened fire to take down multiple suspected Pakistani drones that entered Indian territory from across the Line of Control (LoC) in the Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday evening, army officials said in Jammu.

However, the drones briefly hovered in the Manjakote sector before returning to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), officials said.

This incident marks the second occasion in three days that the Indian Army has fired upon Pakistani drones in the Rajouri district.

Defence sources said that the Indian Army implemented counter-Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) measures after drones were spotted along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir.

Around 7 pm, troops fired upon a few Pakistani drones when they entered Indian territory over Dunga Gala in the Chingus area of Rajouri. The drones subsequently vanished and are believed to have retreated to the other side, officials said.

Officials noted that army personnel detected the movement of two drone-like objects over the

## Western disturbance likely to end dry spell in Kashmir

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: A western disturbance is expected to hit Kashmir from January 16, raising hopes for a fresh spell of light to moderate snowfall in the valley, officials said on Tuesday.

According to the Meteorological Department officials, a weak Wester Disturbance is likely to affect the weather system in the region on Friday, followed by a stronger system three days later.

While the higher reaches have received snow this winter, the plains continue to face a prolonged dry spell. This lack of precipitation has led to an increase in suspended particulate matter, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) in Srinagar hovering around the 180 mark.

On Monday evening, the AQI in the summer capital reached as high as 500.

Meanwhile, cold wave conditions intensified across the valley as minimum temperatures dropped on Monday night. Srinagar

## China's claim on Shaksgam valley unacceptable entire PoK belongs to India: Ladakh LG

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta on Tuesday strongly rejected China's claim over the Shaksgam valley, asserting that the entire region of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) belongs to India. He also asserted that no expansionist attempt would be tolerated.

China on Monday reaffirmed its territorial claims over the Shaksgam valley in the backdrop of India's objections, stressing that the Chinese infrastructure projects in the area are "beyond reproach".

"The whole of (Pakistan-occupied) Kashmir is ours. We do not know what Pakistan has traded with China. China should understand that nothing will be achieved through its expansionist policy. India is capable. It is not the India of 1962, it is the India of 2026. Any such attempts will be foiled. The Ministry of External Affairs is taking cognisance of it," he told reporters here.

Gupta said that no such act would be tolerated and China must realise India today is far stronger than it was in the past. He added

that China had earlier laid claims on parts of Arunachal Pradesh as well.

Taking a swipe at Pakistan, the lieutenant governor alleged that the neighbouring country had failed its own people and was indulging in questionable dealings. "Pakistan is a state kept on sale. It has no concern for its sovereignty or its own people. Voices are being raised in Balochistan, Sindh and Karachi, and atrocities are being committed by the Pakistan Army there. Those areas are virtually being run by the Army," Gupta said.

## Fresh landmine blasts along LoC as forest fire rages

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
MENDHAR/JAMMU: Nearly a dozen landmines exploded as a forest fire raged along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district for the second day on Tuesday, officials said.

The fire broke out in the Basooni forward area of Balakote sector on Monday afternoon and spread to parts of the Mendhar sector on Tuesday.

The fire caused nearly a dozen landmines to explode, according to the officials.

The forward areas along the LoC are dotted with landmines as part of an

## Gunshots heard during search ops in Billawar

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATHUA: Several gunshots were heard on Tuesday after security forces launched a search operation following information about the suspected movement of terrorists in a remote village of Billawar area in Kathua district, officials said. The intermittent firing was reported from the Najote forest area of Billawar, about 10 km from the Kamadh nallah in the Kahog forest belt where security forces exchanged fire with terrorists on January 7, the officials said. They said the suspected terrorists fired a few shots on observing the movement of the forces, who retaliated while moving deep inside



the forest to neutralise them. The cordon-and-search operation was strengthened and efforts are on to track down the ultras, the officials said.

On January 7, an encounter broke out between terrorists and security forces in Kahog

but the ultras managed to escape taking advantage of the darkness, the challenging geography and dense forests. Security forces have intensified anti-terrorist operations across the Jammu region ahead of the upcoming Republic-Day celebrations.

## Launches special edition of HES Kashmir's Sangarmal magazine

**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 16.0°C Min: 3.8°C

Humidity  
Max: 97 Min: 88

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 13.2°C Min: -4.9°C

Humidity  
Max: 85 Min: 83

Sunset: 17:45 Hours  
Sunrise: 07:33 Hours

## LG calls for innovation, R&D push, heritage investment in J&K

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday launched the special edition of 'Sangarmal' magazine published by Hindu Education Society (HES) Kashmir, at Gandhi Memorial Camp College, Raipur Jammu.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor spoke on social cohesion and use of cultural-spiritual heritage and education as a unifying thread to create a blueprint for the thriving future. He emphasised on instilling values such as compassion, humility, and resilience to strengthen community bonds.

"In an era dominated by rapid technological growth and globalization, our time-



less spiritual and cultural heritage, our shared beliefs, traditions, arts, rituals, and values will shape the society and fuel the holistic growth of the nation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the Union Territory's ancient cultural heritage and spiritual wisdom is the invisible force that will propel societal growth.

"Jammu Kashmir's rich spiritual heritage is a dynamic asset. Since Vedic ages, the traditional values acted as our guiding principles which built ethical foundation for overall growth.

For J&K to grow, our citizens must become more innovative, focus on intellectual growth to take great leaps in research and development, promote creative industries and invest in heritage," the

Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the Hindu Education Society, Kashmir for its dedicated efforts in raising public awareness regarding culture, social responsibilities and the transformative power of education.

Padma Shri Dr KN Pandita; Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Prof. B.L Zutshi, President, Hindu Education Society Kashmir; Ram Niwas Sharma, Commissioner Secretary, School Education, office bearers of Hindu Education Society Kashmir and prominent citizens from different walks of life were present.

Dr Ashok Bhan, Member, Shri Mata Vaishno

## Authorities profiling mosques, madrassas in Kashmir

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Authorities have started the process of profiling mosques, madrassas and people associated with their management in Kashmir following the busting of the 'white collar' terror module last year, officials said.

A proforma has been given to village numberdars (village-level revenue department employees) for getting the details of mosques, madrassas, imams (prayer leaders), teachers and management committee members of these institutions, the officials said.

The focus of the enumeration drive is on the finances of mosques and madrassas, including the source of funds used for construction and meeting the day-to-day

expenses, they said.

The officials said that besides the usual details, the teachers of madrassas and imams are also expected to provide details of their Aadhar card, bank account, property ownership, social media handles, passport, ATM card, ration card, driving licence, SIM cards and mobile phone model along with the IMEI number.

A senior official, who wished not to be named, said that among the objectives of the drive is to create a database of mosques and madrassas and the people associated with these.

"During the investigation into the 'white collar' terror module, which was busted in November last year, it came to light that some of the